

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

October 9, 2018

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Joanne Asher, Jacquelyn Mabry (departed during meeting)

Board Members Not Present:

Lance Musselman, Lee Berkey

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

The first orders of business were approval of the agenda, introduction of Board members and the review and acceptance of the minutes for the September 11, 2018 meeting.

Presenters:

Denver Police Dept.: Sgt. Troy Visgard & Officer Jim Lopez, Community Resource Officer

Sgt. Visgard reported that crime statistics were increasing in this district, especially auto theft. Prevention is important because most crimes reported could have been prevented through simple actions such locking the car, keeping valuables out of sight and closing the garage door.

The Neighborhood Watch Program is being promoted as an effective way of enlisting the community to help police with surveillance. Security cameras (even fake ones) have proven a good deterrent to theft but experienced thieves take steps to mask their identity so "a nosy neighbor is the best deterrent." The need for community surveillance is exacerbated by the presence of construction workers (also victims of theft) that make it difficult to identify strangers.

District 3 offers the "Walk-a-Mile" program consisting of an hour walking with a police officer around your neighborhood to observe & discuss security issues. Those interested should contact Office Lopez 303-913-1248. This program is suspended seasonally, probably after October.

Questions raised by the audience included:

- What about apprehension of perpetrators? This is difficult without willing witnesses and evidence such as security camera video. There have been some arrests.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

- The November ballot is very long – 6 pages – but it is important to read and vote on all the measures. A good resource is <https://ballotpedia.org/>. Councilman Kashman singled out the following issues in his presentation:
 - Ballot Issue 7G: Denver Urban Drainage and Flood Control District Tax. A yes vote is a vote in favor of increasing the property tax in the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District up to \$1.97 per \$100,000 of assessed value in 2019 and up to 1 mill thereafter to fund flood warning systems, recreational access, and waterway clean-up. There is a large backlog of projects that require this funding and Paul encourages a “yes” vote.
 - Measure 2E: Denver Campaign Finance Regulations Amendment. A yes vote is a vote in favor of (1) establishing a city fund to match campaign donations at a ratio of 9 to 1, up to \$50, for candidates who agree to lower contribution limits, (2) banning corporate, business, and labor contributions, and (3) lowering all contribution limits. See “Democracy for the People” discussion below. Paul encourages a “yes” vote.
 - Initiated Ordinance 300: Denver College Scholarships Sales Tax. A yes vote is a vote in favor of increasing the local sales tax rate by 0.08 percent for twelve years to fund college scholarships and services for students. See discussion below on scholarships for Denver high-achieving students. Paul encourages a “yes” vote.
 - Initiated Ordinance 301: Denver Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Homelessness Services Sales Tax. A yes vote is a vote in favor of increasing the local sales tax by 0.08 percent to fund mental health services, suicide prevention, substance abuse services, and recovery facilities and programs. Paul encourages a “yes” vote.
 - Colorado Proposition 112, Minimum Distance Requirements for New Oil, Gas, and Fracking Projects Initiative (2018). A yes vote supports the initiative to mandate that new oil and gas development projects, including fracking, be a minimum distance of 2,500 feet from occupied buildings and other areas designated as vulnerable. This proposition is opposed by oil and gas interests and has led to the introduction of the following ballot issue.
 - Colorado Amendment 74, Compensation to Owners for Decreased Property Value Due to State Regulation Initiative (2018). A yes vote supports the initiative to require that property owners be compensated for any reduction in property value caused by state laws or regulations. Paul feels that this expansion of the definition of a regulatory taking would result in many lawsuits that would shut down our state government. President McHugh encouraged attendees to consider the discussion of this amendment in the 2018 State Ballot Information Booklet (“Blue Book”) page 38.

- An attendee asked about the status of the previously discussed program to establish schedules and signage for street sweeping in Wash Park East. There would have to be a significant majority of neighborhood residents who show support in order for the City to consider establishing this program, which has been rejected by residents in the past.

Owen Perkins – Democracy for The People

Mr. Perkins spoke in support of Referred Measure 2E: Denver Campaign Finance Regulations Amendment. This includes the following features:

- Disclosure of “Dark Money”. This feature has already been enacted by Denver City Council.
- Ban corporations from making direct contributions to candidates. One individual can expand his contributions merely by establishing another business.
- Lower contribution limits. Self-funding of candidates would be restricted by new limits.
- Creation of a Fair Elections Fund (funded by the Denver General Fund) that matches individual contributions 9 to 1 that can result in candidates receiving more money under the new donation limits. Other cities that have similar programs for publicly funded elections include New York City and Seattle. Connecticut established a similar program after the Sandy Creek shootings.

An attendee, Nick Brown, expressed concern that this measure, if passed, would be in violation of the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution regarding freedom of speech. Some restrictions to political contributions in Arizona have been struck down by courts.

Roz Heise – Caring for Denver

Ms. Heise spoke in support of Initiated Ordinance 301: Denver Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Homelessness Services Sales Tax. Due to the excess of demand over supply, mental health care in Denver is often unavailable and people who need it are often incarcerated in lieu of receiving the treatment they need. Recent events have demonstrated the need for counseling to address suicide among young people.

Patricia Iwasaki – Healthy Food for Kids

Ms. Iwasaki spoke in support of Initiated Ordinance 302: Denver Food Services for Youth Sales Tax. A yes vote is a vote in favor of increasing the local sales tax by 0.08 percent to fund food services and food education for youth under 18 years of age and establishing a 13-member city food commission. While schools provide food while in session, many children lack adequate nutritious food when school is not in session. Hunger is a problem for 1 in 7 families.

Nick Brown – Scholarships for High-performing Denver Students

Mr. Brown spoke in support of Initiated Ordinance 300: Denver College Scholarships Sales Tax. Financial support of an estimated \$14 Million per year would be contingent on high marks in school and a residency requirement of 3 years. A commission would administer the program.

An attendee asked a question about safeguards to prevent mis-use of funds by recipients for non-educational purposes.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$7,825.52. This reflects settlement of 4th of July accounts for 2016, 2017 & 2018 with WWPNA by payment to them of \$710.60. The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Newsletter:

The fall newsletter has been distributed and all bills are paid.

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

New technology, fobs used to start cars, and "flat keys" contained in owner's manuals are making auto theft easier for thieves. Automobile owners need to avoid hanging fobs in locations (like inside the front door) where they can be electronically scanned. They also must remove "flat keys" from the owner's manual of their car.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

Presentation by Tim McHugh. 736 S. High St. –variance to allow an addition into an adjoining empty lot, was approved by the B. O. A.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

Deconstruction of the playground by the boathouse was completed. Parks and Recreation will be evaluating future use for the site.

The guest speaker for the monthly FANS meeting tomorrow night will be Glen Batista, the new recreation supervisor for the Recreation Center.

Membership: Jacquelyn Mabry, Chair

No report. Bill Tracy reminded attendees that 15-for-12 months dues for 2019 are payable starting October 1st.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Discussion of a bicycle / automobile accident at the Florida Ave. & S. Gaylord St. intersection.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Denver Right, which will update current plans for future improvements and priorities by the city, is being posted online. It is a massive amount of information and WWPNA has written a letter to the city requesting that implementation be delayed allowing more time to evaluate proposed changes.

There is an INC candidate forum at the District 3 Police Station this Saturday 13 October 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM. Proponents of some of the resolutions and amendments on the Nov. 6 ballot will be present to discuss these resolutions and amendments.

Old Business:

Happy Hour:

Thursday November 15 was proposed for the next WPENA Happy Hour only if a sponsor can be found to offset the cost of approximately \$100 for snacks.

Future Speakers:

Kristen Monroe, Librarian, Eugene Fields.

DORA

Phil Goldstein

Beth McCann (Denver D.A.)

Jerry Tinalow, Chief Sustainability Officer for the Mayor's Office of Sustainability

Rrepresentative(s) of cellphone towers by one or more of the companies involved

Denver Sidewalk Program

New Business:

New Marijuana Shop:

Wash Park Boutique LLC will be establishing a new location on University Boulevard near the Saucy Noodle. This is near another location run by the same company under the name Lucy Sky.

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

Bill Tracy, substituting for Lance Musselman, Secretary

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