

# Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

November 14, 2017

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Members Present:

Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Lance Musselman, Joanne Asher, Butch Clark, Lee Berkey

### Board Members Not Present:

Monica Brisnehan, Ana Quintana, Ryan Schulz

The Board meeting was brought order by Tim at 6:45 p.m. at St. John's

The minutes for the October 10, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Board members, guests and speakers were introduced.

### **Presenters:**

Beth McCann, Denver District Attorney, discussed her progress during her first ten months in office. She has established a juvenile unit which runs a diversion program focusing on community service as part of a restorative justice approach. The restorative justice program will be expanded to adults in the future.

In a new emphasis on mental health, police officers will meet with the offender and involve case managers in developing ways to avoid criminal charges so that mentally ill offenders can get help. The mental health advisory group will organize co-responders, which include both a police officer and a mental health worker, to be dispatched. Also new, assessments will be conducted on all offenders at advisement, providing more information about the offenders.

An elder abuse unit is also new, focusing on mandatory reporting of all forms of elder abuse, including financial fraud.

In terms of incarceration, the office is evaluating the impact of disproportionate incarceration on the African American community. Hate crimes will also be charged as bias motivated crimes.

Human trafficking will also receive additional emphasis and expanded resources. Most trafficking involves young girls, many runaways. The Family Violence Unit will handle sex assaults.

Crime intelligence, such as the recent acquisition of shot spotter technology, will be used more to identify hot spots and can detect gunshots before they are reported to the police.

The immigration advisory group is working to define the office's cooperation with ICE. The DPD does not ask immigration status, but ICE requests the names of all inmates. The DS's Office will advise victims of crime to apply for an exception so they can remain in the US.

Beth is focusing also on improving community relations, and has established a Community Advisory unit to attend community meetings and patrol communities.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman, reported that District 6 will receive \$24M for improvements from the recently passed bond issue, including work on three problem intersections and a recreation center.

More than two miles of sidewalks will be created and improved with the bond money. The city will send inspectors to identify repairs needed and inform homeowners, ticketing them if they do not fix their sidewalks.

The loop road in the park needs resurfacing, which cannot be completed until next year.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$7579.61. The report was accepted.

Bill pointed out that the association needs to increase income to stay in the black. The December membership drive will bring in needed funds, as well as a drive to increase newsletter advertising after the first of the year.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Communications: Monica Brisnehan, Chair

Newsletter:

Lance reminded the Board that the deadline for articles was December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

Joanne reported on district 3's Cops On Patrol, which recently arrested 19 people in a gang named the Gutter Punk Crew on 99 county of theft.

Additional discussion included the installation of three new speeding detectors in the neighborhood, hooked up to Wi-Fi, and the use of citizen accident investigators, mostly retired police officers, to help the workload of crime scene investigation.

WPENA was contacted by a neighborhood resident, Joanna Woodrow, regarding the sale of Kratom, an organic substance being sold by the Apothecary, next door to the grocery. Kratom produces highs when ingested, and she was worried about the impact and access by elementary

school students who board the school bus at the corner. Investigation showed that Kratom is not illegal in Colorado but is in several other states and several countries. It has been used for detoxing from alcohol and opiates, but there is no medical research proving efficacy. Joanne Asher will contact her and refer her to DPS in case they want to relocate the bus stop.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

There were no zoning committee meetings last month.

There has been discussion recently about required setbacks for new construction, particularly regarding front porches. Whether a front porch is enclosed and heated affects whether it is considered the front edge of the house. Ron Faleide, a local architect, discussed the issue in terms of style versus form. Form Based Zoning, which designates the forms such as building envelopes within which the house must be built, is the basis for Denver's zoning regulations. The regulations are a form of social contract, and enclosed porches cancel that by cutting off both visual and verbal communication with the outside.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Two meetings occurred since last month. Issues included the Green Roof Initiative, a ballot issue which passed in November, the city's Vision Zero initiative for reducing traffic deaths through the creation of a new Traffic Department that combines traffic engineering with behavior analysis, and re-engineering of intersections.

INC wants citizens to have more voice in decisions that affect the parks by involving the City Council, rather than being made by the Parks Director, a position appointed by the Mayor. Issues include the Park Hill Golf Course and the rezoning of parks as open space.

Tom Boas, DPS Superintendent, said that Denver has a higher percentage of children who are enrolled in public schools than most other cities, and 40% speak a language other than English as a primary language.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Dangerous intersections were discussed, such as Ohio and York, which was recently declined for consideration for a four-way stop.

Bill discussed autonomous driving cars, which are coming soon. Unfortunately, they have problems with snow and ice buildup blocking the driving sensors.

**Old Business:**

Liability Insurance:

Lance brought the Board up to date on the search for Directors and Officers insurance for the Board. We are waiting for replies from several companies, but one has already turned us down because we are not a 501 (c) (3).

**Future Speakers:**

January: Chris Hansen, State Representative

February: Tim O'Brien, City Auditor

March: Ken Hopper, Wash Park Lawn Bowling

Alternate: Tom Boas, DPS Superintendent

**January Happy Hour:**

The date will be the third Thursday. Bill stated that the current fee of \$100 is not sufficient to cover costs, and the Board discussed whether to increase the amount to \$200 or find ways to control costs. Venue to be decided.

**New Business:**

July 4<sup>th</sup> Event planning

Tim has reserved the boat house for the event. Most of the planners have dropped out of the event, and we need MORE volunteers to make this happen.

New committee for conservation overlay?

WPENA was contacted by Susan Mroz asking whether we are pursuing a conservation overlay. Tim asked the Board if there was interest in assigning a committee to this project. Since several WPE neighbors spent two years trying to get sufficient signatures to get this before the city council without success, the idea was dropped.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association