

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

February 9, 2021

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Lance Musselman, Christine Franck, Leslie MacRossie, Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Adam Meltzer.

Board Members Not Present:

None.

Quorum? Yes

The Board meeting was brought order by Tim McHugh online at 6:33 p.m.

Approval of agenda.

Introduction of Board members.

Other sign ins to meeting:

Kathy Patrick

Ty Campbell

Kate Young

Ellin Rosenthal

Helen and Bernie

Scott Baldermann

Paul Kaufmann

Jamie Knies

Perry Coons

Connie Burke

The minutes for the January 12, 2021 meeting were accepted.

The minutes for the January 26, 2022 Special Board meeting were discussed and accepted upon agreement to remove the word "private" as a descriptor for charter schools.

Presenters:

Kate Young, Community Resource Officer, DPD

Kate reported that data for the district through January showed there were eight burglaries, three of which gained entry through a garage. Most thefts involved porch pirates, unsecured bicycles, license plates and car owners manuals. DPD also received a number of reports on telephone scams.

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24th.

A question was raised about the efficacy of steering wheel clubs in preventing theft of autos. Kate said that the DPD has experienced success with them.

Scott Baldermann, DPS Board of Education

Scott discussed the history of charter schools in Colorado, which go back to 1993. Approximately one third of DPS students attend charters.

DPS is initiating a nationwide search for a new superintendent.

School start times are being reviewed. Teens need more sleep than younger children and DPS may move their class start time to 8 or 9 a.m. Studies show they do better in sports and are more attentive during school if they are able to sleep later.

Question: are DP's open or remote now? As long as the COVID positive test rate remains below 5%, DPS will try to remain open.

Question: when will in-person school begin? Now for elementary school; secondary will probably remain hybrid for awhile.

Question: can the number of hours of instructional time be increased? Yes, if the State provides more funding. More students want in-person. DPS will revisit when the teachers have been vaccinated.

Tyrone Campbell, Executive Director, CallBox Training

Ty Campbell is a trainer in de-escalation and inclusivity for the Denver Police Dept. At the request of WPENA Board member Leslie MacRossie, he agreed to present some of his training elements on bias, both explicit and implicit. Topics included:

- The definition of bias and how your early years affect how you view the world;
- Negative events carry more weight in terms of their impact on behavior;
- Examples of law enforcement bias:
 - Using race as the only factor for a stop (explicit bias);
 - Using race as one of many factors (implicit bias);
 - someone who "doesn't belong" in the neighborhood (implicit);
 - taking situations seriously (it has been shown that people take fewer precautions for hurricanes with female names than those with male names - implicit).

A chart showing disproportionate rates of minority contacts by police in several states, expressed as the ratio of nonwhite to white persons, showed Colorado's ratio at 6:1, New Jersey at

26:1, Wyoming at 5:1 and Arizona at 3:1. There was also discussion of social policies such as redlining, the practice of restricting eligibility for housing loans in certain neighborhoods, and the impact that policy has had on the net worth of black families.

He also urged everyone to take a quick online test called the Harvard Implicit Test, which can help identify your personal biases.

Questions:

- how can we work with young people who have anti law enforcement attitudes? Initiate conversations with them, take them for a free tour of the police academy.
- Are left wing groups treated differently than right wing groups, such as the recent Support the Police rally in Denver? Yes. Police at an event take orders from their on site commander, who is in contact with other supervisors and has to balance whether to move in, and risk escalation, or hold back and let things play out.
- Is this training only for recruits or police already on the force? Both. Training is mandatory for both groups, and the department is also conducting train-the-trainer events.
- Is the Blue Lives Matter movement demeaning to the Black Lives Matter movement? Having pride in one is not disliking the other.
- Police chases through neighborhoods can harm innocent victims; can the police catch them without chasing them? DPD policy is that the person fleeing must be an active threat to the public, and the chases are monitored closely by supervisors. But other agencies may initiate them, and enter our city during the chase.
- Do you make presentations to schools? Yes, through his private company, CallBox Training.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

Denver is moving ahead in public safety programs such as the Co-responder program, which sends a social services worker along with a police officer on certain calls. Another is the START program, which sends a paramedic along with a social worker. Outcomes have been positive for both; the START program made 748 contacts in six months without arrests or police officers needed.

Homeless encampments continue to be an issue. The recent tax increase allocating \$37M for mental health services has been a game changer.

\$350K has been allocated for a speed limit study to look at reducing the limits in 25 mph areas to 20 mph.

The sidewalk repair/replacement program has been a failure, and the city is looking at modeling cities such as Englewood, which adds a small tax to the water bill to fund sidewalks.

The Council passed the bill that increases the number of unrelated people who can live together in one home from 2 to 5; there will be no limit on the number of children. There was a comment from the audience that the group living limits were unfair to homeowners, and Paul responded that there were no statistics to support the idea that they are a danger.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy reported on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$17,572.86. Revenues have slowed but the newsletter is now in the black due to increasing ad revenues. The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Christine Franck, Chair

After a recent complaint received from a neighbor that there was no address on the website for sending a check to renew membership, Christine was able to find it in two locations on the website, but pointed out that the information isn't easy to find. That led to discussion about hiring someone to work on the website to reorganize it and make it easier to use. There was general consensus for this, and Christine will get back to the Board with recommendations.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

No committee activity. There has been no action taken to classify 1025 S. York as a historic building, which according to Bill has since been demolished.

Membership: Ellin Rosenthal

Ellin is current on the thank-you letters for new members. Data on WPE shows that we have more than 320 new neighbors this past year, and Ellin will begin sending them letters next month. March will begin reminders for renewals.

There was also discussion about follow up with business memberships. It's not clear whether everyone is getting website notices who should be getting them, tying into the previous discussion about the website and the need to update. Ellin will send letters to new business members.

Crime and Safety:

See presentation by Kate Young, DPD Community Resource Officer.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Bill reported seeing a lot of signs in the neighborhood supporting the 20 mph speed limit.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

Tim reported that FANS is supporting the city efforts to maintain the Mt. Vernon Gardens in the park. Budget cuts have led to layoffs and reduced the city's capacity to provide sufficient compost and mulch. FANS is raising \$2000 to donate toward these purchases, half from their budget, and asking WPENA and WWPNA to donate the remaining one thousand dollars. Tim offered a motion to request \$500 for this purpose, seconded by Lance. The motion passed.

FANS supports WPENA's proposal to host bird watching events, and offered to sponsor them. They recommend that the events be scheduled during the fall, due to COVID concerns.

Event Committee: Leslie MacRossie, Chair

Leslie discussed an idea to host neighborhood architectural tours, and will email additional ideas to the Board.

Sustainability Committee: Adam Meltzer, Chair

The committee, which is new to WPENA. Now has about nine members, who have identified targets including waste, energy and efficiency, and backyard habitat issues as goals for the committee to address.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Next meeting is Feb. 13th.

Old Business:

Speakers:

March: Andy Lyde, Open Up

April: Myleah Coleman, Denver Animal Protection and Shelter

May: Ashlee Grace, DOTI Community Design (Project Manager for Marion Parkway Bikeway Project)

Others:

Brian Kurzel, Regional Exec Director, Rocky Mtn. Regional Ctr., National Wildlife Federation

Dan Goldhamer, Extension Agent, Horticulture, CSU

Amy Yarger, Butterfly Pavilion

Sara del Valle Ruiz, Community Engagement Officer, City Auditor's Office

Mary Brice, Office of the Denver District Attorney

Bennie Miller, Director of Community Engagement, Denver Sheriff News (email 2/2/21)

WPENA Boundary signs

Email from Lori Poole 1/14/21, indicating that she will hold on to signs until WPENA decides how to use them (auction and prizes have been discussed).

July 4th event:

No communications from WWPNA yet.

Grant proposal form:

Update needed? Not until we have a reason to post them for upcoming grants. Then they can be modified to meet any specific needs.

New Business:

How to proceed with voting for Board members and Officers at annual meeting: FANS will be sending an online survey to members. Bill proposed mailing paper ballots to all the Class A WPE members for whom we have addresses.

WPENA address stamps for mailing – Bill and Ellin now have these, and Bill has a new endorsement stamp.

Appointment to the Short Term Rental Advisory Committee: One opening is available for a two-year appointment.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association