

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

July 9, 2019

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Lance Musselman, Lee Berkey

Board Members Not Present: Jacquelyn Mabry

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

Approval of agenda.

Introduction of Board members.

The minutes for the June 11, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Board members and speakers were introduced. Approximately 30 guests attended.

Presenters:

Hope Mellinger, Denver Psilocybin Initiative

Hope represents the people behind the ballot issue that passed which reduced enforcement of laws regarding possession of psilocybin mushrooms. Distribution is not affected by this initiative and will remain a law enforcement priority. The city can no longer spend funds to punish users.

Discussion included benefits from use of the mushrooms, including the treatment of PTSD, depression, OCD, addiction TBI and palliative care. The purpose of the initiative includes continuing research, data collection, outreach and education. More information is available at decriminalizeddenver.org.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

New members of the city council will begin their terms soon, after the results of the elections.

Marion Parkway bike lane recommendations by the city as part of the bond money improvements include bike lanes next to the curb, next to traffic, separated by paint or round plastic rods, and other configurations. All are part of a long term plan to create an integrated bicycle pathway allowing access across the city. The Marion parkway portion will extend from the

north edge of the park past Alameda to the junction of Marion with Downing. The historic designation of the parkway limits some of the choices, and parking for cars, emergency vehicles and temporary loading/unloading of school children all play a part.

The recent goose roundup was a hot topic, with strong sentiment on both sides. Paul explained that more than 2000 resident (non migratory) geese in Washington, City and Garfield parks were rounded up, processed and given to the poor as food. There are currently no further plans to continue the culling, as the contract has been fulfilled.

Questions and comments included:

- Is the culling completed? Yes.
- Scott Gilmore has been unresponsive to questions about culling.
- Is more culling planned? No.
- Hawks, owls, meadow larks and other non-geese were included in the culling permit. Where are all these other birds?
- The decision to cull was not made by city council, but by city administration.
- Plans announced in June stated that removal was not an effective tool, and promised a public hearing, but the culling went ahead anyway. Paul assured the group that he did not know about the culling until it was underway, and that the lack of a public hearing was not an attempt to be secretive.
- Parks & Rec knew it was controversial and wanted to avoid public input. Paul explained that the lack of public announcements of the culling events was to protect the workers from harassment.
- There was no transparency, which is in opposition to their stated intent.
- Education management could have reduced the need for culling, along with cutting tall grasses next to the lakes where geese nest.
- The contract states that it cannot be used for migratory birds that are creating a nuisance. Paul said that these were resident flocks of geese, not migratory.
- An attendee reported that a recent article from Forbes states that, according to the CDC, some birds can transmit salmonella and that there have been recent reported outbreaks.
- People are concerned because they were not informed.
- Does the city have obligations to inform residents?
- The bike lane proposals for Marion Parkway had public forums, why not this?
- City work crews aren't cleaning up poop; why not? Paul: there are several thousand pounds of goose poop daily.

- Regarding the bike lane, why is Public Works focusing on bike safety and not pedestrian safety? Paul: Blueprint Denver puts pedestrian safety first.
- This was a quick fix; aren't there other possibilities, like selling the goose poop as fertilizer?
- Regarding the processing of the geese for food: who did the processing and are the geese safe to eat? Paul: the processor is anonymous and the geese are safe to eat.
- Could the Marion Parkway become a dog park? No. Veterans Park may be considered, but the city does not have a plan for putting a dog park in Wash Park.
- Can the city be required to talk to the public before it renews any future culling contracts? Could there be a working group formed? Paul: yes, and he will pass this on to the Mayor.
- Don't destroy wildlife, coexist.
- Could the reported symptoms of salmonella be linked to pesticide?
- No volunteers are stepping up to address the goose issue. Actually, there were several at the meeting and they can be contacted at www.canadageese.protection.denver.

Election of Board Officers

The following Officers for the Board of Directors were appointed by acclamation:

President: Tim McHugh

Treasurer: Bill Tracy

Secretary: Lance Musselman

A neighborhood resident attending the meeting expressed interest in joining the Board. Lance made a motion to appoint Christine Franck, seconded by Lee; all four votes in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA assets is \$13646.81. there is a new category on the spreadsheet for gift cards, which were donated by sponsors of the 4th of July event and will be given to volunteers who helped with the event. Bill also noted that there has been an increase of fifty percent in the number of paid memberships since last year, due to Jacquelyn's follow up with former members and new residents in the neighborhood.

The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Newsletter:

Lance reported that the transition to the new schedule and ad rates is in progress. The next issue will be at the end of August and will be electronic. Our email list needs to be updated so we can send the newsletter out. Christine Franck offered to update and create a mailing list. Monica may also have an email list from last year.

Mikki noted that the digital newsletter file will be too large to go through many email accounts, and proposed options such as splitting the edition into several single-page portions. The sizing of ads is also an issue, since the digital edition is more flexible with sizes.

July 4th event:

The event went well and was attended by an estimated one thousand people. Tim will thank the sponsors.

Website:

WPENA is looking for a new IT person to manage the website.

Membership: Jacquelyn Mabry, Chair

No report.

Crime and Safety:

No report.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

No activity, no report.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

Replacement for the old playground near the Boathouse will follow the same process of public input and planning as the old playground.

New basketball courts will be completed by the end of summer. No final plans yet for the old courts – grass possible as replacement.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

No report.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Bill updated his interactions with the city on the intersection of Franklin and Dakota, the scene of frequent close encounters and a few crashes. The city told him that their investigation showed no crashes at that intersection. Bill saw a subsequent crash a while later and witnesses told him that the drivers involved decided not to report the crash. Bill thinks that this may explain why the city does not see the intersection as high risk.

Old Business:

S. Marion bike lane steering committee has representatives from WPENA and FANS. Changes to the bike lane may include changes to the intersection.

Future Speakers:

August: No meeting.

September: Emily Gauci, Rky. Mtn. Leukemia and Lymphoma Society: fundraising 9/26 in WP
School Board candidates Anna DeWitt, Tay Anderson, Scott Balderman

October: Auditor Tim O'Brien
Robin Kneich

Yard Sale:

August 3rd. a new resident to WPE has offered to assist, Leslie MacRossie.

Happy Hour:

New sponsor Leslie MacRossie, Lark Realty

Croquet Happy Hour in June – only four attendees, no Board members.

New Business:

Campus Lounge closed. Possible purchasers include Machette.

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

Lance Musselman

Secretary

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