

# Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

September 10, 2019

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Members Present:

Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Lance Musselman, Jacquelyn Mabry, Christine Franck

### Board Members not present:

Lee Berkey

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

The agenda was accepted by the Board.

The minutes for the July 9, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Board members and speakers were introduced.

### **Presenters:**

Matt Grimsley, Community Resource Officer, DPD

Officer Grimsley reported that the Washington Park area has seen a slight rise in burglaries and urged people to keep their garages locked. Auto theft is down.

He urged people to join the Neighborhood Watch program, which has shown positive results. Also, DPD is now able to post on Next Door but cannot read posts, so you may see posts from them soon. Ring (doorbells and security cameras) has agreed to notify DPD (with owners' consent) about crimes, and DPD can ask the owner to share video with them. DPD is also working with other providers on similar agreements.

A question was raised by Bill Tracy about a situation he noticed at his home. A Tesla electric auto was plugged into Bill's outdoor outlet, recharging. Is this theft? Matt thought it was.

Courtney Bowers, Campaign Manager, Light the Night, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Light the Night is a yearly fund raising event to raise money for cancer research and advocacy. It will be held at Washington Park on September 26<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is the sponsor, and the Walk attracts about ten thousand walkers. Child and dog friendly. More information at [lightthenight.org/rocky-mountain](http://lightthenight.org/rocky-mountain).

Scott Baldermann, candidate, Denver School Board.

A previous PTA President, Scott was also involved in the recent teachers' strike, which resulted in pay increases.

Scott outlined the main issues in his campaign:

- Slightly less than half (48%) the taxes paid to public schools in Denver go to the classrooms, versus 66% for Cherry Creek schools and 61% for Littleton schools. Besides creating a much larger than needed bureaucracy, it diverts funds needed to improve conditions for students, like air conditioning and classroom size.
- Make sure that all schools in DPS get an equal share of the resources that are available. Increase the number of school nurses and restore music classes. Reduce the competition between schools for resources.
- Support teachers and paraprofessionals and examine the cultures within each school.
- Reduce testing and emphasize letting teachers teach.
- Take a look at school hours, adjust them so that students are starting classes later so they can get enough sleep.
- Engage with the community.

Dr. Radhika Nath, candidate, Denver School Board.

Dr. Nath began her presentation by stating that her adoption of two children had led her to believe that the DPS system is not equal for all children, either in terms of equal access to available resources and access to necessary resources. Teachers are overworked and frazzled. The outlook for foster children is worse: only 24% graduate, few are able to develop careers and many have unaddressed mental health issues.

The Board of DPS has become a rubber stamp. The Board has authorized increases in debt that have resulted in yearly payments of approximately \$162 million, funding that is also needed for students.

Privatization has increased to the point where 53% of DPS schools are private, but funded with public tax dollars. This increased reliance on private schools has degraded the public school system, and the DPS Board cannot get the data and information from the private schools that it needs to adequately manage them.

## Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

Paul began by distributing a letter from the Mayor's Office explaining the proposed 2020 budget, which reflects concerns about possible economic slowdowns by adopting a conservative approach to revenues. It preserves core safety and protective services, and adds about 125 miles of bicycle lanes throughout the city.

The city council has some new members after the recent elections. Environmental issues remain high on the list of priorities.

Low income and affordable housing continues to be a problem, with eligibility guidelines reaching income levels of \$70,000 per year for a family.

There were three questions from the audience:

- Is there any change necessary to your statement last month at this meeting that culling of the park geese has been completed and no further culling is planned? Paul responded that a re-reading of the contract with the USDA showed that there was additional culling planned for next year in other areas of the city, but that it may not be implemented, given the public reaction and the lawsuit against USDA.
- What's happening with Park Hill Golf Course? The developers, who are also redeveloping the old Loretto Heights campus, paid \$24 million for the 155 acre golf course, which is protected by a conservation easement that requires it to be used as a golf course. The city council would have to lift the easement before rezoning could take place.
- Who is the Denver Solar Group, which wants WPENA to host a meeting between them and our and nearby RNO's? Paul offered to check them out. The Board decided to offer to communicate the meeting to our neighborhood but not endorse any company or product.

## Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$12,454.04. WPENA owes West Wash Park \$817 for its share of the profits from the Fourth of July event. Jacquelyn made a motion to pay WWPNA the amount owed, seconded by Lance. All approved. The report was accepted.

## **Committee Assignments and Updates**

Communications:

Christine Franck was designated by consensus of the Board as Chairperson of the committee.

**Crime and Safety:**

Tim floated the idea of eliminating this committee because the Board gets presentations from the Community Liaison officer at the meetings. Lance offered to check with the current members, Joanne Asher and Lee Berkey, before the Board takes any action.

**Zoning:**

No change.

**Park/FANS:**

No change.

**Membership:**

No change.

**Traffic:**

No change.

**INC Representatives:**

No change.

**Committee Reports:**

(NOTE: most committee reports were shortened or eliminated due to the length of the Communications Committee report).

**Communications:**

Christine reviewed her plans for updating and maintaining the website and WPENA's social media accounts and the responsibilities of herself, Monica Brisnehan and Leslie MacRossie:

- New general email address is [info@washparkeast.org](mailto:info@washparkeast.org), for social media accounts and monitoring website activity. Christine will be responsible for the mailbox.
- Review current mailboxes and their users, usefulness and whether they need to be modified or streamlined.

- Review current forms and remove from website or modify as needed.
- Monica has given Christine all the information on the Twitter account. Christine will update and maintain the account. We have now sent out a Twitter message, our first in two years.
- Monica will:
  - Work on redirecting everything on the old website to washparkeast.org, including historic data, email addresses, etc.
  - Clean up the submission form, plugins and the Genesis framework and continue tech maintenance.
  - Create and maintain a list of admin functions, including for future reference.
- Christine will:
  - Take responsibility for reviewing and adding business memberships, events and other items submitted to the website.
  - Update the RSS feed if necessary.
  - Review business memberships with the Board, especially expiration, identify and update with current members, and future maintenance processes. She will also review business membership categories.
  - Investigate who and how the website domain registration and hosting are paid.
- Christine and Monica will:
  - Review website design to improve design and functionality, seeking Board input.
  - Review “send to” categories on website contact forms, discuss with Board and edit if needed.
- Christine and Leslie MacRossie will work on ideas for coordinating events through our media resources, including the following ideas:
  - Photos or videos from the monthly neighborhood meeting
  - Sharing monthly minutes from website
  - Posting pictures of community events
  - Posting upcoming neighborhood events, including meetings, on all calendars and highlighting with post reminders
  - Brief articles highlighting neighborhood history
  - Highlight local business and stories
  - Highlight business members
  - Develop oral history / “meet your neighbors” series

- Comment and respond to site visitors, alert Board of any concerns
- Conduct a poll via social media to see what residents want to see on our social media channels and what they want WPENA to do
- How are new neighbors welcomed? A basket of goodies & info should be hand delivered
- Hold events with Membership Chair to raise awareness (table at events on Gaylord St)
- Fall Fundraiser-> Pumpkin patch, face painting, pumpkin carving contest (hold at the church)
- Quarterly nights out, not the happy hour, just “meet us for dinner at XXX”
- Restaurant fundraiser – will one of the local places donate 10% of neighbors dining purchases to the WPENA
- End of summer movie night at the park or neighbor’s house– need a large screen & projector
- Neighborhood art show – call out to our artistic neighbors to feature their artwork at the bathhouse (their “entry fee” will contribute to the rental space)
- Walking tour at the park gardens
- Food drive/coat drive

This will continue and further discussions will enable the Board to incorporate new events.

Newsletter:

First digital edition “published” August 30<sup>th</sup>, thanks largely to Christine and Mikki. Data on how many people viewed the newsletter showed that 467 email recipients (52%) opened the email, and 54 visitors to the website clicked on the newsletter.

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

No report.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

No report.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

No report.

Membership: Jacquelyn Mabry, Chair

No report.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Susan reported that the INC had presented information about the upcoming Census. The Bureau has been trying to reassure people that the census has nothing to do with Immigration, and the data will not be shared on a personal basis. The Board agreed to seek a speaker from the Census for a future presentation.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

No report.

**Old Business:**

Yard Sale:

No report.

Marion Parkway bike lane:

No report.

Future Speakers:

Oct. 8: Katie Van Scoyk, Denver Water Lead Reduction Program

The Board discussed whether we wanted to invite a second presenter, Tay Anderson, candidate, Denver School Board, and decided not to.

Nov. 12: Tim O'Brien, City Auditor

Robin Kneich, At large Representative, City Council – homelessness

Happy Hour:

Sponsor: Leslie MacRossie

When: October 17<sup>th</sup>

Where; Wash Park Grille

**New Business:**

Denver Solar Co-op

See relevant discussion under Paul Kashmann.

New WPENA Committee?

There was discussion about whether we need a committee devoted to events. The discussion was tabled for further discussion.

October meeting chair:

Christine Franck volunteered to chair the October meeting in Tim's absence.

5G cell towers

No report.

Commuter survey – city:

No report.

Waste Extravaganza Tour 9/5

No report.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary, Washington Park East Neighborhood Association