

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

DATE: February 9, 2016

Board Meeting Minutes

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

The Board meeting was brought order by Tim McHugh at 6:46 p.m. at St. John's. The Board lacked a quorum, so business was begun which did not require a quorum.

Presenters:

Jill Locantore, Walk Denver

Jill stated that their philosophy is that people are pedestrians by design, so cities should be built to be walkable. The city maintains roadways, so why not sidewalks? Paul Kashmann is chairing a council committee to look at this proposal, with the idea that the council will take action by the end of 2016. Funding would be through a fee or tax paid by homeowners. Boulder has a program that splits the cost of sidewalk repairs with homeowners. Denver, however, has a complaint process that limits individuals to one complaint per year; homeowners are then notified that they have to make the repairs.

Jeff Hart, candidate for HD 6

Jeff stated that his experience with the EPA as a financial manager makes him familiar with government funding mechanisms, and that his work on climate change led him to work with Al Gore. He also said that he supports finance reform and feels that it is key to improving the democratic process.

There being a quorum, business proceeded.

The minutes for the January 12, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Susan made a motion to approve, seconded by Bill; all approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The membership drive in January brought more dues in to the association. After membership dues of \$840.00 and \$170.00 in contributions, WPENA had \$9863.44 in funds and assets.

Revisions to Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

Bill reviewed the reasons behind the need to revise these. Tax law changes in 2009 required filing by nonprofits, and WPENA had not filed. In order to file for an exempt organization status, we need to conform our bylaws and articles of incorporation to IRS standards for a 501 -c-4 status. We need to notify all voting members of WPENA, on our website and by mail and email, if necessary, by April 15th. Bill made a motion stating the intent of the Board to recommend new articles of incorporation for approval by a majority of a quorum of qualified members, seconded by Susan, all approved. Bill made a second motion to ask Becky (our tax lawyer) to give a full

review of and revise the bylaws and articles of incorporation to conform to both State and local laws and ordinances, seconded by Susan, approved by all Board members. All approved.

Reports:

Communications: Neil Jorgenson. No report.

Newsletter: Lance Musselman

Advertising revenues increased by \$3200, mostly for annual commitments. Mikki Wilder, the newsletter editor, voiced some concern that we may be reaching a limit on ad space. Most of the increased advertising is in real estate, bringing questions whether some diversification is needed. A notice for a reverse mortgage presentation at the library by Mikki will run also as a mini ad, paid by Mikki. There was discussion and consensus that these issues are not a problem.

The Board discussed whether to include a crossword puzzle submitted by a resident of WPE. Mikki said she would shrink it to fit and see whether it was large enough to read. The answers can be printed in the next monthly emailer.

Darrel's cartoon contest had a winner, who will receive a framed and signed original.

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher

The February CAB meeting was cancelled due to the weather. Joanne reported on two arrests of burglars and said that street robberies are up in the past year, including a robbery recently near DU. The Neighborhood Watch representative for WPE is Darcy Barlow, and that WPE is considered a model for new startups of the Watch program.

Zoning: No report.

Traffic: Tim McHugh.

There was a report of a pedestrian-auto accident at Virginia and Marion today, which will renew the concerns about safety and the need for a stop sign or other modifications to the intersection.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh.

A quick update of the next projects in the park, including new signage in the flower beds. A representative of the Boy Scouts has been contacted to see if this is a project they would like to undertake. The playground deconstruction and relocation will have another meeting on March 3rd, and a committee chaired by Paul Kashmann is studying whether the use of recycled water to water the grass is damaging the trees.

Membership: Susan Payne.

Susan reported that we have 155 current members by mid-February; last year we had 300 by the end of the year.

Business membership: Lance Musselman

The Board created a special member status for businesses that are not within WPE boundaries in April, 2015, because the bylaws allow only resident businesses to be business members. These non-resident businesses are business supporters, the annual dues are the same as resident businesses, and they receive the same benefits such as having their logos printed in the newsletter and monthly emailer.

INC: Susan Payne and Tim McHugh

Susan presented INC's position on homelessness, titled the Housing First Approach to address homelessness, which calls for the city to form partnerships with neighborhoods to find funding for managed and supported housing. Forty percent of the homeless are out of work or going through a non-permanent crisis. There was a consensus of the Board to support the position.

Old business>

Bumper stickers for WPE

The presentation last month about printing bumper stickers that would identify users as neighborhood residents evolved into a plan to check into removable window stickers that could be given or sold to WPE residents who pay membership dues. A design with the park geese would be easily identifiable. Susan will check into prices and Darrell will put together a design.

Short Term Rentals

A meeting at South High School presented the city's plan to regulate these temporary rentals (like AirB&B). A major issue is the city's plan to allow only primary residences to be licensed, which would prevent people from purchasing houses and turning them into permanent motels in residential neighborhoods. Licensed residences would be required to pay the same city taxes as hotels. There are three more meetings; feedback can be left on the city website.

New Business:

Happy Hour

We will set another Happy Hour in late March. Susan is also planning another croquet event for Jimminy Wicket. Ana Quintana has offered to co-sponsor a Happy Hour, and Ryan Schulz of Guaranteed Rate gave WPENA a check for \$100 to co-sponsor a Happy Hour.

Citizens' Advisory council – Paul Kashmann

The 1st mtg was 1/21/16 and about 20 people attended from neighborhoods in District 6. City planners will help neighborhoods develop plans for housing, traffic and other issues. Forty four percent of Denver neighborhoods do not have plans.

Free Citywide Cleanup

Scheduled for May 21st, the city will provide free drop off sites for large items and extra garbage, with drop off sites around the city.

August neighborhood yard sale

Ryan Schulz offered to help coordinate the yard sale. He will call Lorie Poole.

Denver PD Polar Plunge

Joanne made a motion to donate \$50 to sponsor District Three's Team, seconded by Lance; motion passed with four approvals and one abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 by Tim Mchugh.

Lance Musselman

Secretary

WPENA