

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

March 13, 2018

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Not Present:

Ryan Schulz, Butch Clark, Monica Brisnehan, Ana Quintana

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

The minutes for the February 13, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Board members, guests and speakers were introduced.

Presenters:

Grace Lopez Ramirez, Sr. Advisor Community Affairs and Neighborhood Liaison for Mayor Hancock.

Grace has added the title of Neighborhood Liaison to her duties. As such, she will be our city connection and advocate, and she will be attending some of our meetings to keep abreast of neighborhood issues.

Theresa Driscoll, Community Resource Officer, and Sgt. Kevin Hines, DPD

Theresa reported that this time of year sees an increase in burglaries, and urged us to keep doors and cars locked. If you are going on vacation, you can call District 3 and they will check your home periodically while you are away.

Next Door is fast becoming the preferred mode to report suspicious activity and minor crimes, but the police department is NOT on Next Door. The police also need to be informed, so call 911. Use the Denverpocket.gov site to keep up on police activities.

The annual Crime Prevention and Safety party is scheduled August 4th at South High St from 10 – 1. Bring your bicycles and get them registered, and bring your dogs for training for the Pups On Patrol program, which involves keeping an eye out for crimes and suspicious activities.

Sgt. Hines asked us to tell him about planned events so that officers can stop by and let people know they are available. There was also discussion about conducting bicycle registration during the 4th of July event this year.

There were several questions asked, including whether burglar alarms are effective. Sgt. Hines responded that the alarms should be set on audible, not silent, to scare away the criminal and let people nearby know that something is wrong. Since most alarms are false, they are low priority for the PD. Other issues brought up included whether criminals are punished after they are caught, the role of criminal histories in sentencing and how to approach neighbors who persistently leave their doors and cars unlocked.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

The rock music festival at Overland Park is scheduled in September, and is anticipating between forty and eighty thousand people per day. Named the Grand Doozy, Paul expressed concerns about the impact on nearby residents, traffic and parking. The city signed a five year contract, so this event will likely be coming back.

The committee that is exploring the feasibility of hosting the Olympics will issue its report – and recommendations – by the end of April. Paul says that Denver has 11 of the required 17 event sites already in place along the front range and nearby mountain areas, but would have to construct a cross country trail somewhere near the city because the trail cannot be above 5900 feet in altitude. Cost is a concern because there are no guarantees, and many of the event and housing sites will not be suitable for general use.

Denver is in the running for the new location for Amazon, but there is no certainty. The build out of the new campus would be a decade long process.

Denver Parks and Recreation is determined to do something about the geese. They are meeting with State Wildlife to discuss ways to reduce them, which include both migrating and resident populations.

New lights on Louisiana are going to be working soon, and will improve pedestrian safety crossing the street. Finishing up will involve moving some power lines.

Budget priorities are the same as last year: transportation, affordable housing/homelessness,, and safety.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$8166.15. The report was accepted.

Further discussion about the fiscal uncertainty surrounding the newsletter included a need to revisit our advertising policies and procedures. Lance proposed sweetening the pot by putting the newsletter ads in the monthly emailer to attract more ads, and using data from the emailer on how many open the document and how many click on information in the email. We also need more involvement in selling ads and business memberships.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Monica Brisnehan, Chair

Newsletter:

Lance reported that Yankee Peddler is increasing their price by one cent per newsletter, effective this month. The extra cost amounts to \$34.00 per issue. Lance made a motion to approve payment of the higher rate, seconded by Lee; all approved.

Website:

The new website – washparkeast.org – is ready to begin using. It was the consensus of the Board that people visiting the current website at wpenaonline.org be redirected to the new site as soon as feasible.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

The zoning committee will be meeting to review a request for a waiver on the property at 1200 S. Gilpin.

A property owner has contacted the WPENA regarding support for a historic designation.

Membership: Ana Quintana, Chair

Ana will be leaving the Board after April, and a new membership chair will be needed.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

March speaker is Merrill Kingsbury, a Master Gardner, to discuss Japanese Beetles.

Discussion next month will be on the Loop Road, including the accident last fall, playground renovation, death of evergreens on Evergreen Hill, and new kiosks in the Gardens.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

New traffic lights at Williams/Louisiana and Franklin/Louisiana.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Winter Olympics was one of the topics at last month's meeting. A speaker from Boston, which was considering hosting the 2024 Olympics, discussed the issues and problems. Traffic lanes must be identified and posted for exclusive use by Olympic vehicles. Ninety percent of all the Olympic Games hosted since 1960 have gone over cost. The dorms that must be constructed for

athletes and staff are not appropriate for general housing use after the Games and are not designed for long range housing.

Slot homes have been placed on a moratorium, although 30 will be completed or in progress by the time it takes effect. A text amendment to the zoning code is being considered which will require notice of rezoning requests.

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

DPD continues to stress locking doors and cars, and they are trying to attend more community meetings such as WPENA.

Old Business:

Shredding Event:

This has been postponed until September because the shredders are unavailable until then. The event will include recycling for electronics.

Future Speakers:

April: Ken Hopper, lawn bowling

May: Peter Smith, candidate (Independent) for CO House of Representatives

June: Tim O'Brien, city auditor

Annual House Tour

Preparations for WPENA set up at the event center at Steele elementary.

Happy Hour:

April 19th. Sponsor is Barb Perruccio. Venue: Wash Park Grill.

New Business:

Bus stop shelter at Marion and Downing.

A neighbor has inquired whether WPENA wants to take on the restoration of this shelter, which was built in 1904 on private property and restored in the 1980's. It needs a new roof, new windows and one of the benches is missing. Lee agreed to inquire whether a grant from Historic Denver might be available for this project.

Fluid Market

This company that rents vehicles such as pickups and trucks for special occasions contacted WPENA. It was suggested that they be asked if they want to buy an ad.

South High Garden

A project at the high school which will use volunteers for planting in raised beds. Kickoff is April 16th, and 4 volunteers are needed in the morning and another 4 in the afternoon.

Malt Liquor sales in convenience stores

A bill has been introduced to allow sale of both full-strength and 3.2% beer by the same retailer. It was determined that this would have little impact on WPENA.

Elections

Board elections are in May. Next Door will be used to recruit potential new members.

Other:

Several ideas for improving the association were made by attendees:

- 1) Recruiting volunteers for special events on Next Door (and the monthly emailer).
- 2) Bring snacks to meetings (if allowed by St. Johns).
- 3) Use Face Book to announce events, link to website.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association