

Neighborhood Advisory Committee to Denver Botanic Gardens (NAC) Meeting Minutes

TYPE OF MEETING	Quarterly Meeting
DATE, TIME, LOCATION	September 22, 2009 5:30pm DBG Mitchell Hall
FACILITATORS	Timothy Hepp and Roger Armstrong, NAC Co-Chairs
NOTE TAKER	Dean Bartell, NAC Secretary/Treasurer
NEIGHBORHOOD ATTENDEES	Neighborhood Trustees: Roger Armstrong, Beth McCann Morgan's: Claude Maer, Art Blomberg CHUN: Roger Armstrong, Debra Adams East Cheesman: Steve Lang, Dean Bartell, Timothy Hepp 7 th Ave: Dan Braun Community Gardeners: Anne Klenk Congress Park: Bill DeMaio, Pam Vanderpool, Michael Sutherland Denver City Council District 10: Jeanne Robb (Ex-Oficio Member)
DBG ATTENDEES	Brian Vogt, CEO AJ Aljinovich, Operations Director Sarada Krishnan, Dir. Of Horticulture Jerry Ladd, Chairman, DBG Board of Directors
OTHER ATTENDEES	Howard Gelt, Margo Ladd, Richard

AGENDA

1) Neighborhood Trustees

- Vandeweghe Property – Brian Vogt and Jerry Ladd provided a summary
 - Would replace the Phase 4 project on the north side of DBG along 11th Ave
 - One exploratory/tour meeting took place between DBG and the Vandeweghe's.
 - Morgan's community discussions have taken place and there is unanimous opposition to DBG acquiring the property
 - Would require rezoning
 - Funding is a "huge" obstacle since there are no capital funds available at this time.
 - Brian Vogt stated 3 conditions would need to be met and also stated these to the Vandeweghe's"
 - 1) Funding must be obtained
 - 2) it must make programatic sense
 - 3) neighborhood opposition must be addressed
 - DBG will continue to evaluate as a low priority

2) Community Gardens

- Anne Klenk reported 3 primary concerns:
 - Flooding Problems – Efforts were made to divert runoff and correct the problem. Some of the gardeners lost plants as a result of the poor drainage
 - Soil Quality – The soil was of poor quality and difficult to prepare even though soil had been transferred for former gardens. Many gardeners brought in a significant amount of additional amendments to make their gardens usable.
 - Communication:
 - Neighborhood - A neighbor relations committee was formed and was

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- supposed to be part of the overall Steering Committee
 - InterGarden – Bulletin Boards and Newsletters need improvement among the gardeners
 - DBG – Anne asked Brian Vogt to provide a summary of the DBG strategic vision for the Community Garden. Brian emphasized the commitment as shown in the \$70K investment. He also clarified that the \$6K in annual dues falls short of the actual annual cost for DBG. DBG has staff dedicated and will continue to do so in the future

3) DBG Construction Status

- Construction Material (North of garage) – Debris will be removed from sight along Josephine as the project will now move into the Mordecai Children's Garden phase. May add some screening if possible.
- Lighting – Concern over the amount of light being emitted was expressed. Contractor responded that top deck meets code requirements.\
- Garage Security:
 - Door come down completely at night to block entrance
 - Cameras will provide views within the garage
 - Security will walk through the garage
- Garage Green Surface – Would require excessive irrigation. Brian Vogt stated that this information was provided to NAC in prior conversations. Trees were planted in raised planters as well as vines will grow over the walls to provide a green effect. Will take 2-3 years for vines to mature.
- Garage Entrance – Signs are being tested in various locations to determine the best location for directing traffic
- Mordecai Children's Garden – Construction beginning now and will continue through Summer 2010. There are no structures being built.
- Greenhouses – Construction has begun and will be complete in Summer 2010.
- Main sidewalk – As part of the fire code a new pipe will be laid and the main walk will be torn up and replaced beginning in October.

4) Concert Impacts

- Art Blomberg provided a historical account of DBG-Neighborhood concert discussions/activity from 1994 – 2009
- DBG seriously gets that they need to control sound levels
- They will comply with the sound levels next year.
- A more detailed and precise plan for how DBG will comply with the sound requirements will be provided by December 1
- They agreed to accept penalties if they are not in compliance next year
- Potential to have a neighborhood "hotline" so that DBG mgmt is accessible during the evening of a concert.
- Sound reports were reviewed from this past series of concerts
- Brian Vogt stated that DBG will refuse concerts that are "too big"
- The number of concerts will be reduced from 14 to 12 in Summer 2010
- There will be contract changes with the promoter to allow for more oversight by DBG.