

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

February 13, 2019

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Lance Musselman, Joanne Asher, Lee Berkey, Jacquelyn Mabry

The Board meeting was brought to order by Tim at 6:45 p.m. at St. John's. The first order of business was to approve the agenda.

Introduction of Board members.

The minutes for the January 8, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Presenters:

Spencer McCullough, Denver Internet initiative

The Denver Internet Initiative is preparing to collect signatures for a ballot initiative in 2020 that will allow Denver to opt out of a state statute that prohibits Colorado cities and counties from spending funds or other resources to plan for or provide internet services. The statute, SB 152, was passed in 2005 and about half the counties have opted out. Opting out will allow Denver to enter agreements with multiple providers, thereby reducing costs. Ft. Collins has seen a reduction in costs and an increase in service, particularly in high speed internet services, and is able to provide free internet access to its poorest residents.

Half the public vote is needed to opt out, after which Denver would be able to begin the planning process, enter into agreements to add cables for additional internet, add providers and add infrastructure. Check the website at www.DII2020.org for more information.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

Paul did not attend the meeting but was represented by staff member Brent Barberger. He reported that Paul is currently working on a bill to strengthen the status of the Independent Monitor by allowing appointments to the Citizen Oversight Board from additional city departments. Paul is also working on ways for the city to provide support to RNO's.

A new RNO has been created in District 6 for Indian Creek, a checkerboard of residential land made up of Denver and Arapahoe County.

Questions from the audience included whether the intersection of South Franklin and Dakota would be improved. There was discussion of a possible flashing light addition. Additional discussion centered around the reorganization of the Dept. of Public Works, which may result in a new emphasis on traffic issues.

Denver PD:

Community Relations Officer Matt Grimsley reported that crime statistics showed an overall decrease, but that crimes of opportunity remained high. People leave cars unlocked with their keys and garage door openers inside, allowing theft of the car and entry into the garage.

DPD has noticed that people report crimes and suspicious people on Next Door instead of to police. He urged reporting to dispatch or 911 and requesting contact from a police officer, which allows the officer to get additional information about the circumstances.

Neighborhood Watch is supported and promoted by DPD; meetings are currently being scheduled for neighborhoods in District 3 to provide information and answer questions about the program.

A question from the audience was whether thefts of catalytic converters was increasing; Matt said that he would find out.

Paul Lopez, candidate, Denver Clerk and Recorder

Paul was unable to attend the meeting and was rescheduled to the March WPENA meeting.

Open Discussion:

A member of Voices Rock invited people to join the group, which is an adult rock choir, and is looking for new members to start a group based at the Washington Street Community Center. All are welcome, and enthusiasm is more important than singing ability. Find out more at Kelly@voicesrock.com.cc

A member of Sunshine Home Share presented information about the group, which matches people who need affordable housing with senior residents who have extra room and can use the extra income or assistance with routine chores like transportation and shopping. Their website is sunshinehomeshare.org.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$7801.50. The Fourth of July event netted \$1027 after splitting profits with West Washington Park Neighborhood Association, which co-sponsors the event. The report was accepted.

Bill reported that the decreasing balance over time is due to the cost of preparing and distributing the newsletter, the largest single expense category for WPENA, which exceeds ad revenues by several thousand dollars annually. The difference has been made up with membership and event revenues, and by dipping into savings. Bill suggested that WPENA may have to stop printing hard copy of the newsletter and switch to electronic venues.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Newsletter:

Lance reported that our newsletter distributor, Yankee Peddler, is raising the price of distribution by one cent per newsletter, to \$.13 per. WPENA prints 3400 newsletters quarterly and YP distributes 3200 of them. The remaining 200 are delivered by hand to the condos on South Marion Parkway, the rec center, Washington Street Community Center, Eugene Field Library, the cop shop and used for soliciting ads from potential advertisers.

Ideas on how to reduce the costs of the newsletter included:

- Reducing the number of annual issues from four to three (April, August and December)
- Hand delivering all 3400 copies using volunteers
- Going electronic for all issues, eliminating all costs
- Following up with The Profile about our proposal to combine distribution with theirs to reduce distribution costs

Discussion points included:

- Whether current advertisers would continue to pay for ads for a reduced schedule or electronic publishing.
- The difficulty of maintaining a corps of volunteers to distribute newsletters to more than one hundred blocks of housing.
- How to ask the neighborhood to weigh in on the choices moving forward, whether by survey or questionnaire.
- How Cory Merrill and West Wash Park have successfully funded their newsletters (they have far more neighborhood businesses to draw from).

No action was taken by the Board.

Monthly emailer/website:

Monica Brisnehan sent out a monthly emailer for February and has agreed to continue sending it out monthly. She has also agreed to continue to maintain the website, with Tim's help.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Bill attended the Moving People Forward, January 10th INC Transportation Committee meeting.

The traffic study on South Franklin and Dakota is in process. Bill has seen at least two crashes there in the past year, but the city does not have records of them.

Denver Public Works is asking for public feedback on electric scooters. There are currently 1750 of them registered in Denver.

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

Joanne reported that her neighbors were broken into after someone took their garage door opener from their SUV.

The last CAB meeting stressed that Colorado laws require people to come to the aid of law enforcement officers who need assistance. They also reported that police stations in the city will now be closed between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

The next FANS meeting was scheduled for the following night. Speakers were invited to address the issue of a fight club that has been going on in the south area of the park near the tennis courts. They will also address the issue of homeless people sleeping in the park.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

INC is considering two resolutions. One is to postpone final approval of specific sections of DenverRight plans until after the May elections. The other is to amend existing ordinance to require approval of all members of PUD's of proposed changes regardless of whether they are directly affected.

Old Business:

Happy Hour:

The last Happy Hour was held on November 15th, so it is time to plan another. Suggestions included the Campus Lounge. Lance will look for a sponsor.

Future Speakers:

March: Diane and Dale Thiel, Right to Survive; Paul Lopez, candidate for Denver Clerk and Recorder; Sarah McCarthy; someone in opposition to Proposition 300.

April: Mayoral Candidate Forum, organized by Ann Shively

May: Beth McCann, Denver D.A.; Jeff Martinez, DPW (street sweeping); Sidewalks, Jerry Tinlenow, Chief Sustainability officer, mayor's office; DORA.

DenveRight

Comments are due by February 27th to the city.

New Business:

Wash Park Home Tour:

We are giving them a free ad in the newsletter in return for a free space at their Street Fair during the tour. Lance distributed a copy of the ad.

INC registration for WPENA

Tim paid the registration fees for INC and the city, a total of \$40.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association