

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

June 8, 2021

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Lance Musselman, Tim McHugh, Adam Meltzer

Christine Franck (logged in but unable to attend meeting)

Board Members Not Present:

Leslie MacRossie, Bill Tracy

Quorum? Yes

Other sign ins to meeting:

Patricia Luby	S Shannon	Julian Wolff
Paul Kashmann	Helen and Bernie	T J Young
Susan Payne	Scott Balderman	Biddie Labrot
Kate Young	Ellin Rosenthal	John Kudrycki

The Board meeting was brought order at 6:35 p.m. by Tim McHugh online.

Approval of agenda.

Introduction of Board members.

The minutes for the May 11, 2021 meeting were accepted.

Presenters:

Community Resource Officer: Kate Young

There were 3 burglaries in WPE during the last month; all were crimes of opportunity. One gained access through an open window, another through an unlocked door and the remaining via a garage door opener stolen from an unlocked car.

There has been an uptick in thefts of phones, scooters, a catalytic converter, and license plates, mostly due to warmer weather.

Question: Is DPD having any problems filling vacancies? Most District Three vacancies are retirement related, but COVID made recruitment more difficult and there were only three new officers, replacing approximately 15 vacancies.

Julian Wolff, Denver Animal Protection

Denver City and County has reopened the Denver Animal Protection offices and they are resuming adoption and vaccination services. They also provide temporary boarding services for pets of homeless people.

Julian warned dog owners not to let their dogs drink from standing water; blue algae can be toxic.

Question: have the limits on the number of pets allowed in homes changed? No, he believes it is still limited to a total of six animals.

Question: is there any problem in using invisible fences? Yes. They are not considered containment and some dogs will go through them.

Question: is there an increase in people returning pets since the quarantine ended? No.

Question: what can people do about feral cats? You can legally trap them if they are on your property. Denver Animal Protection has traps you can borrow. Bring the trapped cats to Denver Animal Protection.

Scott Balderman, Denver Board of Education

The school year has ended, and the Board has selected a new superintendent with staff involvement in the final decision. He will begin July 6th.

The transition to Healthy Start Times will begin in the 2023 school year, allowing teenagers to get additional sleep.

The Board has hired an outside investigator to look at allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior against Tay Anderson, a school Board member.

Question: what is the DPS position on critical race theory? DPS calls it diversity equity inclusion and is providing ongoing training. Schools have flexibility in how they handle this, and are adopting core values each month to emphasize. New textbooks are being reviewed also.

Question: is the Tay Anderson investigation time limited? No. The investigation has no predetermined date to conclude.

Question: there were calls from some Latino organizations to delay the vote on the new superintendent, and concerns about a lawsuit against him. Scott stated that there were three finalists, there was extensive community engagement and multiple interviews, and all the finalists had favorable recommendations.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman

Things are returning to normal at the city and county. The federal government is sending \$308M for recovery and the Mayor is proposing a \$400M bond to get people back to work.

Paul wants a study of Buchtel Blvd in regard to improvements to automobile and bicycle traffic from University to Downing, and the addition of sound barriers where there are none.

Denver will require a fee of ten cents on disposable bags (paper, plastic, compostables, etc.) and introducing a Bring Your Own Bag program. This begins July 1st of this year and applies to bags that are provided to the customer.

Repaving the Loop Road in Washington Park is a high priority.

Fees for using plastic bags will begin soon, affecting all retail establishments.

The Denver Municipal Band will resume its Concerts in the Parks this summer, including schedules at Washington Park.

Question: how will people with EBT cards pay the fees for plastic bags? The bag fee will not be assessed on people who are on public assistance.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Tracy, Treasurer

Bill was not in attendance. Tim reported that the balance of the WPENA bank account is \$20,764.59. Options such as putting some in a CD were not worth the tradeoff in liquidity for the tiny amount of extra interest.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Christine Franck, Chair

Christine was not in attendance and there was no report.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

A variance request concerning the property at 980 S. Franklin involved the designation of the property being in a Potential Inundation area was reviewed by the Zoning Committee. Discussion included whether the association had a duty to warn other homeowners who are in the designated area. It was decided that this was a responsibility of the city, and Paul Kashmann said that he would follow up. A second case also involved the bulk plane; in each case the BOA granted part of the variance.

There were also questions whether WPENA should become involved in discussions about acceptable violations and the issue of Safe Outdoor Space, which could affect WPE at some point.

Sustainability Committee: Adam Meltzer, Chair

Eight people joined a cleanup on the Cherry Creek bike path, using tools and bags provided by the city. About 20 pounds of trash were collected.

Crime and Safety: Leslie MacRossie, Chair

See report by the Community Relations Officer, Kate Young.

Event Committee: Leslie MacRossie, Chair

Leslie MacRossie was not in attendance. Ellin Rosenthal said that movie nights will resume soon, and promotion will begin on the yard sale, which is usually held the first Saturday in August.

Membership: Ellin Rosenthal, Chair

Ellin reported that her letters raised 119 memberships in 2021 and she is busy sending thank you letters. Thank you, Ellin!

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Bill was not in attendance and there was no report. However, there were questions from the attendees at the meeting.

Question: there are more and more automated speed signs around; can we get them on Downing, Virginia and Franklin streets?

Question: when will the road closures be reopened? It is difficult to turn into WPE from Downing.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

May 26th will be the last public meeting regarding the playground by the Boathouse.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

The next meeting of INC will discuss Safe Outdoor Space.

Old Business:

Future Speakers:

July: Ashlee Grace, Manager for Marion Parkway Bikeway Project

Request from Scott Esserman, candidate for at-large member of DPS Board

August: No meeting

District 6 neighborhood Coalition

Request to join. No action taken by WPENA.

Face to Face meetings:

Possibility of returning to in person meetings in July was discussed. The CDC has warned people with compromised immune systems that they may not be adequately protected. Lance made a motion to meet on Zoom in July and begin meeting in person in September, and designate September the Annual Meeting, with elections. Seconded by Adam; passed.

After discussion about whether to continue to Zoom meetings after we start meeting in person, and discussion about the limits of audio/visual abilities of laptops, Adam offered to check whether his office might lend or donate an audio phone meeting system that they are not using. This would let people listen and participate during the meeting, but would not provide video.

New Business:

Denver Croquet Club monthly party:

Wine & Wickets

Second Friday June through September, from 6 p.m. until 8. BYO wine (no glass).

City of Denver:

Input on housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan Goals. Survey open through June 24th.

City of Denver:

Input on \$700M stimulus funding. Tim joined a phone conference about this and said most of the requests were for housing, mental health and grocery stores.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association