



TO: Denver City Council

FROM: Barbara Frommell
CPD-Planning Services

DATE: April 18, 2013

RE: Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan in the Sun Valley Neighborhood

Community Planning and Development is pleased to submit the *Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan* for your consideration and adoption as a supplement to the *Denver Comprehensive Plan*. The *Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan* was presented to and passed through the Land Use, Transportation, and Infrastructure Committee on April 2, 2013.

After a year of public engagement and outreach, a Draft Plan was released for public review on January 8, 2013. Modifications were made to the Draft Plan based on public review. The Planning Board held a required public hearing at its March 6, 2013 meeting, during which time additional public testimony was heard, primarily in support of the overall plan. The Planning Board unanimously approved the plan on March 6, 2013 and recommended that the City Council adopt the plan as a supplement to the *Denver Comprehensive Plan*.

The Planning Board approved the plan on the basis of the findings for the three established criteria for a supplement to the Comprehensive Plan:

1. Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and applicable supplements;
2. An inclusive public process;
3. An appropriate long-term perspective.

The details of the findings are listed on the following page for your reference. Also attached are letters of support from Sun Valley area residents, neighborhood organizations, non-profit organizations and property owners.

Thank you for your consideration of the *Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan*.

Staff Recommendation:
Adoption of the Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan as a supplement to the Denver Comprehensive Plan.

Findings Based on Established Small Area Plan Criteria

The Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan satisfies Denver's three criteria for small area plans in the following ways:

1. Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and applicable supplements
 - a. Achieves Comprehensive Plan goals and recommendations:
 - i. Ensures environmental stewardship of natural resources
 - ii. Encourages mixed use, transit-oriented development
 - iii. Provides workers, residents and visitors with a choice of safe and convenient transportation modes
 - iv. Builds upon Denver's legacies
 - v. Creates clean and safe neighborhoods that inspire community pride
 - vi. Builds a skilled workforce and economic opportunities for all
 - vii. Encourages mixed use, mixed income housing development near transit lines
 - viii. Supports a range of artistic and cultural opportunities
 - b. Builds upon previous planning efforts:
 - i. Blueprint Denver
 - ii. Strategic Transportation Plan
 - iii. River South Greenway Master Plan (RISO)
 - iv. River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP)
 - v. Denver Moves
 - vi. Strategic Parking Plan
 - vii. La Alma Lincoln Park Neighborhood Plan
2. An inclusive public process
 - a. In total, over 50 stakeholder meetings, neighborhood meetings, workshops, tours in the course of a year, including 4 large public meetings
 - b. 2,500 stakeholders engaged
 - c. 1,600 website hits
 - d. 10 letters of support received
3. An appropriate long term perspective
 - a. 20-30 year plan horizon
 - b. 10 year implementation strategies
 - c. First step: help create formal partnerships to "champion" implementation



February 25, 2013

Barbara Frommell
Community Planning and Development
201 W. Colfax, Suite 205
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Frommell:

I am writing to express DHA's strong support for the Decatur Federal Station Area Plan in the Sun Valley Neighborhood. We are very proud to have co-managed the planning process and eager to move forward with the GDP and master planning processes. The Decatur Federal Station Area Plan provides a regional vision for the future and a clear path to attract much needed investment into the area.

The Plan sets a course for public and private investment in Sun Valley that will create a more livable community, a healthier and accessible waterfront, a vibrant stadium district, and much needed jobs – all with walkable access to light rail service. Building on the TOD successes underway at South Lincoln's Mariposa community, DHA is eager to take part in the district TOD redevelopment of Sun Valley and to help implement regional solutions to jobs, housing, health and accessibility.

With the widely accepted vision as presented in the Plan, continued collaboration and strong leadership from the City - we are poised to capitalize upon the significant public investment that has already benefited Sun Valley, most prominently represented in the soon-to-open West Line and improvements to Lakewood Gulch. We could not be more proud to have the support of Mayor Hancock with his recent announcement of Sun Valley being one of his top three legacy projects

We look forward to continued collaboration with the City as we move toward implementing the recommendations in the Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan. Thank you for CPDs hard work and shared commitment to extensive public participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ismael Guerrero'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ismael Guerrero
Executive Director



February 25, 2013

Barbara Frommell
Community Planning and Development
201 W. Colfax, Suite 205
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Frommell:

The Sun Valley Local Resident Council would like to express its support of the Decatur Federal Station Area Plan in the Sun Valley Neighborhood. The Decatur Federal Station Area Plan seems to provide a vision for the future of Sun Valley Homes including an increase in resident services and jobs in the area.

Sun Valley residents have participated in the outreach and education provided in the neighborhood for this project and look forward to having a light rail station in their neighborhood.

The residents of Sun Valley Homes look forward to working together with the City and County of Denver regarding planning and services associated with this project. The residents of this neighborhood value economic diversity, safe streets for kids, and diverse housing choices. Services that are needed in this neighborhood, that the community looks forward to include, increases in food services, job opportunities, and resident services.

Sincerely,

DARRELL WASHINGTON
Darrell Washington
President

Kisha Brickens
Kisha Brickens
Secretary

Zach Zamora
Zach Zamora
Treasurer

On behalf of the Sun Valley Homes Local Resident Council



RESPONSIBLE BY NATURE™

Kirk Scheitler
Denver Area Manager
PSCo Community Relations

1800 Larimer Street
14th Floor
Denver, CO 80202-5533
Phone: 303.294.2456
Fax: 303.294.2915

March 6, 2013

Barbara Frommell
Community Planning and Development
201 W. Colfax, Suite 205
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Frommell:

I am writing to express support for the continued development of, and vision for, the Sun Valley Neighborhood. As a key partner with the City in the provision of a cornerstone to all economic development – reliable electric, gas and steam power – Xcel Energy supports a balanced approach to developing the Sun Valley Neighborhood that will optimize the key components of the Decatur Federal Station Area Plan and allow Xcel Energy to continue to provide vital utility service. We support Mayor Hancock's vision and understand that this is one of his top three legacy projects.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the City on this critical project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Scheitler', written in a cursive style.

Kirk Scheitler
Xcel Energy
Area Manager, Denver
303-294-2456
william.k.scheitler@xcelenergy.com



March 6, 2013

Barbara Frommell
Community Planning and Development
201 W. Colfax, Suite 205
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Frommell:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Football Stadium District and the Stadium Management Company we are writing to express our support for the vision and goals of the Decatur Federal Station Area Plan in the Sun Valley Neighborhood. We are pleased to hear Mayor Hancock has announced that Sun Valley is one of his top three legacy projects. The Decatur Federal Station Area Plan provides a vision for the future and a clear path to attract much needed investment into the area.

The Plan sets a course for public and private investment in Sun Valley which has the potential to create a more livable community, a healthier and accessible waterfront, a more vibrant stadium district, and much needed jobs – all within walkable access to light rail service. Like the Central Platte Valley, Sun Valley could become Denver's next great riverfront destination and neighborhood.

With the widely accepted vision as presented in the Plan and the continued collaboration and strong leadership from the City creates an opportunity to capitalize upon the significant public investment that has already benefited Sun Valley, most prominently represented in the soon-to-open West Line and improvements to Lakewood Gulch.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the City moving towards implementing the recommendations in the Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan.

Sincerely,


Matt Sugar
Director of Stadium Affairs
Metropolitan Football Stadium District


Andy Gorchov
General Manager
Stadium Management Company



**MHC Feedback on the Decatur/Federal Station Area Plan
For
The City of Denver, February 2013**

Information about Mile High Connects

MHC is comprised of over twenty local and national nonprofits, foundations, and community leaders with significant experience in affordable housing, economic and workforce development, educational opportunities, community engagement, access to transit alternatives and healthy living. MHC is particularly focused on achieving equitable outcomes, especially as they relate to the Denver region's transit expansion. MHC is working to improve the quality of life for all residents of the region, including low-income residents and people of color, through programs and policies that promote affordable housing and access to job, education, and healthcare opportunities.

A Connected Sun Valley & the Priority Plans: Reknitting Neighborhoods; Integrated System of Parks & Public Spaces; Enhance Walkability & Bikability; Make Transit Convenient

Urban Land Conservancy: We appreciate that the Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan draft has outlined a vision that plans for the needs of people by creating an intuitively accessible and pedestrian friendly community. The plan enhances the flow of people into the area by integrating multi-modal opportunities such as the new light rail station, improved traffic flow and controls, and integrating pedestrian/bike paths to highlight and enhance existing and future recreational and park space. The plan prepares for future development in a manner that respects the needs of residents and visitors to access and enjoy Sun Valley.

An Innovative Sun Valley & the Priority Plans: A Livable Community; Transit Oriented Development; Stadium Entertainment Destination; Open for Business

The Mile High Connects Jobs Working Group appreciates the plan's specific recommendations for creating a "Healthy Economy" and better connecting Sun Valley residents to jobs in the neighborhood and elsewhere. We also like the emphasis on retaining and growing the industrial businesses that are already there, and retrofitting the built environment to make these locations more walkable. Compared to previous station area plans throughout the City, this plan is the most robust and comprehensive when it comes to economic and workforce development strategies, which are of utmost importance in this part of Denver. The Sun Valley neighborhood has a thriving base of good middle-skill jobs and these should be preserved as best as possible while balancing the need for more residential and commercial space near the station area. Current residents have some of the longest commute times in the entire City, so connecting these workers to jobs and training opportunities is also critical. The MHC Jobs Working Group is committed to working with the City to ensure the successful implementation of the economic and workforce development elements of this plan and will be closely monitoring the City's actions as it allocates resources and approves new developments in the station area.

A Health Sun Valley & Priority Plans: Health for People; Healthy for the Environment; Healthy for the Economy

The Mile High Connects Health Working Group commends the planning department for incorporating health-related recommendations into the Decatur-Federal station area plan. Based on our experience and knowledge of previous planning efforts, this is the most thoughtful and concrete list of recommendations we have seen in a station area plan. The plan addresses many of the greatest health challenges to the residents of this neighborhood and identifies specific locations for new healthy food outlets, parks, sidewalks and other infrastructure that can vastly improve the health outcomes of residents living here. One area that could be bolstered in the plan is public safety. We know from experience working in Sun Valley that there is a perception among residents and visitors alike that this is an unsafe neighborhood, and improving the environment with new lighting, security cameras and other features could help people feel safer in this community. We are also concerned that none of the identified “Transformative Projects” is specifically related to health. They all affect health indirectly, so in developing criteria for prioritizing specific elements of the plan and allocating resources, we encourage the City to consider the health impacts in the criteria. We also feel that this area needs a health impact assessment to fully consider the health impacts that TOD will have on community residents, given the high rates of obesity and chronic disease, as well as the large youth population and long commute times. Overall, MHC remains committed to ensuring the successful implementation of this plan and will be monitoring the progress of the health elements of the plan in the coming years. MHC Health Working Group members are available to provide advisory support moving forward.



305 Park Avenue West · Suite B · Denver CO · 80205

PH: 303.377.4477 · FX: 720.287.5063

January 25, 2012

Barbara Frommell
Community Planning and Development
City and County of Denver
201 West Colfax, Dept 205
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Frommell,

We appreciate the time, outreach, and consideration given in the development of the Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan. The public draft presents a visual reminder of the rich cultural history while recognizing current strengths and needs of the Sun Valley residents.

The approach to build on Sun Valley's history and assets reminds us of the diverse activities found in this area. From sports venues and industry to homes, history, and a river walk; the plan retains and incorporates the importance of current uses while providing a master plan to encourage integrated and respectful redevelopment as future opportunities arise. The plan promotes increased housing and commercial density while preserving and enhancing the natural attributes of the river and surrounding area. Additionally, it will improve multi-modal accessibility and safety as streets are redesigned, transit options increase, and the pedestrian trails and river greenway are extended. We would continue to encourage increased bike options such as B-cycle to take advantage of these improvements.

The challenge with any plan remains its implementation. The inclusion of transformative projects within the plan and the City's commitment to make the needed infrastructure changes will prepare the way for private investment and further community development. We strongly support the recommended improvements and look forward to their completion. Our hope and exhortation is that the City continues to reach out to the community with opportunities, incentives and support to make this plan a reality.

Sincerely,

Urban Land Conservancy

Federal Boulevard Partnership

PO Box 140517
Denver, CO 80214

“Investing in Northwest Denver’s Main Street”

April 17, 2013

Marshall Vanderburg
Federal Boulevard Partnership
PO Box 140517
Denver, CO 80214

Denver City Council Members
1437 Bannock St, #451
Denver, CO 80202

Dear City Council Members,

It’s gratifying to witness several years of work conclude with the final edition of the Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan (Area Plan) being considered for adoption by Denver City Council. The Federal Boulevard Partnership (Partnership) has been thoroughly invested in this process and we strongly believe in the future of the area impacted by the new W Line and station. We vision the new station and surrounding communities including Sun Valley, Stadium District, Federal and Colfax as “the” gateway to West, Northwest and Southwest Denver. The Partnership strongly supports your adoption of the Area Plan.

We celebrate the seven Transformative Project defined in the Area Plan. We take special note and interest in one of the projects—the redesign and reconfiguration of the Federal and Colfax interchange now configured as a cloverleaf. We strongly agree with the Area Plan’s premise that the cloverleaf is not an appropriate interchange for the existing urban context. The cloverleaf is not safe or accessible for pedestrians. This is further amplified due to the opening of the Decatur-Federal station because pedestrians via foot or bicycle do not have safe passage North along Federal to the Sloan’s Lake or Jefferson Park communities. In the future the Partnership will diligently support and work towards the reconfiguration of this interchange to promote greater access to local communities, more opportunity for economic development efforts and safer pedestrian treatments.

We further support the Area Plan’s assertion of the need for a General Development Plan (GDP) for much of the study area. The Partnership’s only gripe with the Area Plan is not including Federal Boulevard between the Federal Colfax interchange and W. 20th Avenue as a defined area to be included in the GDP. This stretch of Federal is integral and crucial to the study area including the Stadium District and surrounding communities, of which a greater percentage of the corridor falls within the half-mile impact radius of the new light rail station. The Partnership will work with the administration to include this area as part of the GDP and this does not temper our support for the adoption of the Area Plan.

Lastly, in the Moving Forward – Investment Strategies section, the possibility of tax increment financing (TIF) and Special Districts is raised. The Partnership strongly concurs with this possibility and would like to emphasize its importance. Realizing economic and community development initiatives at the scale

proposed in the Area Plan do not occur solely with public dollars. We believe evaluating public-private financing alternatives and coming to agreement on the best financing approach will be a crucial factor in realizing the Area Plan's recommendations. We will do all we can to support and forward establishment of a financing approach involving more than just public dollars—as the Area Plan suggests, it must be a team effort.

Once again, the Partnership encourages your support and adoption of the Area Plan. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Marshall Vanderburg

Marshall Vanderburg
President, Federal Boulevard Partnership
720.934.0134

cc: Mayor Michael Hancock
Rocky Piro, Manager of Community Planning and Development
Paul Washington, Executive Director Office of Economic Development



January 9, 2012

Barbara Frommell
Community Planning and Development
City and County of Denver

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for your time and commitment to the ongoing planning of the Federal and Decatur Station Area. Our Land Use Committee and I have reviewed the draft plan that was recently made public. I am writing today to give you WeCAN's support for this document with a few specific recommendations.

1. The plan needs to more specifically define the study area. Nowhere is this done in the draft. The map on the Introduction page shows a black bubble from which the reader can infer general boundaries; the map on p. 7 shows concentric circles ¼ mile and ½ mile around the Decatur/Federal Station, suggesting a plan boundary of ½ mile from the station. But it doesn't state this. This is important because if the study area is ½ mile radius around the station, then there seems to be a deficiency of planning in the northwest quadrant of the radius
 - a. One area where this is evident is in the treatment of bike/pedestrian infrastructure, which can affect WeCAN residents' safe, convenient access to the south and east. The maps and narrative denote 17th as a residential collector street to be striped, and it appears that Irving and Knox Court are, as well, but other connections in this area are not as fine grained as those depicted for the rest of the area. The improvements that are being proposed for this area in this plan and as revisions to Denver Moves are very good for WECAN. We're just wondering if they could be better, on a scale with the rest of the area. (For example, there are no priority intersections for pedestrian safety and amenity improvements specified in this area. Should 17th and Federal be a candidate?
 - b. The other area where this seems to be evident is the lack of zoning or visioning for the Federal Corridor north of Colfax. This stretch of Federal Blvd, lacks the character and charm of the segments of the Boulevard immediately to the north, is unfriendly to pedestrians and creates an ugly edge to our neighborhood. The corridor given its location has the potential to be redeveloped in a more dense and sustainable manner taking advantage of its proximity to and views of downtown. Nowhere does the report address this relatively blighted section of street.

On the other hand, if this area isn't really considered part of the planning area, perhaps the details and additional refinements are meant to be addressed in other planning efforts. I think we should ask for clarification.

2. We feel that the intersection at Federal and Howard intersection should be deemed a "priority intersection" for bicycles on your map on page 35. You mention this intersection as a priority for pedestrians earlier in the report and mention improving bike infrastructure along Howard and 14th, but do not show this key intersection as a priority on the map. Since graphics can be much more powerful in quickly defining the concepts and precepts of the plan than text we feel that this is a major omission.
3. WECAN agrees with the implied position of the City that a cloverleaf interchange at the Federal/Colfax intersection is not an appropriate design for this intersection. This is the gateway to WECAN and such a design is the antithesis

of what the city and the neighborhood is striving for – a vibrant, walkable/bikable residential, employment and commercial community. WECAN supports the City working with CDOT to make a strong case for reconfiguring the design to an alternative that is more appropriate for its urban context. Several alternatives that might be considered are shown, but all of them seem to be less than ideal. It seems to us that there are other options out there that were not put forward. We hope that there is much more study of this issue, one that continually involves the various stakeholder groups surrounding this vital intersection.

WeCAN represents the needs and desires of the residents and business owners in the Denver’s West Colfax Neighborhood. Our organization currently has over 450 registered members and is dedicated to creating a healthy safe and sustainable community in West Colfax. We feel that this plan greatly strengthens our neighborhood by strengthening the urban fabric of our neighboring community in Sun Valley. We look forward to the day when much of this plan is implemented and we have new local destinations in our immediate vicinity.

Sincerely,



Chad Reischl
Co-president: WeCAN

Cosigned,

Ben Stetler
Co-President: WeCAN

Alan Burch
Vice-President: WeCAN
Liaison to Land Use Committee



THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION

Planning, Funding, and Design • Environmental Education • Riverside Events • Youth Employment

WWW.GREENWAYFOUNDATION.ORG

March 5, 2013

Barbara Frommell
Community Planning and Development
201 W. Colfax, Suite 205
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Frommell:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Decatur Federal Station Area Plan in the Sun Valley Neighborhood. Mayor Hancock has announced that Sun Valley is one of his top three legacy projects. The Decatur Federal Station Area Plan provides a vision for the future and a clear path to attract much needed investment into the area.

The Plan sets a course for public and private investment in Sun Valley that will create a more livable community, a healthier and accessible waterfront, a vibrant stadium district, and much needed jobs – all with walkable access to light rail service. Following in the footsteps of the Central Platte Valley, Sun Valley will become Denver's next great riverfront destination and neighborhood.

With the widely accepted vision as presented in the Plan, continued collaboration and strong leadership from the City - we are poised to capitalize upon the significant public investment that has already benefited Sun Valley, most prominently represented in the soon-to-open West Line and improvements to Lakewood Gulch and upon the master planning efforts of the River South Master Plan and the River Vision Implementation Plan.

Additionally, this plan is built upon a comprehensive, inclusive, and exhaustive public outreach and engagement effort. These efforts helped to shape the vision and recommendations in this plan, and were crucial in creating a plan with a broad base of support.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the City as we move toward implementing the recommendations in the Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan.

Sincerely,

Jolon Clark
Associate Director

FOUNDER
Joe Shoemaker

CHAIRMAN
Kip Stastny

VICE CHAIRMAN
Bar Chadwick

Brent Applebaum
Jon Bridges
Larry Elrod
John Moran
Lesley Roper
Paula Sandoval
Pete West

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jeff Shoemaker

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Jolon Clark



Making It Possible.

"A RIVER IS MORE THAN AN AMENITY, IT IS A TREASURE" - JUSTICE OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

The Greenway Foundation is supported in part by the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District as well as a gift from the Estate of Robert V. and Billie Mae Behrent.

5299 DTC Blvd, Suite 710 · Greenwood Village CO 80111 · Tel (303) 455-7109 · Fax (303) 455-7234
www.greenwayfoundation.org



February 22, 2013

Barbara Frommell
Community Planning and Development
201 W. Colfax, Suite 205
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Frommell:


I am writing to express my strong support for the Decatur Federal Station Area Plan in the Sun Valley Neighborhood. Mayor Hancock has announced that Sun Valley is one of his top three legacy projects. The Decatur Federal Station Area Plan provides a vision for the future and a clear path to attract much needed investment into the area.

The Plan sets a course for public and private investment in Sun Valley that will create a more livable community, a healthier and accessible waterfront, a vibrant stadium district, and much needed jobs – all with walkable access to light rail service. Research has proven that construction of a light-rail system (LRT) results in increased physical activity and subsequent weight loss by people served by the LRT. Improving neighborhood environments and increasing the public's use of LRT systems will encourage greater numbers of users to walk to station stops and maintain more physically active lives.

Following in the footsteps of the Central Platte Valley, Sun Valley will become Denver's next great riverfront destination as well as a celebrated, connected, innovative, and healthy neighborhood.

With the widely accepted vision as presented in the Plan, continued collaboration with diverse partners and strong leadership from the City - we are poised to capitalize upon the significant public investment that has already benefited Sun Valley, most prominently represented in the soon-to-open West Line and improvements to Lakewood Gulch.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the City as we move toward implementing the recommendations in the Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan.

Sincerely,


William Burman MD
Director, Denver Public Health

Fresh Start, Inc.

2715 West Holden Place
Denver, Colorado 80204
www.freshstartdenver.org

February 25, 2013

Barbara Frommell
Community Planning and Development
City and County of Denver
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Barbara:

As members of the Steering Committee, we thank you for the opportunity to have provided recommendations and input on the Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan. Fresh Start has been working with children and families living in and around the Sun Valley neighborhood for several years. We recently purchased a building and have moved to 2715 West Holden Place. Fresh Start is committed to working with parents to help children be healthy, achieving, creative, and giving in all aspects of their lives.

The Fresh Start Board of Directors and staff agree with the approach and support the proposed transformative projects outlined in the area plan. It honors the neighborhood's culture and diversity while encouraging growth that will reduce isolation, improve quality of living and provide educational and employment opportunities for current and new residents. Most importantly, particular care has been taken to create a plan that develops high quality residential communities that are friendly to families with children.

We also agree with the goals and strategies in the "Moving Forward" section and are pleased to note the emphasis on collaboration and the inclusion of Goal #4 that will "maintain open communication between the city, property owners, developers, residents and businesses and other area stakeholders."

Fresh Start's experience in building community underscores the need for inclusion and transparency to build trust. In 2010, in response to Sun Valley Homes resident concerns about lack of neighborhood summer activities for children and low numbers of youth participating at the local recreation center, we partnered with parents, the Rude Recreation Center and Sun Valley Homes. The Denver Housing Authority has been a major collaborator with Fresh Start activities by providing space and planning year round enrichment activities and holiday celebrations.

The Riverfront Park Community Foundation provided Fresh Start a grant for Sun Valley youth to participate on sports teams. In just a few short months, we went from five neighborhood youth participants to sixty. This last year we have secured scholarships for 200 team slots per year which has resulted in over 100 Sun Valley kids being active,

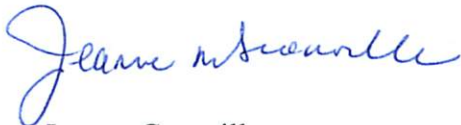
learning teamwork, nutrition, and taking pride in their neighborhood when they play teams from other neighborhoods across the city.

From this, a parent advisory group has helped shape new programming that includes a youth entrepreneurial program entitled "Lemonade Days." Xcel Energy assisted with funding and supports the parent advisory team and annual summer BBQ. Youth learned to develop and run a small business using a lemonade stand as the business model. Neighbors from the Riverfront Park area served as mentors to assist youth in selling lemonade at Riverfront Park. Last year the Sun Valley kids won first place for best tasting – and in keeping with our emphasis on good nutrition – it had no sugar! Building upon our goal of healthy living and in response to identified needs for access to healthy food, our kids and families are planning a community garden this summer on Fresh Start's property that will feature small space, vertical and permaculture gardening techniques.

Fresh Start has recently accepted the request to assume the leadership role on the Sun Valley Stakeholders Coalition and looks forward to working with the City, developers, and other stakeholders to make this vision a reality. It is an ambitious plan and we strongly urge the City to put in place an ongoing oversight committee to ensure that the necessary partnerships, funding, and coordination are achieved.

Fresh Start is committed to Sun Valley because we believe in the resiliency of the residents and the potential of the neighborhood to truly be a shining example of Denver's best. Please let us know how we can be of service during the next phases of the planning process.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Granville
Executive Director



Kristina Richens
President Fresh Start Board of Directors