

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

May 11, 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 to order by Tim McHugh online.

Approval of agenda.

Introduction of Board members.

Other sign ins to meeting:

Susan Payne

Biddie Labrot

Olivia

Paul Kashmann

Paulina Leon

Cindy (Johnston?)

Jamie Knies

Patricia Luby

Daniela Meltzer

Maureen Hanrehan

Scott Balderman

Kari Foster

Ellin Rosenthal

The minutes for the April 13, 2021 meeting were accepted.

DPD Community Resource Officer

No presentation.

Presenters:

Adam Meltzer, Chair, WPENA Sustainability Committee

Adam gave a talk about the city composting program, which provides the city with organic material for compost and is given away or sold under the EcoGrow label at local Ace Hardware stores. About half of all garbage is compostable. The Washington Park neighborhood is currently number six in the list of top ten Denver neighborhoods at 26%. To sign up, people need to call 311.

Adam wants to get our neighborhood to number one, and will offer a free countertop compost bin to some of the people who sign up early in the competition.

Cindy Johnstone asked if the city could place compost collection carts in each alley which could be shared by everyone, or if WPENA could sponsor friendly contests between blocks to add more composters.

Scott Balderman, DPS Board of Education

Scott noted that the search for a new DPS Superintendent has come down to three finalists.

Schools are getting closer to normal, and should be back to normal by the fall but a lot depends on vaccination rates. Teachers have been vaccinated.

The Rosedale School is in the process of being leased to the Archdiocese.

Leslie noted that the organizers for the graduation parade at South High School need more volunteers to man the corners.

Adam asked about DPS commitment to sustainability. DPS is considering whether to adopt a goal of 100% clean energy by 2030, which would align it with the city and county of Denver.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

The city is getting back to normal. Federal funding to cities and counties was delayed while the feds questioned whether Denver is a city or a county; it decided we are both, and Denver will receive \$318M.

The Mayor is considering another bond vote to raise \$400M for infrastructure that was left out the last time.

Online meetings of local interest are coming up:

- The design for the north playground in the park next to the Boathouse will be displayed on May 26th.
- Another online meeting May 20th is scheduled for the Buchtel bicycle safety program, and

- affordable housing issues on May 12th.

The Wash Park Recreation Center is due to reopen in October. The reopening of neighborhood centers is a lengthy process because staff was laid off and needs to be replaced.

Tim discussed the recent tour of Outdoor Space at Denver Community Church, which displayed the living area for homeless people in the parking lot. Tents have been erected, the area is fenced and staffed, and has sources for electricity, water and bathrooms. Neighbors have filed a lawsuit to prevent the planned housing space from proceeding. Paul discussed city plans to purchase a vacant hotel with 95 rooms to use as housing for the homeless, and the possibility of increasing the percentage of new housing set aside by developers for affordable housing.

Comments:

- the design for the playground by the Boathouse is bizarre; there is no need for a playground in that area;
- other areas of the metro area should step up and offer to provide areas for the homeless to live; Denver is shouldering most of the load.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy reported on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$19,660.96. Bill noted that Ellin Rosenthal's letters to lapsed member supporters raised about \$1,200 last month.

The \$500 check to the City for compost materials for the Mt. Vernon gardens is going through FANS, which is contributing an additional \$1,000.

The report was accepted.

Proposed budgets for the Sustainability Committee, chaired by Adam Meltzer, and the Events Committee, chaired by Leslie MacRossie were submitted to the Board for consideration. The Sustainability budget requested \$550 for the remainder of FY 2021 and \$1050 for FY 2022 for prizes, countertop compost bins, event support including food and drink, support for a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat Grant, and contingencies. The Event budget request was for \$1,900 to fund a Spring Garden contest, movie nights, a rolling concert, an architectural walking tour, a pie giveaway/meet the Board, annual yard sale and birdwatching tour.

A motion was made by Bill Tracy to approve both budget requests, seconded by Ellin Rosenthal; all approved with no abstentions.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Christine Franck, Chair

Website

Christine reported that she has contacted several website developers/designers about working on our website, washparkeast.org. Concerns include usability, ease of posting for Board members, form management and throughput of communications to Board members from outside. She does not believe that a complete redesign is necessary. Our current website contains more than 800 pages of information, so a redesign of the menus for ease of navigation, and checking forms, scripts, emails and template design are most important. Ellin reviewed the website and provided feedback; Christine asked Board members to do the same.

Newsletter

Tim commended Mikki and Jeannette for the latest edition of the newsletter. Aaron Grant, who was the interviewee for the spring edition, asked for extra copies of the newsletter. Great job!

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

Two variance requests were reviewed and the committee recommended approval in both cases.

FEMA is deciding whether to designate a section of S. Franklin Street as a flood zone. If this happens, homeowners in that area could be required to purchase flood insurance. Traditional home insurance does not cover losses from water coming from outside the house.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

Tim attended meetings of the Parks and Rec executive committee and an advisory committee on climate issues. Xcel is now 40% renewable; the city may install solar panels on the rec center.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

A Traffic Committee meeting for the city is coming up soon regarding the 16th Street Mall, and the Front Range Passenger Rail proposal is in discussion, which will share track to create a rail system along the front range.

Crime and Safety: Leslie MacRossie, Chair

A Neighborhood Watch meeting is scheduled for May 12th.

Membership: Ellin Rosenthal

Ellin will submit a budget estimate for the committee, and has receipts ready to submit for reimbursement. A request was made from the audience to include information about the website for people who want to pay online.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Tim and Susan attended the Youth Sustainability Board meeting, which discussed criminal justice reform proposals for youth offenders.

Old Business:

Future Speakers:

June: Myleah Coleman, Intern, Denver Animal Protection

July: Ashlee Grace, Project Manager, Marion St. Parkway Bikeway

(No meeting in August)

September: Office of the District Attorney?

Dog Park

The issue of getting a dog park in Veterans Park is ongoing. One of the meeting attendees noted that her area, Washington Park Addition, will be affected by a proposed dog park and feels that it would interfere with other uses, such as soccer. Tim noted that dogs are running loose in the park already and that a fenced area for them would be safer.

Voting

Tabled for later discussion.

KTA LLC Proposed Marijuana retail store:

Tim sent them an email stating that the WPENA Board neither opposes nor supports new businesses. So far he has received no response.

Leavitt Pavilion

Tim replied to their request to support and publicize their concerts, but has yet to receive a response.

Adam suggested we post a summer events page on the website, and Christine said she would make sure a calendar link was added when the redesign is done.

District 6 Neighborhood Coalition

No new information.

New Business:

Adam is organizing a trash pickup day and wants volunteers. This will be put on our social media.

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