

Great Park Hill News May 2010

By Patrick Horvath

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Over 500 residents of Park Hill and the surrounding neighborhoods gathered on Saturday, April 24 at Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center to review design concepts and provide input for the redevelopment of the former Holly Square shopping center and the surrounding area. The “Holly Fair” included free food, kids’ activities, non-profit resource tents, Broncos star Daniel Graham, a Park Hill history and heritage display, and prize giveaways.

Park Hill resident Eric Swan, one of the steering committee members of the Holly Area Redevelopment Project (HARP), the Fair’s sponsor, stated that the goal of the gathering was to “get everyone in the community excited about this incredible opportunity to redevelop the former shopping center and to spur reinvestment in the whole surrounding area.”

Mr. Swan noted that the Fair was preceded by a panel dialogue on April 23, at which members of the steering committee quizzed experts about the design concepts that are emerging from the community planning process. “We got great feedback from people like Tom Gougeon, who led the planning for Stapleton, David Miller, the president of The Denver Foundation, and Jeff Romine from Denver’s Office of Economic Development. They looked over our work so far and gave us really useful advice about how to bring our vision to reality.”

At the Fair, local residents viewed a presentation on the neighborhood’s history, and then examined four different design concepts that the steering committee has developed to provide an overview for how the Holly area might be redeveloped. Participants completed a short survey that the steering committee will use to create “good neighboring” principles that will guide development.

All of the data, survey responses, and information gathered from the Fair, two community design workshops, a “town hall” meeting, and nine months of work by the HARP subcommittee will be summarized and analyzed in a report to the community and the Urban Land Conservancy, owner of the former shopping center. A draft of the report will be presented to the community at a public meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, June 15 at the Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.** Please see the HARP website at <http://sites.google.com/site/thehollysite/home> for details about this project. For more information, please call Patrick Horvath at 303-996-7356.