

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

June 12, 2018

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Not Present:

Jacquelyn Mabry

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

The agenda was approved.

Board members, guests and speakers were introduced.

Presenters:

Sgt. Kevin Hines, DPD, presented data on neighborhood trends, including the increasing incidence of thefts from motor vehicles. Most or all of them involved keys left in the cars, some of which were stolen, and theft of garage door openers. One of the more prolific thieves was seen driving a black Jeep Wrangler with a bicycle rack on the back.

An arrest was made recently of a "porch pirate", who was connected to 45 different thefts, specializing in stolen furniture.

Sgt. Hines informed the meeting that he has been promoted to Lieutenant in District 5.

Tim O'Brien, Auditor, Denver City and County

Tim O'Brien gave an overview of the city's revenues and expenses. Tim was the only CPA in the office of the City Auditor when he was elected; now he has 12 CPA's and all the investigators have certifications or advanced degrees in their fields. The website for the Auditor's Office is auditor@denvergov.org.

Major points in his presentation were:

- The general fund has an ongoing balance of about \$400M, enough to help ride out a recession without reducing services;
- Denver is one of the few cities with an AAA bond rating from all three rating agencies;
- About 10-15% of all audit time is spent auditing DIA; one audit found that 53 shuttle drivers were paid less than prevailing wages by the DIA hotel contractor, which resulted in back payments of thousands of dollars to the drivers;

- DIA has specialized equipment, including a fire truck that sprays water out from underneath the fire truck so it can drive into the flames to fight the fire;
- Twelve staff at the Auditor's Office are tasked with tracking prevailing wage issues;
- The Office uses a matrix staffing model to increase efficiency;
- Tracking short term rental licensees has required using webcrawler software to locate sites and check them against the licenses, which showed that 70% of the ads were listing the correct license number.

Open Discussion:

Questions, issues and recommendations included:

- Should we try to schedule more Happy Hour events? Some neighbors want them.
- Only about half of members are renewing their memberships;
- We should list our monthly meetings as neighborhood meetings, not as Board meetings, to increase attendance.

The minutes for the May 8, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$10,977.68.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Membership flyers and Bookmarks:

Lance gave samples of the membership flyers and bookmarks, for distribution at WPENA events. Discussion about putting them in neighborhood libraries and community/recreation centers followed.

Website:

Tim received an offer from Rachel Stinson to provide free content for our website, which would contain a backlink to her company.

Lance will follow up with Butch Clark about providing backup to Monica for website maintenance.

Membership: Jacquelyn Mabry, Chair

No report.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

No report.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

Dan Goldhamer will be the next speaker at FANS, discussing the drought and its effects on landscaping.

The playground completion date has been moved back to September. FANS donated \$1500 for a table which will be included in the playground.

The loop road will have more crosswalks with yield signs, particularly on the west side, which does not yet have them.

An official with the USDA informed Tim that she is working with Paul on a plan to reduce the goose population.

Bill brought up the issue of the large number of sparrows nesting along the outside of the Boat House under the eaves. The mess they create will require extensive cleaning and possibly painting. Tim will follow up with FANS.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Bill has contacted the city about getting more signage or a stop sign at the intersection of S. Franklin and Dakota. Numerous car crashes and worries about school children are pushing the concern, as well as a lack of adequate visibility for drivers turning south from Dakota. A case number has been assigned and the city will investigate.

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

No report (covered by Sgt. Hines, DPD).

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

May meeting: DORA distributed consumer guides for people who have issues with professionals who are licensed or certified by DORA. There was discussion about having a representative as a speaker at WPENA this fall.

June meeting: INC discussions around the new Parks and Rec policies on alcohol in the parks, divided into three categories: permits, buildings and general use. It appears that the rules are going to be relaxed, effective 01/01/2019, with general use limited to beer and wine (no glass bottles), no limitations on use in public park buildings, and no restrictions on alcohol allowed for permitted use. After one, year, the changes will sunset and the city will review.

Old Business:

Yard Sale: Ryan Schulz

Ryan needs to be contacted soon to start preparation for the August 4th yard sale. Suggestions were made to ask the Profile to write a story about the yard sale to increase participation, and to ask the Washington park Methodist Church if they want to be a co-sponsor by sponsoring the ARC truck. Tim will contact Ryan.

Future Speakers:

July meeting: Jasmin Barco, Ecocycle

August: No Meeting.

September: Denver's Early Childhood Council

October: DORA

Steele School Home Tour

WPENA tent, flyers, donations/memberships. Tim, Lance and Joanne manned the booth. Several neighbors paid membership dues.

Happy Hour:

August: Lawn Bowling? Tim will check with Ken at the lawn bowling club whether sponsors and signs are allowed.

Marion Street Trolley (bus) Stop: Lee Berkey

Paul Kashmann's office has announced that it is contributing \$4000 toward the restoration of the trolley stop at Marion and s. Downing. Constructed in the early 1900's by a resident who

felt sorry for people waiting in the rain and snow for the trolley cars, it has been renovated several times. It needs paint, a new roof and is missing one of the metal benches. The city is in the process of looking for a contractor.

Bylaws:

A change to the bylaws to allow voting status for out of neighborhood owners was discussed. There being no voiced interest in pursuing the matter, it was dropped from consideration.

Jiminy Wicket croquet event:

There were ten to fifteen participants at the May 23rd event.

Rainbow Militia:

This traveling troupe sent Tim a request for sponsorship about a month ago, and has apparently contacted at least one other RNO and failed to show up for a scheduled meeting. Tim will see if they re-contact him.

Bicycle registration stickers:

Proposal by Mikki, she contacted the city for their OK. Mikki brought a number of printed samples, approximately 2.5 by 1.25 inches, that can be stuck on a bicycle. The sticker states that the bike is registered with the city, and is intended to reduce theft.

New Business:

Street sweeping signs:

Some neighbors want the street sweeping signs returned to the neighborhood, and there may be some movement to restore them, which could result in tickets for people who do not move their cars on street sweeping days. She is considering starting a petition to the city to accomplish this. Joanne reported a problem in her area with lawn debris blowing into the streets from lawnmowers and other lawn tools.

No Board action was taken.

Notification of Board members when interviewed by media:

Joanne asked that Board members notify the rest of the Board when they have been contacted or interviewed by the media, as a courtesy, although Tim's interview on TV last month did not identify him as being on the Board.

Dock less scooters

These lime green rentals are turning up everywhere, including the park. Not allowed on the street, in the park or bicycle lanes, people are riding them on the sidewalks. Without an assigned dock or place to return them, they are being abandoned where they are left by the users, awaiting pickup by the company that rents them. The city is in the process of developing regulations.

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

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association