

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

DATE: March 10, 2015

Amended Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Lance Clem, Joanne Asher, Neil Jorgenson, Tim McHugh, Lance Musselman and John Kudrycki.

The Board meeting was brought order by Tim at 7: 01 p.m. at St. John's.

The minutes for the February 10, 2015 meeting were reviewed as amended. Tim made a motion to approve, seconded by Neil; all approved.

Treasurer's Report: Biddie Labrot, WPENA Treasurer, was not in attendance but sent her report to the Board for review. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Lance M, seconded by Neil; all approved.

Guests:

- 1) A presentation was made by Carolyn Howard, president of the South High PTSA, about an LED sign they are planning to erect on S. High property facing the park. Approximately 2.5 by 7 ft., it will sit above the short stone wall on Louisiana and Gilpin. Using a photo cell to measure existing light, it will power down as needed to avoid being overly bright, and will be red lights on a black background. When installed at the beginning of the next school year, it will be on from 6: 30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. year round.

Lance Musselman made a motion to support the proposal as presented, with the condition that immediate neighbors support it also; Neil seconded, all approved.

- 2) Chris Nevitt presented his campaign for City Auditor. Born in Thailand, his father worked in the Foreign Service, and he majored in political science. His two terms as council president during the recession saw budget cuts of almost half a billion dollars, with the city emerging leaner but more efficient. He sees the auditor's position as a catalyst for holding the mayor and council accountable.

Committee reports:

Fourth of July:

Lori Poole will not be coordinating this event, and there is no WPE member who can co-chair, so it will be chaired by Merce Lea from West Washington Park. The need for volunteers will be posted on the website.

Yard Sale:

Lori Poole will coordinate. This is on track for August.

Newsletter:

There were several issues to discuss. One of the political ads for the spring edition was quoted the wrong amount for size of the ad, which could be a violation of municipal election ordinances if it had been run. Lance Musselman told the Board that the ad in question had been pulled and that he had requested a refund sent to the campaign.

The Board then reviewed problems raised by the newsletter editors. Biddie Labrot sent out the pre-publication newsletter article on candidate Liz Adams for review by her campaign staff, who sent a prepared article to our editors. The campaign staff then complained that what they had sent to the NL editors did not appear in the newsletter. The editors' position is that it is inappropriate to "send draft copies to anyone outside the organization to review or to fact check".

Further, Biddie did not disclose that she is the campaign treasurer for Liz Adams, the candidate whose article she sent for review to the campaign committee. Several Board members stated that this is a conflict of interest and that the Board should have been informed so that it could be discussed.

The Board also discussed the request from the NL editors to establish WPENA policies on release of pre-publication materials to people outside the organization and on conflicts of interest that may affect the credibility of the newsletter and the WPENA. Tim stated that he would set up a meeting for the editors and Board to discuss guidelines. Some of the Board members felt that these problems were exacerbated by having too many people involved in the newsletter.

Lance Clem made a motion to appoint Lance Musselman as a single point of contact between the Board and the editors. Neil seconded the motion and all approved.

Lance Clem then made a motion for a Board resolution in support of the efforts by the editors, Becky and Mark, and a statement that the Board appreciates their work. Neil seconded the motion, all approved.

Crime and Safety:

Joanne Asher brought a thank you letter from District 3 for our contribution to the Polar Plunge. District 3 raised a total of \$3,000 for the Colorado Special Olympics.

The Commander has introduced a new 10-agent drug enforcement team created to deal specifically with marijuana issues. One of the immediate concerns is the limit on plants that can be grown by caretakers for their patients, which is limited to 99 plants per patient. Some have as many as a thousand plants.

Precinct 312 (WPE) is experiencing an increase in drug possession, while car thefts are down in WPE but up in Wash Park West.

Zoning: No report this month.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh

The proposal for renovation of the loop road has been submitted to the city and is being considered. The DPR budget for 2015 does not include any funding for the loop road but it is hoped that some funds will be allocated for improvements which will increase safety. There is funding for an increase in park ranger presence from April to September. Radar guns will be used to help deter bicycle speeders. All permits in all parks will be posted on line, allowing people to check availability of open space use during the week and availability of those picnic sites which require a permit.

Memberships:

Susan Payne is planning to host a mailing party soon to send out renewal notices.

Business Membership:

Neil asked that all business membership materials and information be sent to Lance Musselman, because he is leading that effort. People are sending things to Neil instead, and as with the newsletter, it can cause confusion.

INC:

Tim McHugh reported that a candidate forum will be held April 11th from 9 to noon, co-hosted by INC, Historic Denver and the League of Women Voters.

INC is following the issues raised by short term rentals in residential neighborhoods. INC has not voted yet on whether it supports or opposes these.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. by Tim.