

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

DATE: July 12, 2016

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tim McHugh, Joanne Asher, Susan Payne, Bill Tracy, Lance Musselman

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

The Board, guests and speakers were introduced. There were 22 non-Board members in attendance.

The minutes for the June 14, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Joanne made a motion to approve the minutes; all approved.

Presenters

Paul Kashmann, city Councilman, was the sole speaker. He has completed his first year in office, and reviewed accomplishments as well as ongoing issues. The first permanent revenue stream for funding affordable housing will raise about 150 million dollars for 6,000 living units over the next ten years through an additional residential tax of \$1 per month for the average home. A development impact fee of \$.80 to \$1.20 per square foot of new development is also being proposed.

The city will be treating ash trees during the next few years for emerald ash borers. Trees in the ROW will be treated for free if they are at least 11 inches in diameter four feet above grade. beasmartash.org has maps of the areas targeted.

STR's are now legal. Code allows primary residences to be rented up to 30 days, but the owner must register and receive a license. Owners will pay hotel taxes and face fines up to \$999 for not displaying their license numbers when advertising, or meeting other code requirements. Excise and Licensing has broad authority to administer fines and close down STR residences while investigating. See denvergov.org/str for more information.

City Council has instituted a 30 minute session for public comment at the beginning of the first meeting every month. The first was this month, and was well attended.

The city has 3200 miles of sidewalks and 400 miles of roadway with no sidewalks. Only 16 citations were issued in 2014 against homeowners for violations, and a lack of inspectors has kept the number low. A cost sharing proposal that has been used successfully in other cities is being discussed. Homeowners would be able to opt into a small tax which would pay for their sidewalk maintenance; those who fail to opt in would remain responsible for all maintenance, repair and replacement. Bonnie Brae homeowners were able to work together to get a single contractor to replace and repair hundreds of sidewalk deficiencies at a much lower cost, an initiative that can be coordinated by a neighborhood association.

The city will be doing work in the park soon, removing some of the parking areas near Smith lake to reduce conflict between cars, bicycles and pedestrians, and adding new signage and striping.

Construction complaints have increased around the city as new development impinges on neighborhoods. Complaints about noise, parking and start/end times are common. Paul provided a handout with information about requirements that must be met, including notifications of adjacent owners, noise levels, maintaining a clean work site, not blocking access to driveways and alleys, and avoiding damage to trees.

Violence on the 16th Street Mall have resulted in increased patrols by the DPD, and the hiring and deployment of private enforcement by the Downtown Denver Partnership. The city has noticed cancellations of conventions in Denver because of concerns about the mall.

Residential drainage has become an issue in the past few years due to increased construction and a rise in the water table as the drought ended. Some residences are running sump pumps full time and releasing the water into alleys, storm drains and gutters, which is legal but presents problems for neighbors. The water freezes in the winter and sounds like a creek during the summer months. The city is studying the problem.

Paul is increasing the hours he meets with the public at Pete's Cafe to 8 - 12.

After the presentation, questions from the audience continued for another hour. Issues included drainage, zoning codes and large houses, parking by construction vehicles, the number of permits allowed on a single block, leaving construction trailers parked for days and weeks in the same spot, roll-offs blocking visibility at intersections, sidewalk repair, re-curbings and driveway improvement funds, affordable housing, accountability and transparency of MJ funds collected by the city, increases in crime and traffic, and the I-70 reconstruction.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses. July begins a new fiscal year and WPENA ended last year with \$9,888.07 in the bank, representing about seven months of operating expenses. This is about \$1300 less than last year, primarily due to unanticipated expenses for incorporating as a non profit, attorney fees and filing expenses associated with bring our tax obligation up to date. The report was accepted.

Bill presented a proposed budget for the current year of \$13,960 in revenues and \$12,333 in expenses. The proposal was discussed by the Board; Lance made a motion to accept the proposal, Joanne seconded and all approved.

Committee Reports: (Note: because the presentation ran longer than usual because of public interest, review of committee issues was abbreviated).

Newsletter:

Lance Musselman reviewed the articles needed for the fall edition of the newsletter, which will be due August 15th. There is no Board meeting in August. Lance also dis-

tributed pictures from the 4th of July and Fishing Days events at the park, which can be used in the monthly emailer and the newsletter.

Lance discussed plans for adding a regular article on the history of WPE, such as the naming of Exposition Avenue, the old hotel at Virginia and Marion, Smith Lake's history as a swimming hole, etc. Several ideas were discussed.

Website:

Tim is meeting with David to add administrators, which will allow Board members to update areas of the website individually.

Crime and Safety:

Joanne Asher reported that burglaries are down 10% but car thefts and theft from cars are up 30%.

It is now possible to text a call to 911.

Zoning: No report.

Park/FANS: No report.

Membership: No report.

INC: No report.

New Business:

Yard Sale: on schedule. Ryan Schulz reported that Goodwill no longer provides trucks, and he is checking with ARC and other donation charities. He and Susan are working to get the map ready and meeting with David to get it on the website. Ryan will print notices for posting around the neighborhood. 3

Speakers for future WPENA meetings have been lined up:

August: No meeting

September: Denver Wastewater.

October: Tina Axlerod and Kyle Dalton, Planning and Development.

Not yet scheduled: Jessica Jones, COPIRG. Denver NORML.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 by Tim McHugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

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