

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

DATE: July 11, 2017

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Lance Musselman, Joanne Asher, Ryan Schulz and Monica Brisnehan.

Board members Absent:

Butch Clark, Lee Berkey and Ana Quintana.

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

Minutes for the June 13, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Board members, guests and speakers were introduced.

Presenters:

Parry Burnap, formerly with Denver B-Cycle and now with Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action) presented information about her organization, which helps neighborhoods become forums for planning and organizing climate solutions on a local level. Working with neighborhood organizations, ANCA provides assistance through training, engagement, information and expertise to the neighborhood, which develops a plan to educate and mobilize residents with local projects. An example of local issues is the lack of recycling pickups for high rise apartment buildings. Others involve transportation needs, activities, community gardens, and more.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance in our bank account is \$9976.87. The report for the full fiscal year showed a reduction in the bank balance of \$20.32 from the end of the prior year. The report was accepted.

**Committee Reports:**

Communications: Monica Brisnehan, Chair

Newsletter: One-paragraph bios to Mikki are due as soon as possible. One or two will be featured in each edition of the newsletter beginning with the Fall 2017 edition.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair

Notices of Requests for Variance for two properties on S. Franklin St. were sent recently by the city. The Zoning Committee will meet with the owner and a recommendation will be made to the Board for response to the Board of Adjustment.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

Loop road changes are beginning, and they are generating a lot of concerns from park users. The previous bicycle lane has been widened at the expense of the pedestrian lane and split into two narrow lanes, one for slow (toddlers on bicycles, skateboards, roller blades) and fast (adults on bicycles) wheels. West Washington Park Neighborhood Association has submitted objections and FANS is in the process of also submitting objections.

City Ditch has a birthday – its 150<sup>th</sup> – coming up in August and there will be a celebration in the park on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Membership: Ana Quintana, Chair

Welcome bags are being prepared for distribution beginning at the end of July. Several businesses have contributed coupons or promotional items for the bags. Ana is already sending thank you notes to new members.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

The Citizens Marijuana Academy has met three times, distributing information on laws and regulations, and informing neighborhood representatives on their roles in determining whether to support applications for social marijuana clubs. Tim stated that Cherry Creek already has one.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Mayor Hancock is in the process of reorganizing the city structure to create a Traffic Department at the Cabinet level. This will require changing the city charter and will not occur before next year.

Bill stated that there are problems with cars turning across the double yellow lines on University Blvd. to access businesses on the opposite side of the street, especially Bonnie Brae Ice Cream and Bonnie Brae Liquors. We will ask the city to look into this.

A city study of Alameda Avenue for 2012 through 2015 noted there were 84 crashes at Alameda and University, and 67 at Downing and University, so drive carefully!

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

July 29<sup>th</sup> block party at S. High, sponsored by DPD. Finger painting and car painting for children, virtual neighborhood watch signup, license plate screw pit station, bicycle registration and fee plates.

Joanne reported that the CAB meeting released data showing that burglaries in the Country Club area have increased, and that most of the houses were left unlocked. Car thefts are also up, and most of them were left unlocked and many with the keys in the ignition.

Sara Booker, a neighborhood resident, spoke about the concept of a neighborhood security patrol, such as one she experienced in Dallas, involving off duty police or security officers who are paid by the neighborhood residents. These agents patrol the neighborhood and are available to check suspicious circumstances or escort residents late at night to their houses. Support by residents is voluntary but those who pay to support the project have access to the officers directly. The annual cost in the Dallas project was approximately \$300 per participating household, and was coordinated through the neighborhood organization. The Board of WPENA was not enthusiastic about the prospect of running such a program, including concerns about collecting fees, employing security and the liability, but agreed to assist Sara in contacting DPD and city administration.

**Old Business:**

Yard Sale: Ryan Schulz

Signs are being put in the yards of neighbors who have signed up for the yard sale and are paid members. Only 7 or 8 have signed up so far.

ARC truck will circulate through the neighborhood after the sale. WPENA would have had to purchase insurance to use the lot at S. High, and coordination with other groups wanting to use the parking lot made it difficult to organize.

Fourth of July event: Tim McHugh

Tim said that the estimate of the number of people who attended this year is between 1000 and 1500. Tim is the sole representative from WPENA on the organizing event. He and the representatives from West Washington Park Neighborhood Association have been doing all the leg work for several years and are getting burned out. Both neighborhood associations are looking for new coordinators for the July 4<sup>th</sup> event as of next year, with help during the transition from the current organizers.

Happy Hour:

September sponsor is Jeannette Neubeiser. Venue TBD.

## **New Business:**

### Future guest speakers:

August – no meeting.

September – Beth McCann, Denver DA

Other – Julie Bock, Denver Tennis Facility

Mercede Lea, Cop Shop

DPD Officer

Eve Cohen, Our Denver - Our Schools

### Food Truck signs:

We put a few signs up with our meeting announcements to remind neighbors of the food trucks coming the day after the meeting. There were concerns that this would be interpreted as being an event sponsored by WPENA, and indeed someone did contact Tim about this, asking if his food truck could be included in the notice. It was decided not to include references to events in the meeting notices that are not WPENA sponsored.

### Free shredding:

There was discussion about sponsoring a free shredding event this fall, probably at S. High or in the park. Mikki will get information for the Board.

### Denver Days:

August 5 – 13, limited number of permits available, fees are waived and the city provides free barricades.

### Neighbor input:

Walt Heidenfelder, who lives on Marion Parkway, provided input on the new striping in the park. He stated that bicycle riders have improved, but he has witnessed one near accident recently and another previously. Washington Park should remain a family friendly park, and a “fast” lane will attract more of the pack riders. He wants the city to control bikers with more ranger patrols, and to require license plates on all bicycles ridden in the park. Riders who violate park rules should be prevented from using the park.

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

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association