

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

February 11, 2020

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Lance Musselman, Christine Franck, Leslie MacRossie, Tim McHugh, Lee Berkey, Bill Tracy

Board Members Not Present:

None

Quorum: Yes

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

Approval of agenda.

Introduction of Board members.

Presenters:

Jim Lopez, DPD Community Resource Officer

WPE's crime stats look good, with no new trends affecting the neighborhood. DPD does not monitor Next Door, so DPD urges neighbors to call the DPD nonemergency number if Next Door is reporting suspicious activity.

People are leaving car door unlocked, sometimes with the keys inside.

Jim Lopez reported that he is being transferred out of this District and will be replaced by Officer Antonio Pacheco.

Hilary Lenz, Director, A Little Help,

Introduced by Leslie MacRossie. The program began as Wash Park Cares, connecting neighbors with neighbors who need assistance. Services cover ten counties in Colorado, helping seniors stay in their homes by providing transportation, help with shopping and getting to social events. The agency conducts background checks on all volunteers and verifies that they have car insurance. Help also includes shoveling snow, walking and conversation activities, household handiwork and respite care. Seniors pay what they can for services.

Events include Service Saturdays, Open House and fundraising.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

Paul covered several topics:

- Youth Violent Action Prevention Committee. Paul serves on this committee, addressing the increasing violence by and among youth, especially guns. Most youth get their guns from home or cars. Trigger locks and guns with biometric locks are recommended for gun owners.
- City Council approved the lifting of the ban on pit bulls (several terrier species) and the bill is awaiting signature by the Mayor. Some research shows that bans don't work while other research shows that pit bulls are a problem.
- Group Home proposal has two sections:
 - Household: proposes increasing the number of unrelated people living in one household from two to as many as eight in a house of 1600 square feet; the number of people who are related would remain unlimited for children only.
 - Group Homes: defined as homes with unrelated residents with an onsite manager; would propose spreading them out more. Public meetings are planned – see WPENA website at washparkeast.org.
- New task force being formed to study climate change and what we need to do to prepare for the future and meet climate goals.

Questions and Answers:

- Are oil and gas interests going to be represented on the climate committee? Yes; all views will be represented.
- Is WPE getting 5G cellphone towers? Yes; federal law prohibits cities or states from blocking them. They are being placed on Xcel towers where possible, and new towers are being placed near alleyways and away from in front of houses. There is a map on the WPENA website at washparkeast.org.

Open Discussion:

Discussion centered around the issues facing rezoning on Old South Gaylord. People were directed to check the WPENA website for information about this; see washparkeast.org.

The minutes for the January 14, 2020 meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy reported on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$12,489.16. Net income last month was \$1207.24. the largest annual expense

is the newsletter; income and expenses from the Fourth of July event are separated by fiscal years. The report was accepted.

Old Business:

Future Speakers:

March: Sunshine Home Share

TBD: Tim O'Brien, City Auditor; Census (Susan Payne); Donna Morganstern, candidate, Board of Education; Kelly O'Connor, Sr. Care Authority Denver City and County.

Dog Park update:

Tim reported that new information shows that people are requesting consideration of Washington Park as a site for a future dog park. There is an online SurveyMonkey for feedback on the city's plans. The process for deciding is complicated.

Camping Ban enforcement:

The courts have decided that outright bans are cruel and unusual, but the city is reinstating limited enforcement after review by the City Attorney's Office.

Homelessness in Denver:

Not enough shelters for the nearly 4000 homeless; an estimated 554 remain unsheltered. This is especially problematic for homeless families, people who have pets, partners or issues that interfere with shelter rules.

Group Home Code:

Hostel versus rental: hostels allow multiple renters to share housing costs. Hostels have shared kitchens and common areas. Many service people, and teachers, are unable to afford rents in Denver.

New Business:

Street plowing:

There have been a lot of complaints that the city is not plowing neighborhoods, and deicing chemicals on main roadways cause damage to cars. See denvergov.org/snowremoval.

Changes in meeting format:

Committee reports and routine Board business will be moved to the end of the meeting to allow attendees to hear presenters at the beginning of the meeting.

South Central Community Network:

Stakeholder Workgroup invitation to discuss and plan safe connections between neighborhoods for pedestrians and bicycles. Feb. 12 from 5 till 7 at Denver Health Administration.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Christine Franck, Chair

Christine provided a report to the Board and reviewed activities and progress of the committee:

- WPENA's password to our Next Door profile has been reset;
- New twice-monthly email schedule reflects the newsletter schedule;
- Begun twice-monthly emails, the first to promote the monthly Board meeting and the second to update neighbors about activities and notices;
- Structured content of communications for WPENA events, WPENA videos (Get To Know Your Neighbor), local events, neighborhood and city news, promoting our business members and advertisers through social media, highlighting neighborhood character and seasonally appropriate posts;
- Begun posting items regularly on the website and sharing through social media (S. Gaylord, dog parks, etc.);
- Added a new business member (Assurance Financial), which contacted us as a result of our social media;
- Meeting between Chairs of Communications committee and Event committee;
- Planning to share photos and events on social media, such as Happy Hour;
- Planning for new videos on Casey Miller, Flower Power and Homegrown Tap & Dough;
- Moving to quarterly statistics reporting;
- Centralized information through the website and updated business logos;
- Updated newsletter advertiser application on website;
- Planning update of business application and information;
- Suggesting space on the website for newsletter advertisers;

- Ready to add minutes and financials to website that haven't been posted in years;
- Reviewing email database and related processes (with Bill);
- Reviewing distribution of incoming emails and outgoing emails;
- In process of filing emails in the Gmail account;
- Ready to start review of documents in Google drive folders;
- Planning neighborhood survey for feedback on WPENA.

Website domain renewal – Bill will do this.

Membership:

WPENA is looking for a new committee chair since Jacquelyn Mabry resigned. New member, Jennifer Doherty, declined.

Another WPE resident, Ellin Rosenthal, offered to help with Thank You letters and other membership tasks.

New business member – Kim McAleb, Assurance Financial.

Assurance Financial – possible use of Quickbooks and email list. Bill and Christine will work on this.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

The Road Ahead, March 12, Bill will attend.

Crime and Safety:

No activity. See presentation by DPD Officer Jim Lopez.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

No activity.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Tim reported that no issues involving WPE were raised at the last INC meeting.

INC Dinner is scheduled for Feb 12th; Tim and Susan are attending.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

FANS opposes a Dog park in Washington Park but has not yet issued a formal statement.

Event Committee, Leslie MacRossie, Chair

Happy Hour will be scheduled for some time in March at the Wash Park Grill. Answers to the quiz in the last newsletter will be available there.

An Easter Egg Hunt may be planned. United Methodist will be approached as a possible location.

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

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association