

Denver Neighborhood **Connection**

The Newsletter of Inter-Nighborhood Cooperation

June 1997

June 14 Meeting

Minutes of Last Meeting

By Diane Wolta
Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Chairman Stan McIntyre. The meeting was hosted by Denver Water. Leslie Parker (628-6553) welcomed us and advised that anyone with any questions about their department should call her. Use Leslie as a contact for tours of the xeriscape gardens, or to schedule a speaker at your neighborhood meetings.

INC Business:

(1) **Treasurer's report** (dated June 9, 1997) was handed out in written form: Savings = \$1,973.97; Checking = 4,197.12; Bellevue-Hale Assoc. = \$13,394.47; and Dollar Dictionary = \$331.86. Total income was \$1,300 and expenses were \$1,105.37.

(2) **City Zoning Code Recodification:** Mike Henry, advised that the current code is a 25 to 41 year old patchwork quilt of modifications, and is inconsistent (especially the definitions), confusing and convoluted. It needs to be simplified. There are two levels that need updating: (a) a good editing -- table of contents, index, definitions, better charts, etc.; and (b) really update the language and concepts and bring it into the 21st century. Mayor Webb had said in the past that this was a "second term project" -- we are now half-way through his second term and we have only 10% of the work completed (and the staff person who did that 10% is now retired)! City money needs to be found and budgeted for this project. Mike and Jim Zavist (INC Zoning Chair) and Stan have written many letters over the past several years, to Council Land Use Committee Chair, Debbie Ortega, for the Council to support and begin this process. No response has been received. Mike suggested having all neighborhoods write letters to Mayor Webb and Council lobbying for this effort to begin. Stan suggested that we should use some of our associate members, like the Downtown Denver Partnership, League of Women Voters and Denver Board of Realtors to get this jump started. *Motion:* "INC shall call upon the Mayor and City Council to start this rezoning process and provide for adequate funding and staff to start and complete the process."

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July 12 INC

Meeting Features Transit Discussion

At the July 12 meeting, there will be a discussion of Transit '97, a proposed regional transportation plan, which will be on the ballot this November. Representatives from RTD, Transit '97, and the Independence Institute have been invited to discuss the pros and cons of the transportation plan.

There will be three brief (10 minutes each) speeches on: (1) The process RTD used to develop the plan; (2) A general explanation of the proposal (pro); and (3) Other possible options (con). This will be followed by a 15-20 minute question-and-answer session that will include all INC delegates and members present. Those with questions may contact INC Transportation Chair Tom Tayon at 758-5572.

Let's Help Margot!

Longtime INC supporter Margot Hartmann has been sued by the owner of an East Colfax day labor employment service for allegedly defaming the owner and the business, supposedly in an effort to influence a rezoning proposal. A fund has been started to help Margot with her legal expenses. Those who would like to contribute should mail a check to the Margot Hartmann Legal Defense Fund, 1820 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80218.

The printing of this issue is sponsored in part by Quick Print, 1550 South Colorado Blvd., 758-0694. INC appreciates the support of this Denver business.



Chairman's Column

By Stan McIntyre

The INC Executive Board voted to involve our associate members to support us in recodification of the Denver Zoning Code. Neighborhood associations, let your Denver City Council member know you support INC's attempt to get this project started.

INC will be forming an INC Foundation so we can apply for a 501(c)(3). We will be interviewing persons that can fill this important position. The INC Foundation will have the responsibility of raising money for INC projects. INC will be applying for a 501(c)(4).

Dorothy Wells has been working very hard on membership. Lets help her out. If you have not paid your membership dues, please do so. When your association changes presidents or delegates please notify Dorothy so we can keep our list current.

INC has been invited to have a booth at the South Platte River Founders Day in August. We are looking for suggestions on how to make it a success. Expectations of a crowd of 30 to 35 thousand people will be at this event. This can be a good showcase for us.

A clean up of Federal Boulevard is in the planning stages. Watch for more information on the web site and new media. Destruction of property costs all of us. It only takes a few to make Denver ugly. Let's make them clean up their wrongdoings.

Letters to the Editor

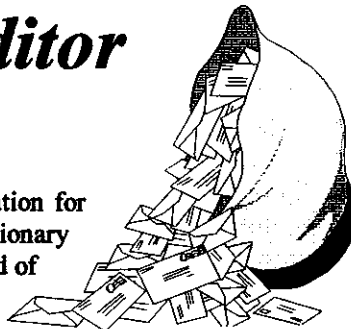
Dear Editor:

Congratulations to Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation for the Neighborhoods USA award for the Dollar Dictionary Drive project. You all have every reason to be proud of your efforts to extend children's language skills by providing dictionaries to all Denver third graders.

I am sure you have shopped hard to get the best price for the dictionaries you have purchased. As a large book-buyer, the Denver Public Library might be able to assist you in securing most favorable pricing for future purchases.

Again, heartiest congratulations! If we can help, please let us know.

Rick J. Ashton
City Librarian



Dear Editor:

I am truly impressed with both the outstanding level of leadership and the quality of the member groups of the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation. Those two characteristics have helped to make you the tremendous resource that you are for all of the citizens of Denver.

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South Platte Rendezvous Is August 22 - 23

Mayor Webb and the South Platte River Commission are proud to announce the 1997 South Platte River Rendezvous, a celebration of Denver's western heritage, on the site of the city's original settlement at the junction of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek, now the site of Confluence Park. The public is invited and the event is free.

What makes the River Rendezvous unique is that it takes place at the actual birthplace of Denver on the banks of the South Platte River. This unique and authentic experience will convey a living history lesson of our city's heritage from its auspicious beginnings to its modern-day status as the business and transportation core of the Rocky Mountain region. In addition, this will debut to the public the city's newest Riverfront Park additions (Centennial and Fishback), an important element of Mayor Webb's long-term commitment to open space and parks along the river.

The event will be held August 22 and 23, 1997 at Riverfront Park. Entertainment will include over 70 exhibitors and vendors, and historical re-enactors with prospectors, Buffalo Soldiers, settlers, trappers, a trading post, an indian encampment, and colorful legends such as Annie Oakley, Buffalo Bill and mountain man Jim Beckworth.

The River Rendezvous is presented by MCI, the Mayor's South Platte River Commission, The Greenway Foundation, Wells Fargo Bank, Frontier Airlines, and media sponsors The Rocky Mountain News and KCKK-FM. This year's event theme is "Denver Past & Present."

August Newsletter Has Early Deadline

Articles for the August *Denver Neighborhood Connection* must be submitted by July 14 to INC, P.O. Box 300116, Denver, CO. 80218.

Entries must be submitted as typed originals. No faxes, please.

You're Invited !

**Join Our Second
Neighborhood
Code Enforcement
Assembly**

**Hosted By Neighborhood Support Services
&
Inter Neighborhood Cooperation**

**In Partnership With
Neighborhood Watch &
Office Of Neighborhood Response**

**Tuesday, September 9, 1997
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Denver Museum Of Natural History
Ricketson Auditorium**

- * Meet Your Neighborhood Code Investigator**
- * Learn About Guidelines For Neglected And Derelict
Buildings**
- * Learn About Nuisance Property Abatement**

Snacks And Refreshments Will Be Served

Neighborhood Support Services is a component of the Denver Public Works Department, Solid Waste Management Division. Neighborhood Support Services enforces exterior property maintenance standards enacted by Denver City Council, as well as rubbish handling guidelines established by the Manager of Denver Public Works.

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation consists of a broad coalition of Denver registered neighborhood organizations seeking to gather and share information.

Neighborhood Support Services: 640-2000

Minutes and Around the City

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pumping the water without permits.

W. University is still proceeding on the Shattuck Chemical superfund lawsuit. **Cook Park** sent in a letter of support for W. University's efforts in their lawsuit and encourages all other associations to do the same, and reported that the Denver Dept. of Social Services Advisory Board Meetings are a joke -- they haven't had a quorum in months and they don't discuss or do anything, and despite Virginia Wielgot's several attempts to get the names and appointment terms from the Mayor's office, she has been unsuccessful. What's going on there? **USED** said to give Tom Tayon a call regarding the TMA shuttle on S. Colorado Blvd. and to get your area up to speed on transportation issues.

Denver Foundation (Christy Soto, 778-7587) is interested in strengthening neighborhoods, so give her a call. **Auditor's Office** (Chip Sprock) stated the city's Comprehensive Annual Report is now available on the Internet (www.infodenv.gov). **Overland** met with Mayor Webb (who supports their position) to get the use of a land cap overturned by the Federal government. **Office of Neighborhood Response** gave an update on local neighborhood impacts due to the "Summit of the 8."

E. Montclair reported that one of the raided motels on E. Colfax just came up for a renewal of its license but the hearing was postponed until July 10 because too many neighborhood people came out in opposition to the renewal. **Barnum Improvement** handed out "instructions" on how to use the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance (it takes two disturbance complaints to qualify under nuisance abatement); and their surveillance cameras for detecting property vandalism are operational. **Pine Valley** is using free concerts at DTC to make

their presence known to their neighbors.

City Planning Dept., Harriet Hogue, advised that the next Public Meeting on City Park issues is June 25 at the Denver Museum of Natural History (in the park), and commented that many cities (like Ft. Collins) sent large (7 to 9) person delegations to the Neighborhood USA convention, so INC needs to finding funding to do the same! **Harkness Heights** applied for a small neighborhood grant and got \$2,000 for a park at Clay and Speer.

The meeting was adjourned at noon, and everyone was invited on a guided tour of the xeriscape gardens.



Letters To The Editor

(Continued from page 2)

I have had first-hand experience with the wonderful people of INC. My office collected money and also participated in handing out the dictionaries during INC's Dollar Dictionary Drive. The drive and coordination for the project were superb. One look at the faces of the children who received the dictionaries said all there was to say about the success of the endeavor. Please accept my heartiest congratulations to all whose

efforts helped INC take First Place in the Multi-Neighborhood Project partnerships competition. You certainly demonstrated to NUSA and the rest of the country the tremendous care and concern felt by INC for all of the children of our community.

I wish you the best of luck and continued success in all of your future endeavors!

Donald J. Mares
Auditor

Attention Registered Neighborhood Associations!

Mark your calendar and be prepared to come aboard the E. Central Internet web site at the August 9 INC meeting. Ted Pinkowitz of E. Central will be at the meeting to help us get on board and give your association the most coverage. Your membership in INC will assure that your neighborhood will be one of the first ones on the web site.

For more information be at the INC July Meeting. A lot of preparation has to be done by each association. Your history, boundaries, officers, meeting dates, and issues in your neighborhood can be on your web site. Now is the time to start working on your program. For more information call 830-0123.

Minutes and Around the City

(Continued from page 1)

Passed unanimously.

Should this be a topic for the next INC quarterly meeting (August 6) with the Mayor? INC needs suggestions for topics and/or questions and on a location for the meeting.

Debbie Ortega did speak on this issue after arriving about 10 minutes later. She said that Cathy Reynolds was supposed to have contacted Mike to advise that Council is leaning towards Director of Planning Jennifer Moulton's suggestion to take our time and look at redoing our zoning codes from a "liveable cities perspective," as that is the hot new planning concept being used in some other cities. This could take "awhile." Stan indicated that was not acceptable and we needed action now, as "awhile" sounded like it could be another several years.

(3) **New Member: Motion:** "To admit Grand View as a member of INC and provide our standard deal of getting the first year of membership at no charge." Passed unanimously.

(4) **City's Renaissance Project:** Dick Bjurstrom advised that this project is slogging along and bogged down.

(5) **Zoning:** Jim Zavist handed out a sample zoning materials packet of information and gave suggestions on how to handle, respond to, and notify your residents regarding various zoning issues that will come up.

(6) **Dollar Dictionary Drive:** Cathee Fisher, Tom Tayon and Sarah Bradley presented Stan and INC with the plaque and the \$500 check that we received in taking first place in the Multi-Neighborhood category at the annual Neighborhoods USA convention (for the 1996 dictionary drive). Cathee played a video tape of portions of the conference and her receipt of the award at the conference. (City Council, at its June 16 meeting, passed a resolution honoring INC for this accomplishment).

(7) **District 9 Councilwoman Debbie Ortega** welcomed INC to her district, and in addition to the zoning comments above, mentioned: (a) the Telecommunications Ordinance passed City Council; and (b) the Pay Telephones Ordinance is moving forward -- it will require all pay phones on private property to be removed except for indoor phones (this is an effort to decrease drug trafficking); and (c) the biggie issue is the recent unearthing of an effort at a "stealth siting" of a new jail complex, with no City Council input and just a hastily called neighborhood meeting (June 24) with only a week's notice! This is not to be confused with the siting of the juvenile jail facility. This is an example of poor communication and notification by the city, specifically Bruce Baumgarner, Director of Public Works. This is proposed for the Sears warehouse site east of I-25 between 6th and 8th Avenues. This site is currently a thriving tax producing part of the community.

(8) **Colorado Blvd. TMA:** Dick Bjurstrom has been our INC delegate but has had to resign due to a business conflict of interest.

Presentations:

(1) **Colorado Environmental Coalition** (Monica Piergrossi,

Field Coordinator, 837-1198) gave a slide show presentation. They are a 30-yr. old grass roots organization for environmental advocacy. She is available to provide information on this topic at meetings, as well as on the "Transit Initiative" coming up on the November ballot.

(2) **United Way** (Sarah Tanner, 561-2272) has a free computer disk with 3,000 sources of assistance programs and the providers ("Employee Assistance Directory"). This data base is updated quarterly and when they get this on-line it will be updated daily.

(3) **Great Outdoors Denver** -- GOCDenver (similar to GOCO -- Great Outdoors Colorado) (Jim Meyers, 932-7506) advised us about their citizen ballot initiative. This is supposed to provide \$15.5 million in a dedicated trust fund for the acquisition of parks, open space and environmental education for Denver neighborhoods. To be administered by a citizens committee appointed by the Mayor and director of Parks & Rec. Neighborhoods and non-profits can apply to develop a site in their area and the entire city will get relatively equal shares of funds over time.

Around the City

Many associations were represented, only those who spoke about city-wide issues are listed below.

Cherry Point wants traffic calming, please, and their cross walks painted as promised 1-year ago. **University Park** invited all to

the observatory this evening and their annual 4th of July celebration with a kids bike parade. **Concerned Citizens for Barnum** says it pays to apply for grants -- they got \$1,750 from the Partners Program for "Stop and Learn" signage, to be placed along the paths at Barnum Lake, to explain the wetlands plants and their environmental contributions. **Mayfair** says beware of a woman knocking on your door (on a Sunday morning!) and asking to use the phone because she has car trouble -- Carter B. had articles stolen from his home for being so accommodating.

Mayfair Inc. stated that at least one of the motels raided (through the use of the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance) along E. Colfax is refurbishing and is interested in cleaning up its act. **CHUN** wants everyone to be aware that the city employee who used to notify neighborhoods of alley vacations has retired and at the moment no one is doing this job ("not my job mon"?); their People's Fair was dampened last weekend but still successful; and Margot Hartmann Crowe's defense fund (she's the victim of a SLAPP lawsuit because she exercised her right of free speech on a neighborhood related issue) fund raiser" is June 2 -- if you can't make it feel free to mail Margot your donation.

Mayfair Park said the Lowry Redevelopment Authority was recently cited with 13 violations of RCRA (Colorado hazardous waste laws) on their street improvements and infrastructure projects after hitting an underground TCE water plume and

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Tips for Dealing With City Government

Time is something that neighborhood associations never seem to have enough of. As recent events have shown, time, or the lack of it, also can be used as a tactic to preclude neighborhood or citizen input to important decisions. As the Renaissance Project moves forward and the general pace of government speeds up, it is important that neighborhoods keep pace with these changes or face the prospect of being left out of the process. The following are several useful tips that might help your neighborhood keep on track with your relations with city government.

1. Establish an Executive Committee that has a set time to meet every week or two. This committee can meet during a conference call, over the Internet, or face-to-face at the local pub to discuss topical neighborhood events.
2. Set up a Block Captain and phone tree system. These systems will allow you to communicate quickly and effectively with all the members of your group.
3. Establish a centralized place to post notices.
4. Make use of your committees and their chairs. By delegating you can increase the number of people who have a stake in your neighborhood and lessen the drain on your time.
5. Consider holding annual "Special Events" and or fundraisers and make use of these gatherings as mini general meetings.
6. Reach out to business and city employees in your area. These people often know about projects that effect your community before the city informs neighborhood associations.

These tips will help keep your neighborhood ahead of the curve in its relations with the city. If you have any questions about this article or want to add some of the things your neighborhood does to save time please contact Dick Bjurstrom at 756-9198.

August 6 is Quarterly Meeting with Mayor

The INC Quarterly Meeting with the Mayor an opportunity to address questions or concerns directly to the Mayor. The Mayor's appointee's are also at this meeting, so questions will not only get the Mayor's attention but also that of the appropriate department head.

The next INC Quarterly Meeting will be August 6, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. The location will be announced at the next INC Meeting. For more information call one of the board members. Those who would like to present questions ahead of time should give them to Tom Tayon or any Board member.

Stapleton Development Office Offers Presentations

"What will be done with the old runways at Stapleton?" "Will there be affordable housing built at the old airport?" "How much of the property will be preserved for parks and open space?"

The answers to these and other questions are only a telephone call away. The Stapleton Development Corporation would like to make a presentation to your neighborhood organization to provide the latest information about the transformation of a former airport into a new community that will bring jobs, housing and open space to Denver. Equally important, we want to solicit your continued input.

The Stapleton Plan was the product of thousands of hours of work by hundreds of citizens -- many of them who were representing the views of their neighbors. If you would like an update on the progress being made now at Stapleton, please call either Tammi Baker at 393-7700 or Tom Gleason at 295-7900 to schedule a presentation for your neighborhood organization, professional association or civic group.

Youth Art Funds Now Available

Standing Taller is an arts centered, neighborhood based approach that supports the healthy development of youth in their passage through early adolescence. Standing Taller involves artists and citizens of all ages in the creation of artistic and cultural activities that draw on a neighborhood's rich multicultural heritage and that give direction to, support and celebrate life transitions of middle school youth and their parents.

Standing Taller is one of neighborhood Cultures of Denver's (NCD) newest programs. Although funding is limited to one neighborhood art project at this time,

neighborhood representatives are invited to participate in certain phases of standing taller. Opportunities include touring Bridges of Understanding (a multicultural celebration of the life cycle), hearing about one group's experience doing rites of passage, attending mini workshops on topics such as the community arts process and developmental challenges facing youth. Activities begin in August. Applications are due October 30th.

Neighborhood organizations wanting more information, wanting to attend start up activities or to apply for Standing Taller funding call Mary at 561-0476 (NCD). NCD is an organization whose aim is to strengthen and stabilize low and middle income neighborhoods, using art as a tool. Art projects stimulate activity within neighborhoods by recognizing and enhancing the potential of citizens.



Next INC Meeting

Saturday, July 12

**Denver Board of Realtors
4300 East Warren
Host: INC**

**9:00 a.m. - Coffee & Donuts
9:15 - Call to Order, INC Business,
Committee Reports
9:45 - Around the City
10:30 - Break
10:45 - Sharon Kline — Board of
Zoning Adjustment
11:00 - Transit '97 — Tom Tayon
12:00 - Adjourn**

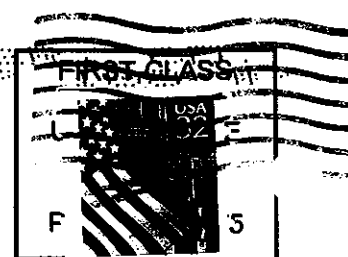
INC Members (Patrons in Bold)

Alamo Placita NA · Barnum Improvement Council ·
Bellevue-Hale NA · Berkeley NA · ~~Bonnie Dale NA~~ ·
Broadway Terrace Merchants · Capitol Hill United
Neighborhoods · Colfax on the Hill · Cherry Point
HOA · Concerned Citizens for Barnum · Congress Park
Neighbors · Cook Park NA · Cory-Merrill NA ·
Crestmoor Park Neighbors · Denargo Market
Neighbors Coalition · Downtown Denver Residents
Orgn · East Colorado Avenue HOA · East Montclair
NA · Eastmoor Park Condo Assn · Far Northeast
Neighbors · George Washington HOA · Globeville
Civic Assn · Goddard NA · Grand View NA · Green
Valley Ranch HOA · Hampden Heights Civic Assn ·
Harkness Heights NA · Harman NA · Historic
Montclair CA · Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA ·
Indian Creek Neighborhood Orgn · Inspiration Point
NA · Mayfair Park NA · Metropolitan Denver Local
Development Corp. · Morgan's Subdivision Historic
District HOA · North City Park CA · Organized Baker
Residents · Pine Valley NA · Pinecrest Village
Improvement Assn · Ruby Hill NA · Sloan Lake
Citizens' Group · South Hilltop NA · Southmoor Park
East HOA · Stokes Place/Green Bowers HOA ·
Sunnyside United Neighbors · The Beacon Club · The
Promontory HOA · United South East Denver ·
University Park Community Council · Upper
Downtown Development Org · Villa Park NA ·
Virginia Vale CA · Virginia Village/Ellis NA · West
Highland NA · West University CA

Associate Members

Agency for Human Rights & Commun. Relations · Colo.
Coalition for the Homeless · Denver Health Authority ·
Downtown Denver Partnership · Keep Denver Beautiful · King
and Assoc. · Denver League of Women Voters · Neighborhood
Resource Center · Neighborhoods USA · Norwest Bank · South
East Denver Youth Council · United Colorado Neighbors ·

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