As I write this article the A-Train between Union Station and DIA is about to take its first run at noon on April 22nd, 2016, Earth Day. I think it’s appropriate that they chose Earth day to start the train to the airport as good multiple modes of transportation are key to making our city sustainable. This is particularly important in light of other news this week that Denver has the 8th worst air quality in the nation. Those of us who grew up in Denver and remember the really bad days of the brown cloud don’t want to see that happen to our city again. At this month’s May meeting we will have two presentation on initiatives to make multi-modal transportation even better for Curtis Park.

Justin Schmidt, Chief Traffic Planner for the City of Denver, will present on the results of the Curtis Park Transportation survey that was taken by over 100 neighbors in February and March. Justin and his team will detail the results of the survey and next steps to address the top mobility issues identified by neighbors in the survey. Then we will hear from Rachael Bronson, Transportation Planner for Public Works, about improving the bike infrastructure on Champa and Stout and the Downing curve. The city has listened to all the concerns raised and has come up with an innovative approach. We will also discuss the kick off of Get Your Move On Curtis Park, a campaign to educate neighbors about how best to walk and bike to destinations in the neighborhood. Finally we will have a presentation from Chris Yanez, Planner for Parks and Recreation, on the new Master Plan for Mestizo-Curtis Park. So please come and give your input and learn about changes coming to our neighborhood.

Enterprise office space is slated to be open June 1st. Enterprise is where entrepreneurs come to work and their visions come to life. It’s a collaborative environment designed to support one-man shops, 100-person companies and everything in between. It’s local, Corvus coffee brewed to fuel your morning brainstorm sessions, rooftop patios, and flexible, private suites designed to expand and adjust as quickly as your business does.

Enterprise members have access to different environments that cater to different work styles. So whether it’s the kind of day when you want a lively, sun-filled open workspace or a quiet, heads-down library, you can find it at Enterprise.

For more information, the website is: enterprise5280.com or email Tiamo at Tiamo@Enterprise5280.com
3-Story vs 5-Story Zoning still undecided

Eileen Felman

A few blocks within the Curtis Park neighborhood currently are zoned similar to that of the former B-8 zoning. These parcels potentially allow development up to 80 feet in height. In recent history, our blocks currently zoned U-RH-2.5 or CMX-2, etc., were also zoned B-8. At the time the majority of the neighborhood was down-zoned, several blocks were allowed to temporarily keep their higher zoning entitlements. The idea was that these blocks would be rezoned in line with recommendations contained within the 2011 Northeast Denver Neighborhood Plan when the nearby Denver Arapahoe Square (D-AS) parcels were also rezoned.

After more than a year of meetings and evaluation, the proposed Arapahoe Square zoning and design standards & guidelines are moving through the legislative process.

However, there is a diversity of opinions on Building Heights in Curtis Park. The owner of a large parcel on the west side of the 2400 block of Champa Street would like to retain building entitlements similar to what is currently allowed –approximately 5 stories. As an indirect result of this request, other properties/parcels on a few other blocks nearby have now also been removed from the current D-AS mapping and process that would have reduced their zoning to three stories at this time. Comments submitted to the Denver Arapahoe Square Task Force and to Denver’s Office of Planning and Development are divided regarding proposed zone district mapping to implement Northeast Downtown Neighborhoods Plan recommendations for a 3-story height transition in the portion of Curtis Park that is currently zoned D-AS (Downtown Arapahoe Square), but is not part of the Arapahoe Square neighborhood. Numerous comments at the open house and task force meetings indicated that further study is needed before proposing to implement a 3-story height transition. However, many letters and emails express support for the plan-recommended height transition to three stories for development that is not directly adjacent to Park Avenue West.

2016 Mulch Giveaway & Compost Sale

Kick-off the spring landscaping season by getting your compost for less and mulch for free! Denver Recycles' is hosting its annual Mulch Giveaway & Compost Sale on Saturday, May 7th, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the main Havana Nursery location. Compost will only available at the Havana Nursery site (10450 Smith Rd., just south of I-70 on Havana St.), while supplies last on Saturday, May 7th.

Earthlinks Plant & Garden Sale

Friday, May 20th 1-7 p.m. & Saturday, May 21st 9 a.m. - 3 p.m at 2746 W. 13th Avenue in Denver.

For more information visit the website: EarthLinks-Colorado.org or call 303-389-0085.

Shop organically grown flowers, herbs and vegetable seedlings, as well as local hand-crafted gifts made by participants of the EarthLinks Workshop Program.

Free Money!

Are you planning on doing significant repair work to your historic old home? OR are you currently doing work? OR have you done work in the past two years? You may qualify for Colorado State Historic Preservation Income Tax Credits. A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the amount of tax owned to the State of Colorado. The tax credits have no expiration and can be used over years. Interior as well as exterior work qualifies. You receive 20% of the total cost in tax credits. If you spend $20,000, you receive $4,000 in tax credits. Examples of qualifying work: Repair or replace windows and doors, tuck pointing and brick repair, repair, refinish, replace old floors, electrical work, plumbing, insulation and more. The process is not hard. Complete the application and submit to Denver Landmark Commission. For more information google Denver Landmark tax credits or email landmark@denvergov.org or CPN-DesignReview@googlegroups.com

Micro-Unit Update

Mick Barnhardt

The 56 micro-unit development proposed at 32nd and Stout/Downing has yet to meet Landmark approval. Introduced to the neighborhood at the CPN January meeting, it came with great opposition to both scale and a 2010 Denver Code loophole that allows for development of 6250 sf lots without providing any off-street parking.

The local neighborhood committee working in opposition to this project has teamed up with a Capitol Hill group fighting a similar larger project on 16th and Humboldt. These two groups are working toward a draft proposal and petition to present to City Council to establish a moratorium on projects that are utilizing the parking exception. Grassroots efforts will be employed in weeks and days ahead to distribute a petition for this exemption’s moratorium to determine its impact on residential neighborhoods all across the City. For more details go to: www.DLineApartments.wordpress.com
Walking & Biking Tour of Curtis Park / Five Points

This month’s tour will be a bike tour, May 4th, 6 P.M. Learn the history and discuss the future of Curtis Park/RiNo/Five Points on foot or bike this Summer. Tours will be designed for walkers and riders of all levels and will include information on the best biking and walking routes to key destinations in and around Five Points. Tour will start at the Stout Street Children’s Park, (25th and Stout Street). Please RSVP for tours by emailing John at haydenpryor@msn.com. Tours are free but a $10 donation to support Curtis Park Neighbors is suggested.

Curtis Park Neighborhood Park Stewardship

The tulips blooming in Mestizo-Curtis Park, Sonny Lawson, and the Children’s Park are the result of volunteers working with the Park Stewardship program through Denver Parks and Recreation. The Curtis Park Stewards plant and tend flower beds in our neighborhood parks. The Park Stewards meet at the Plaza on Sonny Lawson Park at 24th and Welton and then spread out to do planting and maintenance where it is needed. If you’d like to help please join us on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Questions? email John Hayden at haydenpryor@msn.com.

Gilpin Montessori Fundraiser

On May 20th and for the fourth consecutive year, Friends of Gilpin will be hosting the Spring Carnival! Friends of Gilpin is a non-profit that hosts fundraisers and develops strategies to maintain high-quality Montessori programming at the school. FOG raises money each year to pay for Montessori teacher training/workshops, tuition support, paraprofessional salaries, field trips, and other educational needs that are not funded by Denver Public Schools. All these are possible thanks to your generous contributions. Please join us May 20th, 3-7 p.m. Mingle with neighbors and friends while supporting our neighborhood school! Swallow Hill musical petting zoo, interactive games and more! If you or your business are interested in sponsorship, please email friendsofgilpintreasury@gmail.com

Summer Youth Jobs

With summer job season approaching, the Denver Office of Economic Development is offering employment programs to connect youth with a variety of jobs. Denver’s Summer Youth Employment Program is placing youth, ages 16 to 21, with local businesses, nonprofit organizations and government agencies. The program is offered to low-income youth who are either Denver residents or enrolled in foster care within the City and County of Denver. Participants will receive a week of career exploration, life skills and job readiness training, followed by job placements that pay $8.31 per hour for up to 120 hours.

Applications are being accepted through May 13, 2016 at SurveyMonkey.com/r/step2016

Denver is also offering a virtual job fair for all Denver metro area youth, age 16 to 24. To participate, individuals simply need to visit www.connectingcolorado.com, where they can establish a job hunting account and then click on the virtual job fair logo. The job fair is open through June 30, 2016.

Thinking of Buying or Selling?

Contact John Hayden!

21 years experience in Curtis Park
Because the health of our community is the life of my business

Five Points 2015 median home price increased 17% from $341,500 to $399,000. source: MLS data

Your Curtis Park / Five Points Real Estate Expert.

John Hayden
303.297.3994
jhayden@kentwoodcity.com

www.CurtisParkHomes.com

SCFD Free Days

Denver Museum of Nature and Science
• Mon. May 9th

Denver Art Museum
• Sat. May 7th

Denver Museum Miniatures, Dolls Toys
• Sun. May 1st

Clyfford Still Museum
• Fri. May 27th 5-8 p.m.

Museum of Outdoor Arts
• Wed. May 11th
• Fri. May 20th
• Sat. May 28th

Find out more at www.scfd.org
Denver Food Plan - Community Food Discussion

The City of Denver is developing the Denver Food Vision 2030 and Action Plan 2020 and we want to hear from you! We are seeking your input and engagement to help guide the creation of these documents and to ensure that resulting plans encompass the needs and strengths of those who live in our community. For more information, visit www.denvergov.org/foodplan

When: Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. (food at 6:00p.m., content at 6:30 p.m.)

Where: Posner Center for International Development (1031 33rd St, Denver, CO 80205)

Why: To help guide city efforts, strategies, priorities, and investments regarding healthy food for the next 15 years. To continue to build a thriving community with healthy food options.

Key Questions to Consider: Why is food an important issue in your neighborhood? How should it change? What can the City do to help?

RSVPs encouraged at: http://goo.gl/forms/mS9iUEeWmN