

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

DATE: January 10, 2017

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Lance Musselman, Joanne Asher, Ryan Schulz

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

The minutes for the November meeting were reviewed (there was no meeting in December). The minutes were accepted by the Board.

Board Members, guests and speakers were introduced.

Presenters:

Stuart Anderson from Transportation Solutions presented information about the Public Open House being held January 17th to introduce the public to the improvements being considered for the Light Rail stations at University and Colorado. With funding from DU and DRCOG, the study is recommending changes to parking for cars and bicycles, and a pedestrian bridge over I-25. Many of the 560 parking spaces are used by DU students, and 60% of the students use public transportation. Specific changes being considered include reconfiguring access to the garage, narrowing Buchtel to one lane each direction to allow a bike path and a pedestrian plaza along Buchtel.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman, discussed the bond package that will be on the ballot in November. Seventy percent of the city budget goes to personnel, and the bonds will provide cash for needed maintenance and building. The City has between 500 and 600 million bonding capacity available without raising taxes, so the bond package will not raise taxes.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. Revenue from the membership drive totaled \$1375.00, and from donations \$235.00, with an ending balance of \$7570.00. Bill noted that we are dipping into our reserve. He also reported that membership revenues to date have exceeded the cost of printing the envelopes and inserting them in the newsletter by more than double, with additional membership income still anticipated. The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Website:

Monica Brisnehan, who has volunteered to update and improve the website, reviewed her progress and plans. Phase 1 will replace the old website with a different platform that is more commonly used and include software that helps with procedures that are frequently conducted, making the site easier to manage.

Phase 2 will concentrate on improving business functions and creating training materials for the Board Members as well as a handbook for continuity.

Phase 3 will add ongoing refinement and functionality.

Crime and Safety:

Joanne Asher reported that the CAB meetings for District 3 are scheduled for the first Tuesday at 6:00. District 3 statistics showed that there were 7703 car crashes in 2016 and detectives investigated 3174 crimes against people. Overall, crime was down 4% but calls for service were up 60%.

DPD will open a new Cop Shop at 487 S. Broadway on January 28th, where people can walk in to file a counter report or get information. It will be open 24/7.

Zoning:

The Board discussed whether to file a complaint or join a complaint being considered against a local contractor who failed to get a permit and ignored building requirements, resulting in a garage that was two feet wider than allowed. Although WPENA did not support the variance request, the BOA voted to allow it to stand.

Lance made a motion for the Board of WPENA to submit a letter of complaint to the Contractor Licensing Section, against the contractor, and request they take action against the contractor. Joanne seconded the motion. Resulting discussion focused on whether the Board could face civil action from the contractor, and Paul Kashmann stated that he would check with the City Attorney whether any immunity or other protection for the WPENA attached as part of the Board's designation as a registered RNA. The motion was tabled.

Park/FANS:

Tim reported that the guest speaker for the February FANS meeting will be Dan Goldhamer from the Denver Extension of CSU, who will present information about the Japanese Beetle.

FANS is also reviewing city plans for the Loop Road in the park. FANS has also released a 2017 calendar featuring photos submitted during its photo contest.

FANS has requested a donation in memory of Gerald Endalay, former Director of the Denver Municipal Band. The funds will be used for a memorial bench in the park. Tim made a motion for a donation of \$250.00, which was seconded by Lance; all approved.

Membership:

There was discussion about whether to recognize members who donate additional funds along with their membership dues, either by postcard or mention (with permission) in the newsletter. No decision was made.

INC:

Tim reported that the INC wants the city to extend the moratorium on parking exemptions for apartment houses on micro lots of 6250 square feet or less. The moratorium was triggered by recent development taking advantage of the exemption.

WPENA's membership dues to the INC are due.

Old Business:

Great Candy Run.

Tim reviewed the responses from a survey he conducted of neighbors who were affected by the Great Candy Run. Of 72 responses, half stated that they felt inconvenienced. Tim will send the results to Paul Kashmann's office.

WPENA Survey.

Lance and Bill will meet and finalize the survey. After it is approved by the Board, it will be put on Survey Monkey and announced in Next Door, the WPE monthly emailer and newsletter.

Happy Hour.

Looking at a date in March. Several venue suggestions, including Charcoal's. Tim will find the venue and Lance will look for a sponsor.

New Business:

Two guests at the meeting, both residents on S. Downing St., raised concerns about traffic on Downing between Virginia Avenue and Alameda. During rush hour, traffic frequently backs up on Downing and blocks the intersection at Dakota, causing accidents and confrontations. Discussion involved suggestions to ask the City to improve the pavement graphics with "Do Not Block the Intersection" at that location.

Speakers for future WPENA meetings have been lined up:

February: possibly DPD District 3 or representative for Old South Gaylord.

March: Grace Lopez Ramirez, Office of Special Events

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

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