

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

DATE: January 12, 2016

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Joanne Asher, Neil Jorgenson, Tim McHugh, Susan Payne, Lance Musselman, and William Tracy

The Board meeting was brought order by Tim McHugh at 6:45 p.m. at St. John's.

The minutes for the November 10, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Neil made a motion to approve, seconded by Joanne; all approved.

Introductions:

Board

Guests: Mikki Wilder (editor), Beth McCann and Michael Carrigan (DA candidates), Paul Kashmann

Speakers:

Beth McCann (DA candidate), a former deputy D.A., Denver Manager of Safety and current House District 8 representative, focused on improvements to the juvenile justice system, disproportionate incarceration of people of color, community involvement and crimes against vulnerable people (trafficking, sexual assault and elder abuse). She would address issues around the re-offense of criminals while free on bail, and would re-join the Colorado District Attorney's Council.

Michael Carrigan (DA candidate), a former prosecutor and a practicing attorney, focused on collaboration among law enforcement agencies, engagement with the community and accountability of the law enforcement community. He would address bail issues, citing a 60% rate of people held in the jail because they cannot afford bail.

Paul Kashmann, District 6 Councilman, said that 2016 will be a busy year, with the City revisiting planning and zoning issues using new neighborhood metrics. Homelessness will be the subject of a new initiative; 40% of the homeless have jobs, and 2500 children in DPS do not have permanent addresses. The Marijuana Committee is being reorganized; it will consider whether to allow non-medical dispensaries to apply for recreational licenses. There were 73 MJ related DUI offenses last year in Denver. Also of concern is the rate of property crimes, and the PD is understaffed as it tries to hire new officers. District 10 is initiating a process to include the public in the city budget process, and the Council is considering whether to provide a 30 minute period before each Council session for public input.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. Revenue for November 11, 2015 to January 12, 2016 included \$160.00 in contributions, \$100 in business memberships and \$910.00 in memberships. Total assets were \$8783.73.

Tax status update: The attorney we have hired to deal with the IRS has determined that WPENA should apply for 501 (c) (4) status instead of (c) (3), because the (c) (3) status is primarily for fundraising. It appears likely that there will be a tax penalty because our income for the past four years exceeded \$40k, and the penalty may be as much as \$800.

(Note: Bill Tracy provided the following clarification and expansion to his comments at the meeting).

"WPENA lost their tax-exempt status as a result of not filing required IRS Form 990s since they were required in 2009. This was an oversight.

WPENA must now re-apply for tax-exempt status. WPENA will apply to be a 501c4 organization which is the appropriate section for community organizations such as ours. The previous 501c3 organization was not the appropriate section because WPENA does not engage in charitable fundraising and has never solicited tax-deductible charitable donations.

The application fee stated on IRS Form 8718, "User Fee for Exempt Organization Determination Letter Request" is \$850 because the Gross Receipts of WPENA have average over \$10,000 per year for the last four years and are expected to continue at that amount."

New address for WPENA: A post office box has been rented at the University Hills Station. This will help insure continuity in the future for mail receipts.

Committee Reports:

Zoning:

Tim reported that the committee met to consider a request to delay implementation of a zoning decision to disallow a building at 1450 S. Humboldt that was built without a permit and does not meet current zoning regulations. The committee opposed the request for a variance because it does not conform to city regulations.

Communications: No report.

WPE Night Out (Reiver's, Tap & Dough, Basil Doc's):

Most of the Board members attended. Neil made a motion to waive the business membership fees for the three restaurants who hosted the Night Out (Reiver's, Basil Doc's and Tap & Dough). Susan seconded; all approved.

Newsletter:

The Board discussed the winter edition of the newsletter, under the guidance of our new editor, Mikki Wilder. The Board applauded Mikki’s efforts.

Lance Musselman and Mikki Wilder presented proposals to add new sizes for advertising and the newsletter format. For newsletter ads, current Board policy allows three sizes: quarter page, half page and full page. The proposal included two new sizes of ads, measured in square inches to allow odd sized ads to fit specific needs and available space. The proposed sizes (sized to fit available space), and priced as one-time ads with no annual option, are:

Mini: <u>4.5 to 7.0 square inches</u>	\$100
Midsize: <u>8.0 to 10.0 square inches</u>	\$150

Neil made a motion to approve the proposed ad sizes, Susan seconded, and all approved.

The second proposal was to change the size of the newsletter from 8.5 x 11 to 7.5 x 9.75 inches, the intent to make it stand out from other materials that people ae mailed or delivered. After discussion, there was no motion made to amend the size of the newsletter.

Membership:

Susan Payne announced that the membership drive brought 88 new and continuing members, with 13 brand new. Membership is now tied to the calendar year.

Crime and Safety:

Joanne Asher reminded everyone that WPE is now in Sector 1 of the redesigned police district 3. CAM meetings are the first Tuesday.

There was considerable discussion about Neighborhood Watch, which is being touted again but hasn’t received much support. Block captains need to be identified and host meetings for their neighbors, and finding people to make that commitment has been difficult. A recent street mugging in the 1200 block of .s. Williams, during which one of the women was pistol whipped, has gotten people talking about the Watch program again.

Park/FANS:

Tim McHugh gave a brief overview for guests at the meeting. FANS also made a recent donation of \$600 to the Park for use on the Mt. Vernon gardens.

INC:

Delegates: Susan Payne and Tim McHugh. INC has been discussing short term rentals, which are appearing more and more in city neighborhoods. There will be three meetings for the public in February, one on the 3rd at S. High School, one at First Methodist on the 11th and one at Christ church on the 25th.

INC is asking RNO’s to issue support statements supporting action on behalf of the homeless. They point out that the homeless are not just downtown, and to think of neighbors who may

need help. Half of the homeless are in neighborhoods around the city, and most are transitional, meaning that job loss or death of a head of household has caused a sudden loss of income and family stability.

Traffic: Tim McHugh. No report.

Old Business:

Future speakers: Tim O'Brien, CPA, City Auditor, RTD (new DIA line)

New Business:

Bumper stickers for WPE residents (Lee Hopkins). A presentation to promote neighborhood security by printing bumper stickers for neighborhood residents with name or logo of the neighborhood. The intent is to raise awareness of the need to know who is in our neighborhood and make it easier to identify vehicles that may not belong. No action was taken.

Announcements:

Mikki Wilder announced that she is organizing a presentation on reverse mortgages soon at the library. It will be announced on Next Door.

Denver Planning Board Meetings to be broadcast by Community Planning and Development and Denver 8:

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 9th.

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