

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

DATE: September 13, 2016

Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

The minutes for the July 12th meeting were reviewed. Bill made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Lance; all approved.

The Board, guests and speakers were introduced.

Presenters:

Mike Cerbo, candidate for the RTD Board, introduced himself. He is a civil engineer, and worked on the new train line to DIA.

Milke Cerbo Sr. spoke in favor of the DPS Bond Issue on the November ballot as 3a (the mill levy override) and 3b. (the bond). While 3a will provide training for teachers in literacy instruction and provide mental health services to DPS students,, the bond will provide funds for new campus construction, building repairs, add air conditioning and expand technology through more computers and science labs.

Michael Kiley shared his reservations about the bond issue, pointing out past failures of the DPS Board to adhere to spending guidelines in past bond issues, including failure to award sufficient projects to women and minority owned businesses, rein in charter school spending and wasting money intended for the arts. He stated that investing in more teachers would lower classroom size and improve outcomes and that the Board needs to provide more disclosure.

Valerie Kerns from Paul Kashmann's office spoke about DenverRight, an online survey meant to collect citizen input that will be used to modify Blueprint Denver, development of trails and bike paths, etc. Public meetings will be held at 5 different locations beginning October 4th.

New Business:

After the presentations, Tim announced that Susan Payne was retiring from the WPENA Board for family reasons. Tim told the Board that Ryan Schulz was interested in joining the Board; Tim asked others in attendance if any were also interested. Ryan being the only candidate, Susan made a motion to appoint Ryan to the Board; all approved (including Joanne Asher's verbal proxy vote given to Lance Musselman. The Board welcomed Ryan to the Board, which stands at 5 members.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for July 1 through September 13, 2016, the first two and a half months of the first quarter of the fiscal year. The balance in the checking account stands at \$8,263.11. The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter:

Mikki Wilder presented the Board with mock-ups of signage that can be used to announce monthly WPENA meetings, with a clear pocket for the date. The idea is to purchase a few of these to put out in the right of way a couple of days before meetings to encourage more attendance. We decided to look at these at the next meeting.

Lance Musselman asked the Board to award Mikki a bonus for her first year as the newsletter editor. She has done an outstanding job and is both conscientious and efficient. Bill made a motion to give her a bonus of \$240; Ryan seconded, all approved.

Monthly Emailer:

Susan will not be able to head this up but will provide assistance as possible. Ryan stated that he will help with the emailer, and Susan thought that Steve Skalski might be able to assist also.

Website:

David Kottcamp will no longer be able to maintain the website because of extensive travel. Steve Skalski has offered to help maintain the website. David will train Tim and Susan on website maintenance and to use Mail Chimp, a mail distribution software program. Tim and Susan in turn can train other volunteers.

Crime and Safety:

Joanne Asher was not able to attend because of a schedule conflict with the CAB meeting. She will provide a report at the next meeting.

Zoning:

Tim reviewed the variance that was reviewed by the Zoning Committee, a request for variance to allow a dormer on the second floor of an alley living space. The committee supported the request for the variance.

A general member of the audience brought up objections to the approval and asked how the WPENA decided whether to support variance requests that are forwarded by the City.

Tim explained that the current process is to review a zoning variance request. These are routinely forwarded to the WPENA for our input. The zoning committee meets with the owner requesting the variance at the location of the property and examines both the property and the variance request in detail. The zoning committee then meets later and votes on the request, primarily based on what the zoning regulations allow. The chairperson then emails the results of the vote, with rationale and thought processes, to the BOA. The WPENA board is informed of all zoning committee activities at the monthly WPENA meeting.

This led to a discussion of the role of the RNO zoning committee. Lance Musselman and a number of residents at the meeting expressed the belief that the zoning committee and the WPENA,, as a Registered Neighborhood Association with the City and County of Denver, should actively seek input from neighbors near the property before making a decision, the thinking being that the focus of the neighborhood association should be on gathering and forwarding the response of the neighbors to the city. This model would remove the zoning committee from reviewing and judging the quality of the variance request and whether it conformed to zoning regulations, which is a function of the city zoning department.

Paul Kashmann recommended that the WPENA Board ask people from the Zoning Commission to make a presentation on the role and responsibilities of the RNO's in relation to recommendations to approve or disapprove variances.

Park/FANS:

Tim McHugh reported that the issues appearing before the FANS association were updates on the playground, the changes to the loop road and taking a look at the Longmont model for using domestic dogs to keep geese out of the park.

Membership:

Susan Payne, who has resigned from the Board, reviewed upcoming issues with membership. The membership drive occurs in January, with pre-addressed envelopes in the newsletter and notices on email and Next Door. She will not have the time to continue the monthly emailer, but offered to help maintain the website.

INC:

Tim McHugh reported that INC supports the affordable housing fee ordinance proposed by city council. Additionally, the INC recently filed a motion to support the moratorium on the section of the zoning code that releases developers of small apartment buildings from the requirement to have sufficient parking space for cars.

Susan will continue to be a representative to INC for the WPENA.

Old Business:

Tim announced that the city decided to install a four-way stop at the intersection of High and Mississippi, which WPENA requested.

Speakers for future WPENA meetings have been lined up:

October: Tina Axelrod and Kyle Dalton, zoning.

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

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association