

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

July 10, 2018

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Lance Musselman, Joanne Asher, Lee Berkey, Jacquelyn Mabry.

The Board meeting was brought order by Tim at 6:45 p.m. at St. John's, followed by approval of the agenda, introduction of the Board members, guests and speakers.

The minutes for the June 12, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Presenters:

Officer Jim Lopez and Sgt. Troy Bisgard, Denver Police dept.

Officer Lopez introduced Sgt Bisgard, who replaces Sgt. Hines as a community liaison for District Three.

The crime prevention party is scheduled for August 4th from 11 till 2 in the parking lot of South High School.

The new chief is community oriented and wants to redraw police precincts to make them smaller, fostering closer relationships between officers and neighborhood residents. Sgt. Bisgard also envisions more street patrols.

In response to a question about the theft of license plates, he also stated that one-way bolts for plates are available at the police station. These are designed so that they cannot be easily removed.

Jasmin Barco and Sonya Hansen, Ecocycle recycling coalition.

Denver's recycling has reached 22%, with a goal of 34% by 2020. Single family homes are the current target, which are building with seven or fewer units; commercial buildings and apartment/condo buildings will be targeted in the future. Typically, 50% of trash is recyclable and 25% is compostable.

Ecocycle is looking at sources of funding for recycling, including property taxes, the way trash collection is funded. Also discussed was volume based fees, which are based on the amount a household recycles. Paul Kashmann confirmed that the city council is also considering many different angles, including "pay as you throw".

Prices for recycled metals and plastics are decreasing, which affects the profitability of recycling efforts. Currently, glass and aluminum are the most valuable.

Paul Kashmann, City Council

Paul reported that the playground under renovation/replacement in the park will be finished about the first week of August. A ribbon cutting event will be scheduled by FANS.

The Marion Street Trolley Stop will be restored by the city, thanks to efforts by Lee Berkey. It is designated as a historic landmark, so restoration will reflect the original design.

The city council fully endorses recycling, and is soon opening the first Denver facility dedicated to processing construction debris for recycling.

Another public meeting on the redevelopment of former CDOT land in the Virginia Vale/Colorado Blvd areas – total 24 acres – will show off the developer's plans. Think mini-Belmar.

Street sweeping is an issue in neighborhoods with a lot of construction, and, as a result are not regularly swept. Joanne reported that lawn service companies blow lawn debris into the street; Paul stated that it is difficult to identify lawn mowing companies for follow up, and urged her to call 311 and keep the case number.

Open Discussion:

Jacquelyn reported that she has had encounters with dogs off leash involving attacks on her own dogs and confrontation with the owners of the other dogs, who were not willing to put leashes on their dogs. Although most owners are keeping their dogs on leash, some still do not want to.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$9807.53, noting that some of the expenses for the Fourth of July were still outstanding. The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Newsletter:

There was discussion of whether to include membership renewal envelopes with the December edition. Bill reported that we are getting more new members but former members are not renewing. He suggested follow up on former and current members to try to increase the renewal rates. Automatic renewal via credit card was discussed as a way to increase renewal rates. One member in attendance said that he usually renewed when he saw the envelope in the newsletter.

Website:

Tim reported that Monica has agreed to continue to maintain the website and the monthly emailer. All communication to Monica should go through Tim.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

Tim reported that the committee met on a variance request for 874 S. Gilpin St. involving set-back of a side porch too close to the neighboring property. The neighbor did not object, and the committee voted 4 to 1 in approval.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

The changes to the park alcohol policy will be presented at a public meeting July 11th at the Wellington Webb building for public input.

An increase in Denver's sales tax is being proposed by Councilman Jolon Clark, to be earmarked for the parks. This would increase the sales tax by .25% to a total of 3.9%. Other tax increases are also being pushed for inclusion on the ballot.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

The Transportation committee of INC will be discussing the issue of electric scooters.

Old Business:

Future Speakers:

August: no meeting

September: Denver's Early Childhood Council

October: (?) Democracy for the People Initiative

November: Phil Goodstein (?)

Yard Sale: Ryan Schulz

Ryan needs help with signs and flyers. The Methodist church is arranging for a donation truck in its parking lot and is paying the cost of insurance. This is great support for the yard sale.

Happy Hour:

Lawn Bowling: August 23rd was decided as the date. Lance is still looking for a sponsor, but the limitations on signage at the lawn bowling/croquet field discourages some sponsors. If there is no sponsor, WPENA will sponsor.

July 4th event at the Park:

Success! Tim estimated that 1000 to 1200 people attended. The balloon people were new, and proved very popular. The bike parade took off after a final countdown, and awards were given to participants by Paul Kashmann and event hosts.

DBASE:

This project seeks to determine the state of health of residents in different areas of the city and the reasons why they are healthy or not. There is a meeting July 30th.

Dockless scooters:

Discussion involved the cost of application (\$1500) and the cost of the license (\$5,000) plus costs for each scooter that is licensed.

Shredding event:

When: end of September.

Where: Safeway parking lot.

Sponsor: University Neighbors, which charges for the service. WPENA members may get a discount.

New Business:

Cell towers:

Encroachment of smaller towers and facilities on the neighborhood is occurring as companies scout locations for smaller towers in neighborhoods. One location, in WPE, has been identified as 2216 E. Tennessee Ave., while another is in Capitol Hill on Pennsylvania. Worries about long term effects of electromagnetic radiation.

Central PEL update:

Cindy Johnston has alerted neighbors to a plan to look at the transportation needs of the I-25 corridor from Alameda to downtown. This is in the very early stages and does not directly impact WPE now, but progress should be monitored for changes that could.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

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