

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

DATE: April 14, 2015

Amended Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Steve Skalski, Joanne Asher, Neil Jorgenson, Biddie Labrot, Susan Payne, Lance Musselman, and John Kudrycki.

The Board meeting was brought order by Steve Skalski at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's.

The minutes for the March 10th meeting were amended. John made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Neil; all approved

Treasurer's Report: Biddie Labrot, WPENA Treasurer, reviewed current revenues and expenses. The current balance is \$8,915.24. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Neil and seconded by John; all approved.

Committee reports:

Fourth of July: On track. The monthly emailer is asking for volunteers for this event.

Yard Sale: Lori Poole is coordinating this. It will coincide with Denver Days weekend and has been posted on the website.

Newsletter:

Lance M. proposed a new ad schedule for the newsletter. Under the proposal, the card size and one-eighth page ads would be dropped; they are seldom used and are more difficult to include in the layout. Further changes included in the proposal were to

- add two new sizes – a half-page and a full-page insert,
- increase the cost of quarter page ads from \$550 to \$700 for a full year to compensate for the addition of the summer newsletter,
- maintain the discount for business memberships when an ad is taken out for a full year.

Susan made a motion to drop the card and on-eighth size ads, increase the cost of an annual commitment for a quarter-page ad, and check other RNO's ad prices before considering the larger ads. Neil seconded the motion and it was approved.

John made a motion to discontinue the discount for business memberships. This was seconded by Susan and approved.

Lance M also reviewed the email from the newsletter editors with ideas for the summer edition and commitments to author stories by committee chairs.

Crime and Safety: Joanne reported that half of the 30 crimes reported in March were car break-ins. Also that the DPD is investigating a possible marijuana grow operation in WPE.

Zoning: Biddie stated that two new overlays were initiated in the Highlands.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh was unable to attend, but sent the following report on the park:

Discussion of the loop road renovations continued, with the final design submitted to the city. Continuing this topic, a "stakeholders" meeting on Mar.25 included Chris Yanez, as a rep. from DPR. We discussed the fact that there is no funding in the 2015 budget for any renovations, but there will hopefully be "some money" available for minor safety changes this summer, such as better signage and striping, hoping to improve safety. The head of Park Rangers...reported that the rangers are reviewing and updating park rules, and there will hopefully be increased presence of rangers, especially on weekends. There are now more radar guns for monitoring bicycle speed. Marking areas for passive use in the great meadow should have started April 1. The April meeting on April 8 will be a tour of the greenhouse in City Park, where all the flowers are grown before transplant into the city parks. The guest speaker at the May 13 meeting will be Vickie Vargas-Madrid, to discuss park wildlife. She had been employed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife before switching to DPR.

Croquet: Susan reported that Jimminy Wicket is planning an event at the croquet field for May 28th.

On a related note, the next Happy Hour is scheduled for April 23rd at the Tap & Dough.

Business membership: Neil asked if we could create a business membership for businesses that are not located in WPE, as required by the association bylaws. Businesses in SE Denver that do a lot of business with WPE residents are interested in becoming members and having their logo on the newsletter.

There was consensus for creating an associate or non-resident business sponsorship, which does not violate the bylaws.

INC: Tim McHugh attended the March 14th meeting, and summarized it in his written report to the Board:

The guest speaker was Alton Dillard, the Senior Public Information Officer for Denver Elections. His presentation was titled "Denver Campaign Finance 101". In summary, one can visit DenverVotes.org/CampaignFinance to monitor campaign finance reporting for city municipal offices only. Limits of donations are based on the office sought.

Ballots for the May 5 municipal elections should be sent the week of April 13. Of more interest was the continued discussion of short term rentals.

There is a Sharing Economy Task Force of Denver City Council. A "friendly amendment" to the previous resolution discussed last month was offered, which suggested that owners who operate and live in short term rentals would cause less problems than "investment owners". I will forward a copy of the resolution itself, which I received as an email on Mar. 17. In essence, the resolution encourages the city to enforce the current provisions of the Denver Zoning Code, prohibiting short-term rentals. It also urges City Council to include reps. of INC in the task force to allow neighborhood involvement in the process of deciding how to handle the regulation, taxation, licensing and the effects of the rentals on the social and cultural fabric of the neighborhoods.

Finally, on Mar. 16 Denver City Council was supposed to have discussed whether Century Link would be allowed to offer cable services in Denver. I don't know what happened.

May elections:

Steve polled attending Board members on whether they are planning to run for re-election. The responses were:

Lance M.: Yes

John K.: Yes

Biddie L.: Probably not

Susan P.: Hasn't decided

Neil J.: Yes

Joanne A.: Yes

Steve S.: No

All Board members will be contacted and an election slate developed for the May meeting.

New business:

There was support for hosting a farewell party for Charlie Brown, in cooperation with other RNO's in Council District 6, and welcome the new councilperson. This would occur during the May/June overlap between the two terms. Biddie will contact Charlie's office.

Lance M brought up a discussion of conflicts of interest, which can occur when Board members hold offices or are involved with other organizations, whether as paid staff or volunteer, and the importance of avoiding both real and perceived conflicts that can affect the association. There was no consensus by the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. by Steve.