



Long Range Planning Committee
Wednesday, August 2nd, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Voting Members

X	Caryn Becker	X	Brad Geiger]	Kati Knisley		
]	Laura Jensen	X	Nicole Bolger	X	Bob Binder		
X	Cindy Barnard]	Rudy Lukez]	Todd Warnke		
X	Chris Williams	X	Joyce Mirenzi				
X	Karen Zimmerman]	Stephanie Stanley				
X	Steven Franger	X	Michelle Major				

Non-Voting Members

X	Richard Cosgrove]	Shavon Caldwell	X	Thomas Mc Millen	X	Meghann Silverthorn
X	Gautam Sethi						

X indicates attendance,] = notification, ⊗ = no notification

Call to Order

Long Range Planning Committee Chair Brad Geiger called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Review and Approval of May and June Minutes

LRPC Chair Brad Geiger asked for any objections or additions to the May and June LRPC meeting minutes. None were made. Motion to approve seconded. None oppose. Motion passes.

Ascent Classical Academy Request for Eastridge Site

LRPC Chair Brad Geiger noted that members of the public were in attendance and that they desired the opportunity to present their comments. Chairman Geiger asked them to keep their statements to 2-3 minutes. Comment from four members of the public was given and considered by all present. Following public comment, Chairman Geiger opened the floor to members who had questions and/or comments for Ascent. The following questions and comments regarding this request were stated by LRPC members and members of the public in attendance:

- If granted, would use of the site be via purchase or lease?
- What has been done in terms of studying the traffic impact and safety related traffic issues? Traffic safety and congestion are major concerns. Specifically:
 - Location is in a residential neighborhood
 - Highlands Ranch HS, Cresthill MS, multiple neighborhood elementary schools, Valor, and Cherry Hills Christian are all located in the immediate vicinity and already causing congestion and safety concerns.
 - Cresthill is already very dangerous, it's 2 lanes, very curvy and windy with a lot of blind spots
 - Crossings to park and neighborhood amenities
 - High school age drivers and parking for these students
 - Additional load on roads in the region (due to out of area/region students commuting to charter location)
- What is the rush? Is a 2018 opening completely necessary? Isn't this better done right than quickly?
- Why this site in particular? Wouldn't it make sense to locate in an area of the district where additional capacity was needed or where low enrollment isn't an issue? Similarly, why aren't you looking at vacant commercial properties?
- What is the total build out enrollment of Ascent? We have to think about not just the next few years but what impact may be 10 years from now.

- Where is your enrollment coming from? Specifically, how do you expect to get the necessary enrollment in a declining market and have you considered what the enrollment impact on nearby neighborhood K-6 schools will be?

Ascent provided the following comments and statements in response to some of the above listed questions and concerns:

- On preference for the Eastridge site:
 - The Eastridge site is build ready (has roads and utilities) while many of the other dedicated school sites are not, i.e. Ridgeway, Sterling Ranch, etc.
 - It's a central location off I-25 and 470 and is central to their interested student/parent population
 - Topography is relatively flat
 - Acreage is considered ideal for the proposed use
 - Timelines given don't currently allow for Ascent to start this process over
- On the need to meet current timelines:
 - A delay would result in inflation on construction costs and need to increase the budget
 - The demand from students and parents who want this school/programming as soon as possible
- On concerns over impacts to traffic safety and congestion:
 - Currently expect about 200 cars for pick up and drop off
 - Traffic impact study will be performed as part of the review process with Douglas County. It is/will be done once a site is secured
 - 10 acres offers plenty of room for onsite queuing
 - Access points can be strategically located to direct traffic away from streets of concern
 - Staggered start and end times and open cafeteria and gym for early or late pick up/drop off
 - Parent car pool program
 - Potential to restrict driving rights for HS students (no driving privileges at all, closed campus, driving only on certain days, etc.)
 - HS population will also be very small to start out
 - Provide parking as per minimum requirements from Douglas County
 - There are successful charters on the same sized site where traffic is not an issue, ex. American Academy in Parker
 - A neighborhood school may face the same challenges with choice and the number of students not using bussing
 - The amount of traffic/congestion this use will add in comparison to what is already occurring and also what other uses could generate is miniscule
- On the planned, total enrollment:
 - 720 or 55-60 per grade is planned as the eventual build out enrollment
- On planned enrollment and potential enrollment impacts to neighborhood schools:
 - Population that is being targeted are those students who have already choiced out of neighborhood schools (homeschool, online, private, etc.). Don't believe our program directly competes with neighborhood school as programming is completely different.

LRPC member Cindra Barnard moved that the committee recommend to the Board of Education that Ascent not be allowed the use of this particular site due to the issues discussed. Those issues were concerns over the site, traffic and safety impacts, capacity, and impacts to neighborhood schools. Motion was seconded. Brad Geiger abstains. The motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 vote against.

LRPC Membership:

LRPC Chairman Brad Geiger introduced current LRPC applicant John Freeman. John Freeman was recently interviewed by the membership subcommittee to serve as a representative in the North Planning Area. Cindra Barnard moves to recommend John Freeman for LRPC membership. Chris Williams seconds. All in favor. Motion passes. John Freeman will be recommended for membership to the Board of Education at the September 5th Board of Education meeting.

Capacity Review and Analysis:

LRPC Chairman Brad Geiger reminded members that there has been a consistent desire to analyze capacity, boundaries and choice. He requested that the capacity subcommittee meet asap and report back to the committee on proposed action items. Member Cindra Barnard requested additional members on the committee. The committee to date consists of the following members:

- Laura Jensen
- Nicole Bolger

- Cindra Barnard
- Bob Binder
- Todd Warnke
- Karen Zimmerman
- Michelle Major

Anybody else interested in participating on the capacity subcommittee should reach out to Planning Manager Shavon Caldwell.

2017-18 Meeting Schedule:

Members received a schedule of meeting dates and locations in their August LRPC packet. Chairman Brad Geiger reminded members that the September meeting would be at Ponderosa High School. LRPC member Chris Williams requested that staff ensure that Principals are present at these meetings to discuss the facility and enrollment items being experienced at their location.

Elections:

Karen Zimmerman nominates Brad Geiger as LRPC Chair for the 2017-18 school year and Rudy Lukez as Co-Chair. All in favor. Nomination passes.

Other:

LRPC member Caryn Becker asked that outreach be revisited at a future meeting. Specifically she would like to discuss how it should be coordinated with other outreach efforts currently happening in the district and if the charge/intent of the outreach could be more clearly defined.

Chairman Brad Geiger noted that the LRPC student member position is still vacant. He asked those present to spread the word that this position is vacant and that the committee desires student involvement and input. Director Silverthorne noted that she could communicate this to the student advisory group and see if there are any interested students.

LRPC member Karen Zimmerman reminded members that she is on the membership committee and asked for anybody interested in recruitment to reach out to her.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm