

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association

DATE: September 12, 2017

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Tim McHugh, Bill Tracy, Lance Musselman, Joanne Asher, Butch Clark, Lee Berkey, Monica Brisnehan, Ana Quintana.

Members not present: Ryan Schulz.

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

The minutes for the July 11, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Board members, guests and speakers were introduced.

Presenters:

Julie Bock, Project Director, Denver Tennis Park.

Julie reviewed the development plan from the beginning, which started as a way to address the lack of tennis courts for youth in Denver, leaving schools scrambling to find available courts. Three acres of land on the South High School lot were identified as a potential area, and subsequent planning showed it to be feasible. Drainage remediation will cost \$3M and reduce the number of available parking spaces by only 12. Questions from the audience included access, east side parking, community use of the facility, pedestrian and bicycle through access, and storage of equipment and materials. Public access will be allowed during periods when neither DPS nor DU are using the facility. Lighting at night will be turned off around 10:30 or 11:00 pm, using low mass lights facing toward I-25. The property will be leased to the tennis authority for 50 years; requirements include serving at least 1500 DPS students onsite and 2500 off site through their outreach program, annually.

Scott Hoye, Denver City and County.

Scott urged support of the portion of the bond funding on November's ballot for Denver Health, which will be used to build an outpatient at 6th and Speer. One in four children in Denver get health care from Denver Health; the amount allocated in the bond issue is \$75M.

Paul Kashmann, City Councilman.

Valerie Kerns stood in for Paul, notifying the members that the 2018 budget had been posted on the city website.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Tracy presented the report on revenues and expenses for the past month. The balance of the WPENA bank account is \$9347.26. We got several new memberships. The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Monica Brisnehan, Chair

Newsletter:

Lance Musselman reported that the newsletter is going to the printer.

Monthly emailer:

Monica discussed submitting the monthly emailer to the Profile, to see if they can include some of the information about events and neighborhood issues.

Crime and Safety: Joanne Asher, Chair

Joanne followed up on the request last meeting to support a private security detail for WPE, which would involve hiring off duty police and asking homeowners to pay monthly fees. Joanne said that the fees would be in the neighborhood of \$300 monthly and the DPD would have to be involved and approve any such arrangement. Information from a similar project in Dallas was handed out. There was no Board action.

Door to door sales are increasingly being complained about. Sales people must have a license which is visible, such as on a lanyard around the neck, and must end at dusk. Car thefts amounted to \$3.7M in losses last year in Denver.

The Cop Shop at Broadway and Alameda is not staffed around the clock. Homeowners who call the city graffiti line can get the graffiti washed off and the wall repainted for free.

Zoning: Biddie Labrot, Chair; Tim McHugh and Susan Payne reporting.

Cases: The zoning committee met twice on variance requests. One, on S. Franklin, was not recommended for approval by the zoning committee, and was not granted by the BOA. The second, on S. Vine, was recommended for approval by the zoning committee.

Committee Protocol:

Tim reiterated that the zoning committee derives its authority from the WPENA Board of Directors, and has no legal standing.

Park/FANS: Tim McHugh, Chair

The next meeting of FANS will be attended by Parks and Rec employees getting feedback on park issues, including the changes to the Loop Road in the park. There has been a lot of feedback about the changes, and there has been an online survey of park users.

Tim also mentioned the Adopt a Tree program, and the successful celebration event of the 150th anniversary of the City Ditch.

Membership: Ana Quintana, Chair

Welcome bags are ready to be given to new members. Ten local businesses contributed items of value, including coupons, for the effort. A letter from Tim welcoming them to the neighborhood is also included. Ana has gotten 27 new members this summer. Next year she is going to target renewals.

Ana is also keeping a list of houses sold in WPE to identify new neighbors, and sending them welcome postcards. 71 homes sold from May 1st through August 31st.

INC: Tim McHugh and Susan Payne, INC Representatives

Public/private partnerships such as DIA's construction partnership are a concern of INC's, which believes that the city should work closely with the city council when developing these partnerships.

The reconstruction of I-70 continues to raise issues. The latest is the impact on youth who live in the area being reconstructed. They already have 40% more respiratory problems than youth in other areas. Total cost for I-70 and the pipeline to the golf course to use for drainage is now \$2.5B.

The INC is developing programs to assist RNO's with their concerns, such as getting neighbors more involved. INC has also developed a template, available on their Good Neighbor site, for use in dealing with requests for marijuana social clubs, which are required by law to get support from RNO's and other associations in order to get approval from the city.

Traffic: Bill Tracy, Chair

Bill discussed the city's focus on mobility and the process of developing a separate cabinet level department to deal with all transportation issues, instead of Public Works, and to coordinate closely with CDOT.

Other traffic issues:

- The high capacity bus corridor on Colfax is in the city's plans;
- Cars are avoiding congestion and construction delays by driving through neighborhoods at an increasing rate;
- The bond request includes funds for extending bicycle lanes, including the lane on S. Broadway – to I-25, and \$30M for expanding sidewalks in areas that do not have them so as to provide continuous passage for pedestrians.

Problematic intersections remain an issue. The city has decided that adding a left turn lane at Downing and Louisiana is too complicated.

Old Business:

Future Speakers:

October: Beth McCann (Denver DA) and/or Brandon Reitheimer (Denver Green Roof Initiative).

Future: Eve Cohen, Our Denver, Our Schools

Merce Lea, (WWPNA), Cop Shop

WPENA Survey

Preliminary results – recommendations/requests by survey takers handed out to Board members and attendees. Board will discuss these over the next few meetings.

Liability Insurance

Investigate need, cost, coverage, personal liability. Tim checked WWPNA and Harvey Park Neighborhood Association, and found that WWPNA has no liability insurance while Harvey Park does.

Work group: Lance, Bill and Lee.

Happy Hour:

September 21st at Wash Park Grill. Host Jeannette Neubeiser, Denver Homes and Properties

New Business:

Proposal for dog poop bag stations from private company

A company that specializes in placing bag stations asked if the association was interested in supporting placement in the park and neighborhood. The Board showed no interest in supporting the proposal.

Partnership request from Snarf's Sandwiches

This company contacted the association about partnering with them during their Friends and Family event, a training session for their company employees. They invite nearby neighbors and local businesses to enjoy a sandwich (provided by the company) and collect donations to provide to a local organization. The Board suggested that the company be contacted about advertising in the newsletter or becoming a business supporter.

Denver Green Roof Initiative, Brandon Reitheimer

Ballot proposal this November. Would require large new buildings to incorporate solar panels, grasses and other innovations to reduce urban heat sink effects.

WPENA meeting notice signs

Mikki will check on the cost of getting signs with permanent notices (not date specific) to substitute for the current signs.

Friday Night Lights

2 football games at South High this Friday 9/15

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

Lance Musselman

Secretary

Washington Park East Neighborhood Association