

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

DATE: May 9, 2017

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

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

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

The minutes for the April 11, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted. The speakers were introduced.

Presenters:

Grace Lopez Ramirez, Community Affairs Specialist and Laura Morales, Community Relations Specialist, Denver.

Grace Lopez Ramirez reviewed the purpose and responsibilities of the Office of Special Events, which does not include First Amendment assemblies. The online calendar at [www.denvergov.org/special events](http://www.denvergov.org/special%20events) provides access to all events for the next two weeks, and can be accessed by park name or event name. The calendar does not include special occasion events, club meeting or other non-permitted events.

This is the first season for changes in the rules: 1) Historic runs, which are considered priority events, that have been in place for at least 3 years, are given priority for choice of certain dates. 2) An escalating scale of sanctions for events that violate their permits. 3) Rest periods (continued from last year). 4) A blackout on new events on Saturdays at Washington Park. 5) No more than two events allowing alcohol consumption per year.

Following Lonnie Somers' presentation, attendees brought up a number of questions and problems with the Candy Run and other park events. They included:

- The route used for the event, use of barricades, whether Wash Park is always the best choice for these events, the capacity of the park itself, fairness to the neighbors near the park, response to changing conditions, how rolling closures affect neighbors, can the event be blocked if it fails to do everything it is required to do? (no), how can the neighborhood have input?

Responses from Grace Lopez Ramirez included:

- Rolling road closures are issued by DPD and no notification is required; anonymous feed back to the city is available on the website at [www.denvergov.org/specialevents](http://www.denvergov.org/specialevents); the city conducts debriefing with event coordinators post event; and, the city tries to structure permits to reduce the impact on the neighborhood.

Lonnie Somers, Fetal Hope Foundation

Lonnie described his foundation as providing advocacy and awareness for fetal diseases, and his experience coordinating many other fundraising events, including the Turkey Trot and Arthritis Foundation. The Candy Run represents 75% of his foundation's funding and has been run for many years. Recent increases in attendees and complications from having separate beginning and ending areas of the run have meant it necessary to change the format, focusing on South High parking lot and local road closures. Wash Park is not big enough to handle the number of runners, parents and other attendees. He has coordinated with DPS and the city to free up more parking at South High, move the Leaf Drop and co-locate the beginning and the end of the run. He promised increased communication with the neighborhood in the future.

Paul Kashmann, city Councilman,

Paul was represented by Brent Fahrberger, who urged neighborhood residents to contact Paul's office with park and event issues, and promised to follow up on issues presented at the meeting.

Elections.

Introduction of Board members and additional candidates. Ballots were distributed to all verified Class A members. The election slate listed Tim McHugh, Lance Musselman, Joanne Asher, William Tracy, Ryan Schulz, Monica Bresnehan, Ana Quintana and Lee Berkey. Additional nominations were requested from the audience, and Butch Clark volunteered to run for the Board.

Results:

Fourteen ballots were completed and submitted, meeting the requirements for a voting quorum.

Elected to the Board of Directors for 2017/18 were:

Joanne Asher

Lee Berkey

Monica Brisnehan

Butch Clark

Tim McHugh

Lance Musselman

Ana Quintana

Ryan Schulz

William Tracy

Election of Officers of the Board of Directors is scheduled for the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Bill Tracy presented the Treasurer's report. Revenues remaining on this date were \$9717.11, or about \$230 less than at the end of last fiscal year. The report was accepted.

**Committee Reports:**

**Communication:**

**Newsletter:**

The deadline for articles is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mikki Wilder wrote some articles on historical places in WPE.

**Website:**

Monica Bresnehan brought up discussion of event posting on the website. Events go on the calendar, but announcements are posted separately and must be in a format that can be posted. All announcements go directly to the monthly emailer and are sent out.

**Crime and Safety:**

Joanne Asher told the Board that District 3 was reporting a large number of "soft targets" such as unlocked house and garage doors, unlocked bicycles, unlocked cars and keys left in the ignition. Ford F-250's are being targeted for use in crimes because they are easier to steal.

**Park/FANS:**

Tim McHugh mentioned the upcoming Greenhouse Tour, the need for mulching volunteers and the Adopt a Tree program.

**Membership:**

Board member Ana Quintana agreed to serve as chair of this committee, and has met with Susan Payne, former membership chair.

**INC:**

Tim McHugh discussed the upcoming citywide neighborhood work group in August and asked if any members were willing to attend. The work group will include discussion about communications, role of the RNO's, neighborhood engagement and neighborhood watch.

**Traffic:**

Tim McHugh referred to a notice on Next Door about the intersection at Ohio and York streets that the city is investigating whether to upgrade the signage. Discussion included problems at Marion and Alameda, with rush hour traffic blocking cross traffic when the light turns red.

Old Business:

Happy Hour:

The annual Jiminy Wicket event at the croquet field is usually the summer happy hour. Susan will check for availability and dates.

Future Speakers:

September: Beth McCann, Denver D.A.

Denver Tennis Park?

Neighborhood Climate Action

Tim will contact Merce Lea about doing a presentation on the Cop Shop on Broadway.

WPENA Survey:

Monica Brisnehan reported that there were 72 responses to date. Another Next Door announcement will be made to get a few more, and then the results will be tallied.

Sustainable Neighborhood:

Tim McHugh discussed the proposals from Eric Rooney and Becky Goyton to sponsor a WPE application to become a sustainable neighborhood, including discussion of the process, collecting signatures and ongoing education. The consensus of the Board was to support the effort. Tim will follow up with Eric.

New Business:

Citywide Great Denver Cleanup

May 20<sup>th</sup>; event is on the website calendar.

Encroachment – Tier II Verizon Elevation Group 10

City council is in discussions with Verizon, which is proposing a cell tower in the Mayfair neighborhood.

Marijuana Education 101

Tim attended the first meeting, which was mostly regulations and laws around legal marijuana. Susan will attend the next meeting, and possibly Tim. The city wants neighborhoods to have people with expertise and awareness of the issues and legalities facing them in dealing with legal marijuana.

Other:

We received a proposal from Sara Booker to consider a neighborhood patrol, patterned after those in Dallas that pay security personnel to patrol the neighborhood 16 to 24 hours per day, provide escorts to people coming and going at night, and check out anything suspicious. About 80% of the houses in the Dallas neighborhood paid extra dues for the project. It was estimated that every house in WPE would have to pay about \$300 annually, and it asked if WPENA might be willing to try and organize this. No action was taken.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

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