

## **Neighborhood Advisory Committee to the Denver Botanic Gardens Mission and History**

The Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) to the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) was formally chartered in June of 1995 by an amendment to the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Denver and DBG. The NAC's mission is to:

- Inform DBG of significant neighborhood issues about the Gardens
- Disseminate information to the Neighbors from DBG
- Review & comment on DBG projects (City Planning Department has approval authority).
- Submit "Neighborhood Representative" candidates to serve on the DBG's board of Trustees.

The NAC is made up of three representatives from each of the neighborhood organizations that are close to DBG. These organizations are:

- Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, Inc. (CHUN)
- Congress Park Neighbors Inc.
- East Cheesman Neighbors Assn.
- Informed & Concerned Community Gardeners
- Morgan's Historic District Homeowners Association
- Seventh Ave Neighborhood Assn. [SANA]

The 1) NAC, 2) neighborhood board representatives, and 3) a formalized DBG planning process were all new and ground breaking concepts in establishing a balance between the sometimes conflicting needs of the public, the DBG and the adjoining neighbors.

The significant events in the NAC / DBG history are:

- Early 1990's: DBG develops a master plan that calls for a significant expansion of the non-garden, concrete structures, increasing number, size and noise level of concerts, and a significant increase in the number of visitors.
- Mid 1990's: The plan is made public and neighborhood opposition is formalized.
- 1994/95: Councilman Thomas and Mayor Webb assist in finding a solution.
- June 1995: The first amendment to the Cooperative Agreement is signed (establishing the NAC, etc.)
- Mid 1995: DBG prepares a scaled back master plan.
- November 1995: Phase 1 DBG expansion (parking lot expansion, gift shop expansion, conservatory renovation, laJolla apartment demolition) is proposed and approved by the NAC and Denver Planning Department.
- 1996: DBG proposes a phase 2 development (Romantic Gardens, Temperate Greenhouse, Education Building expansion, etc.) this project is opposed by the NAC but is approved by the Planning department. A scaled back version is implemented.
- 1997 – 1998: NAC construction committee works with DBG to minimize construction impacts on neighbors.
- 1999 – 2000: No major DBG construction projects –so NAC activity is low
- 2001: DBG starts planning for a major capital construction project
- 2008 NAC approves 2007 DBG Master Plan
- 2008 DBG/NAC agree on limits for large events
- 2010 DBG dramatically reduces sound levels at concerts

NAC membership list – [click here](#)

NAC agreements & other significant documents – click here

NAC meeting minutes – click here