Curtis Park Times

June 2021

Hi Neighbors!

Ryan Cox, CPN President

Curtis Park is alive with activity of all sorts this time of year. In addition to weekly events at Sonny Lawson Park and Cousins Plaza, which include a children’s play date at 10:00 am and free yoga provided by the Urban Sanctuary at 1:00 pm every Saturday, gardening at 10:00 am every Sunday, and doggie meet-up every morning and evening, there will be an exciting new regular event that involves greens, juices and getting your juices flowing (see the article inside).

We are also excited for a regular annual event upcoming this month, the Juneteenth Music Festival, which will be held in-person! It will be spread out beyond solely the Welton Corridor, where it has traditionally been held, due to COVID protocol. The festival will run from June 18th-20th and will also be broadcast live. See juneteenthmusicfestival.com for additional details.

The neighborhood is also abuzz with development and the prospect for more.

As AVA RiNo apartments nears completion at 26th & Lawrence, two additional parcels in the area are under contract with the possibility of redevelopment. It was announced that Corum Real Estate Group is under contract to buy the Greyhound parking lots bound by 24th, 25th, Curtis and Arapahoe. Plans filed with the City indicate they intend to build a 3-story apartment community. EDENS, a retail real estate owner and developer, is under contract to purchase the VOA headquarters block bound by 26th, 27th, Larimer and Lawrence as well as parcels along Larimer between 24th & 25th.

Please join us on Thursday, June 3rd at 7:00 pm for the Curtis Park Neighbors General Meeting. The Safety portion of the meeting will begin at 6:30 where we are joined by police officers from District 2 and District 6. Tom Kiler and his team at EDENS will be presenting on their redevelopment plans and potential rezone request. Beverly Grant will tell us about the Mo’ Better Green Marketplace and John Hayden will fill us in on cycling and walking tours that speak to the history of the neighborhood. ‘Hope to see you there!

Curtis Park Home Tour This Fall

The board has approved a small home tour for the week end of September 18th and 19th. The tour would be on Curtis Street - with the exception of Ryan and Heidi Cox’s home just off Curtis Street and hopefully will include 8 historic homes. Historic Denver is on board to help with advertising, ticketing and volunteers.

We need more help - volunteers, donations for materials, and committee members. We want to do this as a “welcome back” to our neighborhood after a long and dark period in our lives. It is usually beautiful weather at that time of year and we look forward to opening up our neighborhood again. If you have ideas, are willing to volunteer or just want to help in any way, please contact Julie Rubsam, 303-921-1194.
Mo’ Betta Green Marketplace will open in Sonny Lawson Park at the Charles Cousins Plaza starting Saturday, June 26th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The market will operate every other Saturday through the Summer.

The market will operate at Sonny Lawson Park/Cousins Plaza every 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month, offering yoga at 11:11 am, tai chi at 1:00 pm and line dancing one time per month, the Smoothie Bus and fresh juice. Mo’ Betta Green also welcomes you to come to their Seeds of Power Unity Farm at 36th & Humboldt the 1st & 3rd Saturday from 4:00-7:00 pm. In addition to Saturdays in the park, MBG will operate a farmstand at Alchemy Ritual Goods (2536 Champa St) Sundays beginning in July from 12:00-4:00 pm.

According to their Instagram page, #mobetta-green, Mo’ Betta Green Marketplace (MBG) is an urban farmers’ market platform established to provide access to healthy foods, sustainable and active living practices, and culturally relevant community events. MBG’s mission is to increase food literacy, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship in the greater Five Points community.

Beverly Grant, who founded the organization, grew up in the area and recognized a need for community-building centered around healthy eating and active living and viewed the community members themselves as the greatest resource for advancing those values.

Charles Cousins Plaza is in Sonny Lawson Park located at 24th and Welton next to the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. Be sure to stop by on June 26th to get your fresh vegetables from this wonderful community resource, Mo’ Betta Green!
Denver's Bring Your Own Bag Program

Starts July 1, 2021

It’s time to get serious about remembering to bring your own bag when you shop! Starting July 1, 2021, all retail stores in Denver will charge $0.10 for each disposable carryout bag provided at checkout. The mandatory fee will apply to paper, plastic, and even compostable bags to encourage shoppers to switch to reusable bags and help reduce the number of disposable bags that are used, littered, and landfilled. Here’s what you need to know:

- The bag fee is not limited to grocery stores. Almost anywhere you shop in Denver, like convenience, hardware, liquor, and department stores, will be required to charge $0.10 per carryout bag. The fee on disposable bags does not apply to restaurants.

- Stores will not charge for smaller bags such as those used to package bulk items, produce, meat, or fish. People receiving support from state and federal Food Assistance Programs will not be charged for carryout bags.

- Charges for bags must be displayed separately on customer receipts and are not taxable.

- You can avoid the bag fee by bringing your own bags or by refusing a bag when you make a small purchase that is easy to carry without a bag.

- The City of Denver will give away reusable bags starting in June, while supplies last.

Using reusable bags instead of opting for the disposable option can significantly reduce waste and save your money!

Reduce Waste:

Denver residents use more than 100 million disposable bags per year, but fewer than five percent are recycled. As you’ve likely witnessed, plastic bags have a way of getting into the environment and showing up everywhere. They’re often found blocking storm drains, stuck in trees on windy days, clogging streams and rivers, or endangering urban wildlife. In addition, these plastic bags are made from oil, a nonrenewable resource, and are not accepted in the Denver Recycles program. In fact, when they do make it into purple recycle carts and then on to the recycling processing facility, they end up clogging machinery and cause costly equipment delays.

While paper bags can be placed in your purple cart for recycling, they require a large amount of water and energy to produce...to just be used once. The overall environmental and financial impact of disposable bags in our community is significant. Boulder’s disposable bag free resulted in a 70% reduction in the number of disposable bags, and Denver looks forward to similar results.

If you are currently short on reusable bags, now is a great time to stock up before the fee begins in July. Remember that the best bag is a reusable bag that you use for years and years and that you can wash. While some of us may not have any reusable bags, others probably have too many (you know who you are). This means thrift stores and garage sales can be great places to pick up extras. The City of Denver and its community partners will also provide free reusable bags to Denver residents who need them.

Visit Denvergov.org/BringYourOwnBag for a list of reusable bag giveaway sites and to learn more about the bag fee and the Bring Your Own Bag program.

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Denver - Then, Now and into the Future Bicycle Tour

Join Gerald Horner and John Hayden on coming Sunday, June 13th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm for a bicycle tour of Curtis Park / Five Points and Downtown Denver. The tour will start in front of the Mestizo Curtis Park Pool and feature historic sites and information about current and future changes to the area from Curtis Park to Downtown Denver. The tour route will be entirely on bicycle friendly streets. Please bring a helmet and your own bicycle. Capacity is limited to 15 people so RSVP to Gerald Horner at geraldhorn@gmail.com.

Mural Celebration

Jess Ralston

On May 22, 2021 the community came together to support the painting of the new mural located at 30th and Champa Street. Kids were invited to paint their handprints on the wall, have their faces painted, and enjoy popsicles and ice cream. Over 50 handprints are on the wall adding to the beautiful mural painted by Kacjae Barnett and Kirsty York. Jess and Reuben, the building owners, would like to thank everyone who came out to participate and for the communities continued support throughout the journey of the mural being painted.

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Curtis Park Times
Curtis Park is a historically designated district in Denver, Colorado. The neighborhood is known for its beautiful Victorian homes, tree-lined streets, and vibrant community life. Curtis Park Neighbors is an officially incorporated non-profit neighborhood organization bringing our neighborhood together 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 June 16th for ads, and June 19th for articles.

Special Thanks To
Lynne Brown, Gerald Horner, John Hayden, and Ryan Cox for newsletter content. Thanks to Hope Communities and Mile High United Way for donating our meeting space, to Therese Rasmussen for coordinating newsletter distribution, and many thanks to neighbors assisting with newsletter delivery.

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Neighborhood Internet Resources

CurtisPark.org
Provides a wealth of information: History of CP, info in Curtis Park Neighbors, info for ALL homeowners in the historic district, home alterations, ADUs, home styles, tax credits, and a very comprehensive resource list of special products, services, links, and so much more!

Curtis Park Neighbors on Facebook
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. To join, send an email 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. Zoning notices, liquor license applications, etc. all come through here. To join, send an email to: CurtisParkNeighbors+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Design Review Committee
Receive updates on new development and building modifications under review by the Denver Landmark Commission. To join, send an email to: cpn-drc-announcements+subscribe@googlegroups.com. Questions about projects, email Keith Pryor: KPryor13@gmail.com.

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 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

Juneteenth Music Festival - June 18-20th

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