Hi, Neighbors!

John Hayden, CPN President

Happy 2018 Curtis Park! This year marks the 150th birthday of our neighborhood. One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1868 the land for the original Curtis Park was given to the City of Denver, just 10 years old itself, by developers Francis Case and Frederick Ebert in hopes that the young city would grow in the direction of the land they had plotted for development around the park.

The original park was bordered by Curtis, Arapahoe, 31st and 32nd streets. The larger portion of the park between Champa and Curtis streets was added at a later date. It would take more than a decade before homes would start to sprout up in the Curtis Park area. Most of Curtis Park’s original houses date from the 1880s. From 1883 to 1890 the park was used as the site of a nursery business that supplied bedding plants and fresh cut flowers to the residents of Denver.

In 1913 the famous landscape firm of Frederick Law Olmsted created a master plan for the park that was never implemented. Over the years the park would see the addition of several playgrounds and a municipal swimming pool where A.A.U champion diver Viola Salazar would learn to swim.

The park has been the site of countless celebrations and protests including marches organized by Chicano activist Corky Gonzales, Author of the epic poem “I am Joaquin”. Other great figures in history would play and swim.

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Businesses that Support Our Neighborhood

Our Annual Holiday Potluck Party last month was a huge success. New and old neighbors alike mingled in the spirit of the holiday. The Board and the entire neighborhood would like to give a big “thank you” to all the local businesses that donated goods and services in our fund-raising drawing that took place at the party.

Hi Neighbors (cont.)

and learn in the park from Neil Cassady, the subject of Jack Kerouac’s On the Road to Hattie McDaniel, the first African American to win an Oscar for her role in Gone with The Wind.

Around 1990 the name of the park was officially changed to Mestizo-Curtis Park to honor the diversity of the residents who live here. The meaning of Mestizo is of mixed blood. Today Mestizo-Curtis Park sits at the center of our thriving, diverse community. A community that has changed and grown a great deal over the past 150 years and will continue to change and grow for the next 150 years. To the degree that we can influence that change to ensure the park and our community continues to be a welcoming place to diverse people we will honor the long and beautiful history of our neighborhood and the park that sits at its center.

Join us this summer to celebrate the park and the people who have made it a wonderful place in Denver’s history.

Our January Curtis Park Neighbors meeting will feature new businesses and proposed developments for the neighborhood. We will hear from the owners of a new Neighborhood Market opening up in March at Park Avenue and Champa Street as well as a proposed new bar that would like to take part of the space now occupied by The Wrangler. We also will hear about two new developments proposed for the neighborhood, the Rossonian Block redevelopment and a new project at 21st and Glenarm streets.

I hope to see you all there.

New Neighborhood Recreation Center Opens

It’s time to celebrate! After many years of determination and hard work, we are excited to celebrate the opening of Denver Parks and Recreation’s newest state-of-the-art recreational facility. Please join us on January 8th at 3:00 pm for the grand opening of the Carla Madison Recreation Center located on the corner of Colfax Ave. & Josephine St.

Apply for Free or Low-Cost Trees

The trees that shade our yards and sidewalks are a vital part of what makes a community sustainable. While most people may enjoy the shade or view of a tree few understand just how powerful the impact of our green leafy friends can be on our community. Trees help cool cities, reduce crime, increase business activity, prevent skin cancer, increase property values, provide clean air, and shield people from fast moving traffic on busy streets. The benefits of a good tree canopy are impressive and Denver has been working hard to increase the size and health of our urban forest. You can help by planting a free or low cost street tree in the tree lawn between your sidewalk and the street this Spring. Each year The Park People provide thousands of trees to area residents. While these trees are small to start patience and care over time will pay off as the mighty Oak trees at 27th and Stout demonstrate. These were once Denver Digs Trees saplings and now they provide shade and beauty for our neighborhood. Applications for free trees are released in January and trees are distributed in April for planting. For more information visit www.theparkpeople.org.
The Future of the Former Gilpin School - An Ongoing Process

Maggie Miller

Many of our neighbors attended meetings about the future of the former Gilpin school, and even more of us participated in online surveys. Thank you!

While you were doing that, the Gilpin Facility Placement Committee met five times in two and one-half weeks, and decided that, from among the seven options presented by DPS, we would recommend placing grades 4-8 of Denver Language School (DLS) at Gilpin beginning in the 2018-19 school year.

In the survey mentioned above, the priorities that were most important to people were: “serve a socioeconomically, ethnically and racially diverse student population,” “have plans to engage with the community on an ongoing basis,” and “have plans to maintain property features that benefit the community.” In addition, neighbors made comments about their desire for a middle school (or comments about not wanting a high school), and expressed concerns about parking and traffic. Many neighbors also had comments about the process, DPS “choice” strategy, and concerns about undercutting enrollment of nearby schools.

The Gilpin Facility Placement Committee consisted of five DPS staff members and four community members (Evelyn Barnes, John Hayden, Maggie Miller, and Katherine Murphy). During our meetings, we evaluated the seven schools using a rubric that DPS had created. The rubric included three criteria in addition to neighborhood priorities. These were academic performance (which was weighted most heavily), how badly the candidate schools need the facility, and “enrollment demand, including overall demand and an enrollment that is spread across Denver not drawing students disproportionately from the surrounding neighborhood.”

The Committee looked at a LOT of materials: the written applications, the Denver Public School Facility Allocation Policy, presentations at the community meetings, surveys from community members who attended the presentations, the survey mentioned above, as well as interviews conducted by DPS staff, and supplemental data from DPS about enrollment and test scores, etc. In addition, we looked at letters that people had sent in and conversations that various people have had with us along the way.

In our recommendation, we communicated our strong hope that DLS will engage with the community in a meaningful way, making efforts to become an authentic part of the community, taking steps to link its Spanish language and cultural programs to the cultural history of the community and to the Spanish-speaking families in the community, welcoming new students from the community who are able to meet their Spanish-language entrance requirements, and more.

In the next couple of months, we plan to meet with leadership at DLS and start the conversation about how to make these things happen. If you have any ideas about this, or if you want more information, please contact John Hayden (through CPN), Katherine Murphy (through Facebook), or Maggie Miller (through Facebook)!

SCFD Free Days

Clyfford Still Museum
- Fridays 5-8 p.m.

Molly Brown House
- Sat. Jan. 27th

Denver Art Museum
- Sat. Jan. 6th

Denver Zoo
- Fri. Jan. 18th
- Sat. Jan. 20th

Denver Museum of Nature & Science
- Mon. Jan. 8th
- Sun. Jan. 28th

Find out more at www.scfd.org
Resources

Denver City Government
www.DenverGov.org, or call 3-1-1
Alternately: (720) 913-1311

Blair-Caldwell Library
2401 Welton Street, (720) 865-2401
Mon./Wed.: Noon – 8 p.m.
Tue./Thu./Fri.: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat.: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Denver City Council
District 9
Albus Brooks, (720) 337-7709
Albus.Brooks@denvergov.org
www.denvergov.org/albusbrooks
facebook.com/CouncilmanAlbusBrooks

At-Large
Councilwoman Robin Kniech
Robin.Kniech@denvergov.org
(720) 337-7712

Councilwoman Debbie Ortega
Deborah.Ortega@denvergov.org
(720) 337-7713

Denver Public Schools
(720) 423-3200, www.DPSK12.org

Homeless Outreach
Police non-emergency: (720) 913-2000

Mayor’s Neighborhood Liaison
Michael Sapp, Jr., (720) 865-9024

Police
Emergencies: Dial 911
Non-Emergency: (720) 913-2000
Dist. 2 (above 25th Street) RSO:
Adriel Torres (720) 913-1089,
adriel.torres@denvergov.org
Reyes Trujillo (720) 913-1094,
reyes.trujillo@denvergov.org
Dist. 6 (below 25th Street) RSO:
Snow White (720) 641-1280,
snow.white@denvergov.org

RTD
(303) 299-6000
www.RTD-Denver.com

Elected Representative
Barbara Deadwyler, (720) 273-9520
Barbara.Deadwyler@rd-denver.com

Trash Pickup - Overflow Pickup
The next Large Item pickup is
One Day! Thurs., Jan. 4th
For free appliance collection, call
(303) 430-7142.

Xcel Energy
Electric Emergency/Power Outage
(800) 895-1999
Gas Emergency / Gas Odor
(800) 895-2999

Curtis Park Neighbors
www.facebook.com/groups/curtispark/
Curtis Park Neighbors “Announce” Group
Just the basics! We encourage everyone to join this e-mail group.
Receive the Curtis Park Times & special announcements. Write to:
Curtis-Park-Neighbors-Announce+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Neighbors “Notices” Group
Super-detailed! Receive all of the notices that the City and other organizations send to Curtis Park Neighbors. The CPN Board receives this e-mail, and invites you to participate as well!
Write to: CurtisParkNeighbors+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Design Review Committee

DHA / Curtis Park Community Advisory Committee
Provide feedback and guide the Denver Housing Authority’s plans for their property holdings in the Curtis Park area.
Write to: CPN-DHA-CAC+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Transportation Committee
Improve mobility and safety for people getting around by all modes
Write to: cpn-transportation+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Safety and Security Group
Collaborate on finding solutions to current and long-term safety and security topics in the neighborhood.
Write to: cpn-security+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Would you like to advertise in the newsletter?

Business card is $50.00/issue;
Double business card is $100.00/issue; and
Back Quarter Page is $150.00/issue.

Contact: Todd McGuire (Treasurer)
tmcguire@me.com

Curtis Park Neighbors is an officially incorporated non-profit neighborhood organization bringing our neighborhood together to share in preserving the past and future of Curtis Park. We welcome all neighbors in Curtis Park and encourage participation in Curtis Park Neighbors and in the life of the community. Please pass along this newsletter and bring a neighbor to the meetings!

The spirit of the Curtis Park Times is to communicate information about topics and concerns of our neighborhood. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Curtis Park Neighbors. To provide newsletter articles or place advertising, contact us at cpn-newsletter@googlegroups.com or (720) 273–0623. The next newsletter deadlines are Jan. 17th for ads, and Jan. 20th for articles.

Special Thanks To
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CPN Board of Directors
Paul Davidson, John Hayden (President), Robbie Hobein (Secretary), Rob Price, Todd McGuire (Treasurer), Jeff Baker, (Vice President), Andrew Spinks, Conor Farley, Liz Oertle, Patti Smith, and Joshua Becker. Contact the CPN President by writing to haydenpryor@msn.com or calling (303) 297-3994. Write the CPN Board at curtis-park-neighbors-board@googlegroups.com.