

# Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

April 14, 2020

## Board Meeting Minutes

Due to Coronavirus restrictions, meeting held online

### Board Members Present:

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

### Board Members Not Present:

None.

Quorum? Yes

The Board meeting was brought order by Tim McHugh at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of agenda.

The minutes for the March 10, 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 \$12,275.05. The report was accepted. We are still waiting for invoices from Mikki and the printer for the latest edition of the newsletter. Christine and Leslie said they would be renewing their business memberships soon. WPENA has not spent any money on the Fourth of July event, so the cancellation will not affect us financially.

A glitch in PayPal allowed sponsors to sign up; Christine disabled this.

### Committee Reports:

Communications: Christine Franck, Chair

Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, website:

Christine reported that communications are running smoothly. She is frequently updating social media with information from the city and with pictures. A friend of Leslie who is a photographer is contributing pictures for posting on the website.

The menus on the website are being improved, making it easier to find business membership information and other issues. Business sponsorship is better distinguished from business membership now.

Minutes from past meetings need to be posted. All Board members will forward digital copies of past minutes to Christine and Lance will scan any minutes we cannot find in digital form.

#### Newsletter

The Spring edition has been finalized and printed and will be distributed the last week of April.

#### Community ideas

Leslie discussed a lot of ideas for follow ups to the Easter egg coloring contest, including:

- Postings on social media to promote neighborhood unity;
- A Spring garden contest;
- Promoting hopscotch activity and making an IMovie;
- A Get to Know Your Neighborhood covering the impact of the coronavirus;
- A video interview with Tim McHugh;
- A social media presentation on the real estate perspective;
- A presentation by Flower Power.

#### Submissions from Adam Metzer's daughter and friends

Adam's daughter has provided a children's newsletter and other items for posting on the website. This could be a seed for more representation of children's issues and interests.

#### Membership: Ellin Rosenthal, Committee Member

Ellin is writing letters to members who have not renewed their annual household memberships. Bill has already noted an increase in renewals. Ellin has asked for help in writing these and Board members are urged to contact Ellin if they are able to assist.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Bill will not attend the South Central Community Transportation Network Virtual Open House. The initiative does not include the WPE area.

The INC has cancelled meetings of the Traffic Committee until future notice.

The city has closed Marion St. Parkway from Virginia Avenue to Downing for use as a pedestrian walkway during the coronavirus.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

Board supported has recommendation of Zoning Committee for a variance request to move garage at 799 S. Race St.

Pending: a variance request by Washington Park United Methodist Church to move an air conditioning unit from the alley, to beside the church on S. Race St. Discussion of this noted that this is a major issue and expense for the church. WPENA Zoning Committee hopes to meet with the church to discuss the variance.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

No meeting in March or April because of coronavirus restrictions on large gatherings.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

Tim: dog park letter from FANS does not support a dog park in Washington Park. No official word on whether Veterans Park is up for consideration.

Crime and Safety:

Leslie MacRossie – CAB meeting April 7<sup>th</sup>. Crime is down eight percent. DPD urges neighbors to take video inventories of their possessions in case they get stolen, and register their bicycles with the city. The Red Flag law was also reviewed.

CAB meetings may be recorded in the future and posted for viewing.

Event Committee: Leslie MacRossie, Chair

Happy Hour is on hold for now. Leslie discussed ways to help neighbors during the coronavirus, including:

- a food drive (South High is closed for the rest of the school year, but Washington Street Community Center might help coordinate);

- a comprehensive post on the website and social media with examples of how to help and how to get involved;
- promote A Little Help, which is already involved in matching volunteers with people in need, perhaps a Zoom interview.

#### **Old Business:**

WPENA is sending a letter to the city concerning the proposed Dog parks. This will make it clear that WPE supports the application for a park at Veterans park and specifically does not support a dog park in Washington Park.

#### **Future Speakers:**

May: Lexis Williams, rep. from GBSM working with Denver Water on lead reduction. If we have a speaker, it will have to be an online presentation, and would be open to neighbors to attend. (Tim will contact her and see whether she has anything significant to add since she addressed WPENA at the October meeting).

Others: Tim O'Brien, City Auditor; Beth McCann, Denver D.A.

#### **Fourth of July event:**

Cancelled in anticipation of continued Coronavirus restrictions.

#### **Wash Park east boundary signs:**

Lori Poole will gather more information about the signs at the request of the Board.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Elevation Community Land Trust:**

An email from Olivia Czarnecki asking for support or a meeting to discuss their agency, a public-private partnership that adds affordable housing to the marketplace by establishing land trusts with cooperative land owners. The agency leases the land under the house for 99 years in return for a commitment by the owner to sell the house in the future for an affordable amount. Tim will contact for more information.

Requests to close Washington Park during pandemic:

Residents in West Washington Park have contacted the city about closing Washington Park because few people using the park are following city guidelines for social distancing and wearing face masks, endangering others who use the park. The city has been encouraging people to use the parks and other open spaces, including streets that have been closed to traffic, for exercise. The Board consensus was that the park should not be closed. Tim will write a letter to Parks and Recreation to ask the city to do some public education through signage and soft enforcement of city requests for social distancing and use of masks with park users, but to keep the park open for use.

Cheesman Park/Botanic Gardens view plane:

A request from the RNO for Greater Capitol Hill to oppose the rezoning of height limits in the Golden Triangle was discussed. Increasing the permissible heights to 300 feet would affect the views of the mountains and skyline for areas east of the Golden Triangle, including Capitol Hill and Cheesman Park areas. Christine made a motion to send a letter to the city Planning Board supporting the objections of Greater Capitol Hill to the rezoning request; Leslie seconded, all voted in favor. Tim will prepare a letter for review by Board members prior to submission.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 by Tim.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association