

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

September 11, 2018

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Not Present:

Joanne Asher

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

The first orders of business were approval of the agenda, introduction of Board members and the review and acceptance of the minutes for the July 10, 2018 meeting.

Presenters:

Denver Police Dept.: Sgt. Raymond Sheridan, Cpl. Bill Seawall and Heather Crow (Mental Support Specialist).

Sgt. Sheridan reported that crime statistics were relatively stable in this district. Prevention is increasingly important because most crimes reported could have been prevented through simple actions such as locking the door, closing the garage or locking the car and keeping valuables out of sight. Investigating preventable crimes consumes more and more police resources, which have not increased significantly since the 1970's.

The new police commander has made changes to the management team and is putting emphasis on more community involvement by the DPD.

Questions raised by the audience included:

- Tracking stolen bicycles: this is done by each district. Most stolen bikes are pawned or sold on the street. DPD places bikes with GPS locators around the city and is able to track and arrest some of the bike thieves.
- Left turns on University: Sgt. Sheridan referred this to Traffic Engineering. The question is one of crashes versus neighborhood access.
- Construction areas: blocking driveways and streets. Don't call 911, call 311 instead.

Pedro Mendez, Outreach Community Coordinator for Denver's Early Childhood Council

The Early Childhood Council works to ensure high quality child care in Denver. It provides professional development and coaching for child care programs, funding and support for early learning programs, child care referral and collaboration with parts of the child care system.

Some of its programs include Denver Shines, a preschool program, and training in Conscious Discipline, which shows parents and teachers how to transform difficult behaviors into teaching opportunities. Most programs are in both English and Spanish.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

- The new playground in the park has opened, and the dedication was well attended.
- GPS navigation systems are increasingly routing drivers through residential neighborhoods, as congestion on main streets increases. The city is planning to meet with GPS providers to try to reduce this.
- WPE, Belcaro and Bonnie Brae are not signed for street sweeping at the request of the neighborhoods, meaning that residents don't get tickets for leaving cars parked on the street on street sweeping days. There is some movement to restore the signage – and the potential for ticketing – by some residents. Paul will check the requirements for requesting this change – whether petition or voting.
- The November ballot will have funding requests paid for by increases in the sales tax: transportation, .62%; mental health, .25%; parks, .25%; scholarships, .08%; and healthy food for kids, .80%. Together these would raise the total sales tax from 7.65% to 8.93%.
- Sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner, and the city does not inspect sidewalks. This is changing now with a new program that will inspect all the sidewalks in the city. The program will provide some assistance for repairs for income qualified people by reducing the cost or a 3-year payment option. The city is also exploring whether it can reduce costs through contractors who contract with the city.
- Paul is asking for a change in the hours that contractors are allowed to work, to an 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. timeframe that allows people to sleep a little later and not have construction noise going all evening.
- Cell towers are being constructed in neighborhoods to handle the increase from the new 5G phone system. There are worries and complaints about how they look and whether they are dangerous. There are no proven health hazards on record. The State has allowed companies to decide where to build, and the city requires they be placed at property lines, not in front of houses or apartments. Some of the companies are cooperating with other companies to collocate their towers, reducing the number of towers needed.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$10,087.89. Bill's annual report for the July 2017 through June 2018 showed an increase in net income of \$692.07. The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Newsletter:

Lance distributed draft copies to the Board for review. A couple of people said they are not getting their newsletter, and Lance asked them to report it on the website so that he can notify the distributors. Another asked if the distributors were placing newsletter with houses that have No Soliciting signs. Lance will follow up.

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

Covered in DPD presentation.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

874 S. Gilpin – BOA decision to approve that variance request approved.

736 S. High St. – WPENA Zoning committee decision to recommend approval for a request for a variance to allow an addition into an adjoining empty lot. The homeowner had purchased the adjoining lot. The request is to combine the two lots into one, which would result in an existing structure encroaching 6.2 feet into the ten foot south side interior setback in a U-SU-C zone.

590 S. Race – Historic designation being considered by neighbors of homeowner who wants to scrape an existing house. Want to know if WPENA will get involved. No action by Board.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

Deconstruction of the playground by the boathouse will begin in September. FANS will continue to be involved with the planning of further changes to the park.

A tour of the main gardens in the park is scheduled for September 19th at 1 p.m.

Membership: Jacquelyn Mabry, Chair

No report.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

No report.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Tim reported on the August meeting. Susan attended the July meeting but was not at the meeting.

The new sidewalk rules were discussed. The city will cite homeowners whose sidewalks do not meet city regulations, such as a rise of more than three fourths of an inch between sections. Methods of repair include mudjacking, sanding and replacement.

Denver Right, which will update current plans for future improvements and priorities by the city, is being posted online. The city will be posting plans for the next round of park improvements at city libraries and recreation centers soon.

On an update to earlier discussions about the need for neighborhood plans, Tim reported that the neighborhoods referred to are statistical neighborhoods, not the areas represented by the Registered Neighborhood Organizations such as WPENA. We will have to wait for the city to let us know when our area is under the microscope.

Old Business:

Shredding event with University Neighbors RNO

University Neighbors will host a shredding event later in September and has invited WPENA to co-host and share expenses. Our plans to join with them originally included a plan to provide the shredding for free to WPE residents who paid their membership dues and charge residents who had not. However, University Neighbors does not charge dues and but will charge for the shredding. Identifying which people are WPE residents and which of those have paid dues seemed cumbersome to the Board and it was decided to look at hosting our own event in the future.

Yard Sale

The yard sale was successful, but it was noted that fewer than half the yard sellers had signage indicating that they were paid members of WPENA. It was suggested that this could be mentioned in Next Door and people asked to pay membership dues. No action was taken.

Happy Hour:

Although both summer Happy Hour events were successful, they failed to attract more than a handful of people (only seven turned out for the Lawn Bowling happy hour event). It was suggested that the association reconsider hosting summer happy hour events. No action was taken.

Future Speakers:

October: Democracy for the People.

October: Caring for Denver.

November: Kristen Monroe, Librarian, Eugene Fields.

2019: DORA, Phil Goldstein; Beth McCann (Denver D.A.); Jerry Tinalow, Chief Sustainability Officer for the Mayor's Office of Sustainability; representative(s) of cellphone towers by one or more of the companies involved.

New Business:

Dog Parks:

An online survey is asking for input at surveymoney.com/denverdogs.

A meeting hosted by Paul Kashmann and Debbie Ortega to discuss neighborhood communication will take place September 26th.

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

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association