

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

November 13, 2018

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Lance Musselman, Joanne Asher (late due to CAB meeting), Lee Berkey.

Board Members Not Present: Jacquelyn Mabry.

The Board meeting was brought order by Tim at 6:50 p.m. at St. John's

The Board approved the agenda.

Board members were introduced.

The minutes for the October 9, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted with one change: the spelling of DPD Sgt. Troy Bisgard's name.

Presenters:

DPD representatives: Sgt. Troy Bisgard.

Sgt. Bisgard reported that crime statistics were down the past month overall. Burglary and thefts from autos were predominant and most were associated with failure to lock doors and windows.

The burglary and home invasion in October on S. Gilpin near Mississippi was highly unusual. The burglar took the couple's car, ditched it and hijacked another car, during which he was arrested.

The new police commander is making changes but the primary problem is a lack of sufficient numbers of officers. There were 55 graduates of the Police Academy last month, and they will be patrolling the streets soon. The creation of a civilian assist unit, which can complete auto collision reports and free the officer for patrol, is also helping reduce response time.

"Walk a Mile In Our Shoes" is a program which pairs an officer with local citizens to do a walk-around the neighborhood to discuss issues and view problem areas.

One attendee complained about sighting human waste on a running trail. Sgt. Troy said that is becoming more frequent with the rise in the number of homeless, and that Parks & Rec maintains the trails.

Kristen Monroe, Senior Librarian, and Mary Schadler, Librarian

Both presenters are staff of the Eugene Fields Library. They reported that the Denver library system has more than two million books, videos, CD's, magazines, documents and other communications. They have computers with internet access. The staff can help you develop personalized reading lists for yourself or your children.

Magazine subscriptions in specialized areas of study are maintained in the library; you can also learn a foreign language. Specialized internet applications allow download and viewing of movies, tutorials and books (one – Kanopy – allows viewing up to eight moves per month for free).

You can get passes to local museums and local attractions through your library, and access to free online events and classes in cooking, gardening, crafts, etc.

Services available include printing (free back and white), scanning and wifi, tech help and computer classes. Labs at the main library have specialized equipment such as laser cutters; some, such as projectors, can be borrowed. They also help immigrants to learn job skills and with immigration issues.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$8023.76. The report was accepted.

An attendee asked whether we preferred checks on online, and Bill noted that PayPal takes a percentage of each transaction, so checks get more of the money to the association.

Discussion of automatic billing for annual dues: Monica has been asked to check into this and see if it is easy to maintain.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Newsletter:

The winter newsletter, distributed in December, will include information about annual membership renewal.

Guidelines for mentioning for-profit events and businesses: requests from The District Shops – a collection of craft shops in the old Bed, Bath and Beyond in Cherry Creek – and the Denver Tennis Park, came to us via the website. Both asked for some publicity by way of the newsletter, emailer or website. Discussion was around whether the business or event was of neighborhood interest and whether it could be used to ask for future advertising commitments. D

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

Joanne reported that the Neighborhood Watch Program is being reinstated in District 3, with an emphasis on calling the DPD if you see unusual or suspicious activity.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

880 S. High St.

This variance request involved an elevated deck built on the back of the house that was too close to the garage. The WPENA Zoning Committee recommended not approving the request three to one. BOA granted the request.

846 S. Franklin St.

This involved a remodel that included a change to the location of the entrance and a request for approval to place a pool extending into the front setback. The committee voted four to zero against the pool but approval of the rest of the variance request.

Cedar Terrace zoning change

Cedar Terrace is a PUD next to the country club that was created decades ago. The rules for the PUD can be changed only by city council. WPENA supported the request to make changes to the rules.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Lance reported that he had received a request by neighbors to ask the city to install a left turn for northbound University traffic at Exposition Ave., and has contacted the city. Currently, there is a turn lane but traffic must wait until southbound traffic clears in order to turn left. With Virginia now disallowing left turns, gaining entry into the neighborhood during rush hour is problematic.

There was discussion about signage needed on Franklin near South High School to reduce confusion about turns.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

No FANS meeting this month or next.

Membership: Jacquelyn Mabry, Chair

Winter newsletter will contain important information about dues and renewal and so will Next Door. Questions about long term maintenance of a proposed auto-renew feature on PayPal for dues are delaying action on the proposal.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

INC voted to ask the city for a four-month extension of the deadline to review and comment on the DenverRight proposal for city planning.

Tim circulated a petition requesting a vote in the upcoming city elections concerning the Olympics. The ballot issue would require the city to get permission via a public vote to spend any city funds to pursue or study the feasibility of hosting the Olympics.

Old Business:

Street sweeping:

Some residents have requested restoring the signage in the neighborhood which state the street sweeping days and notice that tickets will be issued to cars that are not moved. Tim has been told that a majority of signatures from the neighborhood would be required. A supervisor with the street sweeping department will be invited to attend a future WPENA meeting.

Happy Hour:

November 15th at Wash Park Grill, 5-7 p.m. Barb Perrucio hosting.

Future Speakers:

Tim offered the following list of possible speakers for the next few months. There is no meeting in December, so the earliest possible date would be January. The consensus was to contact them all and try to get as many as possible to agree.

Beth McCann, Denver D.A.

Phil Goodstein, author.

Jerry Tinlanow, Chief Sustainability Officer, Office of Sustainability, Mayor's office

Cell phone company representatives regarding neighborhood cell towers

Sidewalk repairs

Deborah Fry, Gun Sense

Jeff Martinez, City Street Sweeping

New Business:

WPENA Periodic Report (annual) filed with Secretary of State.

Other:

Tim reported on a survey that will study the state of neighborhood health, RNO performance and other indicators of the state of city neighborhoods.

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

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association