

## Denver Nature Alliance Meeting Meeting Notes 08/21/2015

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### **Present:**

Boys & Girls Club: Tina Martinez

Denver Botanic Gardens: Jennifer Riley-Chetwynd

Denver Museum of Nature & Science: Scott Sampson, Alyssa Von Lehman Lopez, Veronika Hall

DU Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute: Susan Daggett

Trust for Public Land: Emily Patterson, Jim Petterson

The Nature Conservancy: Missy Davis

Denver Zoo: Jen Henderson

National Wildlife Federation Rocky Mountain Regional Center: Brian Kurzel

### **Not Present:**

The Nature Conservancy: Heidi Sherk

University of Denver: Jennifer Grace-Ewa

Denver Botanic Gardens: Jennifer Ramp-Neal, Sarah Olson

Rocky Mountain Arsenal: David Lucas

Denver Museum of Nature & Science: Ian Miller, John Demboski, Nancy Walsh, Jill Viehweg

Denver Zoo: Matt Herbert, Brian Aucone

Trust for Public Land: Tim Wolgenant

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### **1. Update on DNA partner invitations (Scott)**

- Brian Kurzel, Regional Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation Rocky Mountain Regional Center joined the group. Their mission is inspiring Americans to preserve wildlife for the future, and connecting people with nature. Alan Cooper, national Education Policy Manager (based in Denver) may have great expertise to bring to the table.
- Sheppard Nevel, President & CEO of LiveWell Colorado - Scott met with him and two Vice Presidents Gabriel Guillaume and Sarah Kurtz. They are excited to join us and represent the health sector.
- Wendy Hawthorn, Groundwork Denver - we are awaiting a response.

### **2. Update on GOCO Inspire community hub proposals (all)**

The groups that are currently in formation:

- My Outdoors Coalition (the Denver Hub) – Denver Parks & Rec
- North East Coalition
- Be Wild Jefferson County Coalition (Denver Zoo has a small outreach component)
- Boulder
- Larimer County includes Fort Collins
- Aurora - PCC Cherry Creek Schools, Aurora Public Schools (DBG have written as a supporter)
- Commerce City including Brighton , Commerce City the Arsenal, Barr Lake

The Urban Ecology Center in Wisconsin have an interesting model where they create a vibrant green space with multiple habitats within an urban center and invite everyone within a 2 mile radius to do community based programs. They have created three of these so far and they seem to be have been successful. Scott and Lise Aangeenbrug will be visiting on September 25. You are all invited to join.

### **3. Update on 1-pager and 2-pager summaries (Alyssa)**

Target audiences are:

- Our own internal organizations
- Those that we are requesting letters of support from
- Other community hubs or organizations that DNA will be serving

The one-pager will be more of a marketing piece and the DBG team will take the lead on giving it a marketing feel. Documents and images from TPL are in the Dropbox. The two-pager should have a similar look and feel also.

**JENNIFER R-C:** the DBG marketing team will lead on this

#### 4. MOU for grant proposal (Missy)

- We do not need an MOU as we are only looking at open-space funds.
- Missy will distribute a broad letter of support template. We will need to tighten it up with some additional details after we have completed scoping, then Missy will distribute.

**MISSY:** to add template to Dropbox after scoping

#### 5. Evaluating greenspaces: the question of quality (Scott)

TPL is starting to conduct projects to measure park quality. This has been done in Houston and a second pilot project started this summer in Seattle. The process involves:

- Asking the Park Department what their highest and lowest parks are in order to create a baseline for each community.
- Visit the parks to look at a number of qualitative and quantitative amenities including the age and quality of existing conditions and comforting conveniences (e.g. shade, seating, water, bathrooms).

An ecological analysis could be incorporated also. This is a labor intensive process and requires resources.

#### 6. Scoping Discussion of grant proposal content (Emily)

##### COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

- GOCO and the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) has tried to create an inventory of groups that are providing nature resources to community groups.
- We cannot go into the planning process without knowing what the community needs are. We need consider what our capacities are relating to each community. We cannot go in saying that we have it figured out and community meetings will be essential. How do we write the grant without being too vague? Perhaps a 'menu' approach is a good one. We could incorporate the Design School thinking into our approach.
- How do we manage up to legislators, SCFD, City & County, politicians others groups that could use us as a resource? Will we be working on policy issues? Several partners cannot advocate so we probably cannot be seen as advocates.
- How do we work with all groups and hubs? One option that has worked is one annual big community conference and smaller quarterly gatherings with more of a social feel. A regular newsletter and/or website could be incorporated.

##### ANALYSIS & MAPPING

- A bioblitz has the dual goals of bringing a community together around a project, as well as providing data.
- ESRI has created psychographic maps at the neighborhood level.
- The 10-county Boulder to Douglas County is the current target geographic area.
- We need baseline information to see if we are moving the needle. Lise A. will be hiring consultants to see if these communities are advancing the GOCO mission. They will serve as technical assistants in each of the community hubs and we can ask GOCO to embed some of our recommendations into their process.
- Colorado Natural Heritage out of CSU (Dave Anderson) could provide resources and scientist that can help with a bioblitz.

##### ORG STRUCTURE & BUSINESS PLAN

- Should we be a funding resource/channel for money for groups to apply to? One option is that our funds should provide training and resources for groups, and not provide direct funding. On the other hand we may have the ability to access major funding opportunities that smaller organizations would not have the ability to reach for.
- DNA should be looking at long term sustainability, but what is the lifespan of the hubs?
- We risk competing against the hubs if we look to the same funding.

- Can we achieve our big goals if we do not seek major funding and leaving it to the communities to seek smaller options? Perhaps we commit to only targeting major founding sources that communities cannot access.
- There could be a membership model that sustains the DNA is long term with big funding tracks, and identifying sustainable strategies instead of just founding sources.

EVALUTION

- GOCO is hiring someone to lead on evaluation.
- Who are the other stakeholders and what is the regional need for information?
- We should identify other examples of other examples and case studies around the country.

**7. Half-day meeting & Collective Impact discussion (all)**

Ana Soler & Melissa Beck from Civic Canopy will join us for the first part of the next meeting to lead a workshop on collective impact.

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**Next Meeting:** September 4, 2015 at 8:30-1:00pm (**note extended time**) at the Botanic Gardens, Waring House.

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**Action Items**

- 1) Spruce up the one and two-pager (Jennifer Riley-Chetwynd)
- 2) Distribute broad temple letter of support (Missy)