

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

January 8, 2019

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members present:

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

Board Members not present:

Joanne Asher (CAB meeting).

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

Approval of agenda.

The minutes for the November 13, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Board members and speakers were introduced.

Presenters:

Phil Goodstein, author.

Phil is a local author of more than a dozen books dealing with the history, glory and shortcomings of Denver, where he grew up. He reviewed the history of the Washington Park area, most of which is covered in his book "The Haunts of Washington Park", 2009, New Social Publications, volume two of a trilogy of South Denver books.

Points of interest he covered included:

- Smith Lake (the larger lake at the north end of the park), which started as a holding area, or reservoir, for the city ditch, and sported a beach with segregated areas for men, women and families; it also provided ice for area homes.
- The City Ditch, which was built by John W. Smith (after whom the lake was named), brought water from Waterton Canyon to City Park lake. Parts are still visible, mainly within the boundaries of Washington Park.
- Town of South Denver, the area south of Alameda that housed the bars, bordellos and other unsavory social aspects of the times, which was incorporated into Denver City and County during the 1893 financial panic by purchasing all of S. Denver's outstanding bonds.

- Washington Park, originally named South Denver Park, and later dedicated as Washington Park upon the centennial of the death of George Washington. From the area originally purchased for the park, it gradually expanded to its present size. Grasmere Lake was added as a runoff for Smith Lake, and named after the Grasmere lake section in England, inhabited by poets and artists of the time.
- Statue of Wynken, Blynken, and Nod, which was commissioned by Mayor Speer and originally located near the center of the park and included a fountain. It was restored and moved to its present location by the park People, next to the small house that Eugene Fields lived in during his Denver years. The house was saved by Molly Brown and later moved to the park.
- Washington Park East neighborhood, which started with the Myrtle Hill subdivision, whose developer named it after the natural abundance of Myrtle in the area.

Phil Goodstein announced a free tour of Washington Park on April 10; meet by the statue of Wynken, Blynken, and Nod.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

Paul congratulated WPENA for staying active; many of the RNO's are struggling and a couple have become inactive. The city does not provide any support for Registered Neighborhood Organizations, and Paul is pursuing the possibility of getting Denver to provide some assistance.

The city is taking ideas for how to use some of the bond money for parks and recreation.

Denver now requires the electric rental scooters to use bicycle lanes and streets with speed limits no higher than 25 mph. Use on city sidewalks is limited to 6 mph and only when there is no alternative.

DRCOG predicts a population for Denver of 900,000 by 2040. Affordable housing continues to be a priority and will continue to be in the future.

Funds for homeowner assistance with sidewalk repairs is available, and city workers are walking the neighborhoods one by one, notifying homeowners of cracked and raised sidewalks.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA's current assets amount to \$7396.83. The report was accepted.

Funding for the July 4th event at the park: WPENA came out ahead this year on expenses (shared with West Washing Park Neighborhood Association, which co-sponsors the event). Insurance for the 2019 event is due now. Lance made a motion to pay for the insurance, estimated at \$290, seconded by Lee; all approved.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Newsletter:

Winter edition was distributed the week before Christmas. The Spring edition will include an interview with Suzanne Simone, Ms. Wash Park, who is competing for the title of Ms. Colorado at the Broadmoor in January.

Monthly emailer:

Tim will continue sending updates to Monica for the emailer.

Membership: Jacquelyn Mabry, Chair

Bill reported that we are getting more new members this year than before.

The decision on whether to add an automatic annual payment option through PayPal has been put on hold.

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

Tim reported that training for Neighborhood Watch will be held January 29th at the District Three PD building.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

BOA decision on 846 S. Franklin agreed with the recommendations of our Zoning Committee, and allowed the relocation of the front door, but disallowed the pool in the front yard.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

January events:

Items on the agenda include

- Restoration of the Wynken, Blynken, and Nod statue;
- What will replace the former playground next to Smith lake;
- A new basketball court north of Grasmere lake.

Reports of a Fight Club near the tennis courts are being investigated by South High School resource officers. Reports say this has been going on for a long time and no one seems to know who is behind it.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Next meeting January 12th. Annual dinner January 23rd.

Old Business:

Future Speakers:

February: Spencer McCullough, Internet for All. There was consensus to limit the February meeting to one speaker.

Happy Hour:

November 15, 2018 was sponsored by Barbara Perrucio. About a dozen people attended. Susan Payne asked if the WPENA wanted to sponsor a happy hour at the croquet lawn, and the Board agreed.

DenverRight:

The city has published their plans on the website for updating the master plan for transportation, housing and other issues.

Wash Park Boutique:

Application withdrawn for move to location on S. University Blvd. WPE already has one marijuana outlet and this would have provided a second.

Discussion followed about Good Neighbor Agreements and how they work. Tim looked at the template and discovered that the language in the agreement results in neighborhood approval of the variance.

Olympic petition:

This petition for the next ballot would require the city to request permission from the voters to spend any city funds on the application process to host the winter Olympics. The number of signatures is sufficient to get on the ballot, but the outcome may be moot since Salt Lake has won the first round.

New Business:

The city has notified us that the Tavern on S. Gaylord St. has a new owner – JPPMEX, LLC.

Other:

The next city elections are scheduled for May. Should the WPENA host a campaign debate? The Board will consider this.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association