

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

April 13, 2021

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Lance Musselman, Leslie MacRossie, Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy

Board Members Not Present:

Christine Franck, Adam Meltzer

Quorum? Yes

The Board meeting was brought to order by Tim at 6:32 p.m. online.

Approval of agenda.

Introduction of Board members.

Other sign ins to meeting:

Paul Kashmann	Mika Gans	Clare
Helen and Bernie	Olivia	Jamie Knies
Frances Morgan	Patricia Luby	Bernadette O'Doherty
Bri Barkes	Scott Balderman	Jed
P & R		

The minutes for the March 9, 2021 meeting were accepted.

Presenters:

Antonio Pacheco, DPD Community Resource Officer

Officer Pacheco reported that there were six thefts from motor vehicles in the past month, most from unlocked cars; thieves took the registration to locate the house and used the garage door opener to access the garage and house. There were five motor vehicle thefts, mostly Hondas, and eight thefts of bicycles and from construction sites.

Myleah Coleman, Intern, Denver Animal Protection/Community Outreach

No presentation. May be rescheduled.

Scott Balderman, Board of Education, Denver Public Schools

DPS has finished the first phase of choosing a new superintendent, and the finalists will be announced by the end of the month.

The old Rosedale school, which has stood vacant since 2005, will be leased to the Archdiocese on a thirty-year lease. The Archdiocese will pay for remodeling costs and use it as a school.

School start times are being changed to reflect national research showing that older students benefit from later start times. Schools for WPE being affected are Merrill (9:10 a.m.), South High (8:25 a.m.) and Steele (8:05 a.m.). Staggering start times will also make more efficient use of school buses.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

Historic Denver and a group of citizens withdrew their application for historic status for the property at 800 S. Franklin St. The owner agreed to renovate instead of demolish.

City plans for the repurposing or remodeling of the old playground area near the Boathouse are moving forward and will include input from adjacent RNO's. Comment:

- The city missed the mark on the development of the playground by Grasmere Lake; it doesn't accommodate young children. Plans for replacing the old playground by the Boathouse are ten years old and don't reflect current needs.

A COVID vaccination site is being planned at the Broadway Marketplace for area businesses in the near future. The city is planning to return to in-person or face-to-face meetings in June, depending on vaccination progress and positivity rate.

The city is developing a register for rental homes. Registration of all rentals will be required and a fee of \$50; the city will require inspections. Questions included:

- Will short term rentals such as airB&B be included? Yes.
- Will inspections be random or scheduled? Scheduled.
- Will inspectors be certified? Yes; they will be trained. There may be a cost for the inspections.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy reported on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$17,917.59. The report was accepted.

Bill also reported that there were fewer new members joining last month. Many of the letters sent to new residents were returned because the houses were vacant or under construction.

Leslie and Adam will submit budget requests at the next meeting for their respective committees.

The donation to parks and Rec for mulch for the park will be accepted by the city; Tim has been in contact with them and will hand deliver the check.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Christine Franck, Chair

Cloud Storage: Bill has discussed options with Christine over how to store WPENA financial records over the long term for backup.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

The withdrawal of the demo application for 800 S. Franklin St. was covered earlier by Paul Kashmann.

Discussion of a possible effort to get an overlay to allow ADU's in WPE included how to initiate a petition process and whether one is needed. Paul Kashmann stated that BluePrint Denver encourages ADU's in all residential areas but only for long term rentals or owner occupied. ADU's are already possible upon application for rezoning but the process is a long one. The city is seeking input.

Sustainability Committee: Adam Meltzer, Chair

No report.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

The extension of the playground survey caught RNO's by surprise. The city originally presented two concepts that were ready for development, and has proposed a budget of \$390K. There is a public meeting later this spring to decide on a final design.

A new plaque near the youth fishing lake is dedicated to the cherry trees by the lake.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

No report.

Crime and Safety:

Leslie MacRossie said there was nothing to add to Officer Pacheco's report.

Membership: Ellin Rosenthal, Chair

Tim reported that Ellin sent 300 letters to new homeowners; Leslie provided the list, covering 2019 to present. Ellin is in the process of sending reminders for renewals of existing and former members.

Event Committee: Leslie MacRossie, Chair

Leslie is ready to begin planning a series of summer events as soon as she has a budget. The events include rolling concerts, a movie series, a walking architectural tour by Christine Franck, and a birdwatching event in coordination with FANS.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Tim reported that climate and sustainability concerns dominated the last INC meeting.

Old Business:

Future Speakers:

May: Ashlee Grace, DOTI Community Design Project manager for Marion ST. Parkway Bikeway Project

Other potential speakers: Denver City Auditor, Denver D.A., Denver Sheriff

Dog Park:

This issue began with questions about adding a dog park to Washington Park. A WPENA Board meeting more than a year ago showed neighbors opposing this nearly unanimously, with Parks and Rec suggesting Veterans Park as a possible alternative. Now residents near Veterans Park are voicing concerns about the effect on parking, multi use of the park, the amount of space needed for a dog park, and safety issues. One resident stated that the matter seemed to be settled years ago but a petition is now circulating to promote Veterans Park. Another resident suggested that Harvard Gulch would be a good location.

Voting for Board members

Suggestions for ways to hold elections this year included voting by email, holding an outdoor meeting, delaying the annual meeting until COVID restrictions are lifted or using a survey. Tim asked that suggestions be sent to him.

New Business:

DPS Foundation Films for the Future

This is a film festival hosted by DPS on “Listening Attentively” and is listed on the WPENA website.

KTA LLD, Proposed Marijuana Retail Store

KTA, LLD has contact Tim for neighborhood feedback on their application for a marijuana license at the former location of Saucy Noodle. They are also working with HGTV to let them film the process and produce a show. Tim will ask for more information. Lance will investigate the licensing status.

Levitt Pavilion

This nonprofit organization holds more than 50 summer concerts – all at Ruby Hill – to promote music and raise funds. They are seeking RNOs to support them by urging neighborhood residents to attend the concerts and share in the fundraising. Tim will contact them for more information.

Tour of Safe Outdoor site

Scheduled for April 30th, the tour will be at one of the two sites approved by the city, located in church parking lots. Registration is by way of email.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association