

INC Celebrates a Quarter-Century

By Diana Helper

INC's 25th Anniversary Awards Dinner was held on January 26th in the Grand Ballroom of the DoubleTree Hotel; a grand time was had by all. This annual event is sponsored by the generous folks at the VISIT DENVER Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the first speaker was its CEO Richard Scharf. People who visit Denver are impressed by its wonderful neighborhoods and Denver is fortunate to have so many neighbors who care deeply about their city. Xcel Energy was also presented as a Community Supporter.

Before dinner and during the evening, a **silent auction** was in place with the proceeds going to the Dollar Dictionary Drive (DDD). We are happy to say the DDD gleaned \$3,300 from this auction! The pre-dinnertime gathering was nicely accompanied by a fine guitarist, Neil Haverstick.

INC Chairman Steve Nissen spoke briefly about INC and the Dictionary project and thanked the Dinner Committee: Karen Cuthbertson, Jane Lorimer, George Mayl, Larry Ambrose, and Susan Morrison, her auction assistants Laurie Bogue, and Karen Zoltenko.

Former Speaker of the House **Andrew Romanoff** was the terrific emcee; we expect he can have a permanent job as the INC emcee! With great enthusiasm, he introduced the award winners and later led the bidding for two more auction items with perfect bravado and humor. Although he made no formal speech, he did quote Martin Luther King Jr.'s sentiment that the true measure of a person is where he or she stands in times of challenge and controversy—, and INC stands steadfast, true, creative, and diligent at all times.

The **2010 Awards** were as follows:

The Virginia Oredson Award to Wayne New (Cherry Creek North)

The Walt Kembel Award went to Larry Ambrose (Sloan's Lake)

The Bill Gross Award went to Randle Loeb (CHUN)

The Nancy Jackson Award went to the League of Women Voters of Denver (accepted by Bobbie Heisterkamp).

Neighborhood Star Awards went to:

Pam Adams and Ellen Van Ness Seymour (University Park Community Council)

Tom Anthony (Elyria Neighborhood Association)

Bettie Cram (Elyria)

Jacqui Kimble (Congress Park Neighbors)

Joel Noble (Curtis Park Neighbors)

Adam Page (Dollar Dictionary Drive volunteer)

Christina Roybal (Clayton Neighborhood Association)

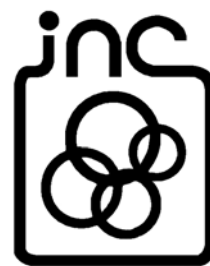
Beth Trudgeon (Virginia Village/Ellis Community Association, accepted by Mary Walsh)

Julius Zsako (Denver Community Planning and Development).

All recipients were given a heartfelt applause!

The dinner was delicious, the ambience was charming, the large crowd was cheerful and full of dignitaries including Mayor Vidal, and everybody joined in this year's INC Anthem led by City Auditor Dennis Gallagher and lyricist Diana Helper. To the tune of *Molly Malone*, it included the lines, "*And who are these people, who'd climb up a steeple, to see if the City is minding the rules? The I.N.C. movement seeks lots of improvement-- it prizes Good Guys, as it suffers no fools.*" And so it was all over but for the merry schmoozing – onward and upward!

The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



February
2011

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Bobbie Heisterkamp accepts the Nancy Jackson Award on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Denver



Wayne New receives the Virginia Oredson Award



Larry Ambrose receives the Walt Kimbel Award



Randle Loeb receives the Bill Gross Award

All Photographs by Tom Valdez Photo

Silent Auction Donors

- ❖ Anne Barbour, Colorado artist
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- ❖ Dave Halterman, Denver musician
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- ❖ DJ Hamilton, Colorado artist
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- ❖ Guy Harvey's Perfect Spot
- ❖ Heinz Compagnie
- ❖ Ida Lindsey China Co. /Margot Crowe

- ❖ JW Marriott – Cherry Creek
- ❖ Kathy's Kreations - Custom Jewelry
- ❖ Kona Grill
- ❖ La Galería de Tomás
- ❖ Loews Tuscan Restaurant
- ❖ Oxford Hotel
- ❖ Parlux Fragrances Inc
- ❖ Penelope Zeller, Colorado artist
- ❖ **Stapleton DoubleTree Hotel**
- ❖ Strings Restaurant
- ❖ Terry Breffle, Colorado artist
- ❖ The Bagel Deli & Restaurant
- ❖ The Newman Center for the Performing Arts
- ❖ Two Rivers Winery
- ❖ **Visit Denver**-The Convention and Visitors Bureau
- ❖ Vintage Theater (17th Ave)
- ❖ Waterworks Car Wash
- ❖ Whole Foods - Cherry Creek
- ❖ Wyland's Ocean Blue Restaurant



Above left—
Neighborhood Stars
Award winners.

Above right—
Anthony Graves,
Jane Lorimer, and
Richard Scharf

Left—Steve Nissen
presents an American
Flag to Andrew Ro-
manoff

All Photographs by
Tom Valdez Photo

Thanks to these dinner sponsors:



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 Rangeview Neighborhood Assn
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 Ruby Hill Neighborhood Assn - RHINO
 Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Assn
 ►South City Park Neighborhood Assn
 ►South Hilltop Neighborhood Assn
 ►Southmoor Park East Homeowners Assn
 ►Southmoor Park Homeowners Assn
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 ►Stapleton Master Community Assn
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 Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc
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►**University Hills Neighborhood Assn**
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 Villa Park Neighborhood Assn
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 ►**West Washington Park Neighborhood Assn**
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Executive Committee Recap

By Ray Ehrenstein

The INC Executive Committee (EC) met on a frigid Monday night, January 10th. Out-of-doors, Denver was 8 degrees with a frozen sheen of ice under the snow. Indoors, on the 19th floor overlooking the twinkling lights of South Central Denver, our EC members gathered one by one around Randle Loeb, the first arrival. He was joined first by humble secretary Ray Ehrenstein, then Co-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee Katie Fisher, and in short order by Chair Steve Nissan, Treasurer Karen Cuthbertson, Vice-Chair Bradley Zieg, and Delegates-at-Large Larry Ambrose (also Co-Chair of Parks and Recreation Committee), Will Cornell, Cathy Donahue (newly elected), and George Mayl. We were joined lastly by Michael Henry, Chair of the Zoning and Planning Committee.

In an effort to save space and hold peoples' attention, the Secretary will offer a speeded up account of the night's votes and proceedings:

Randle moved to approve December's minutes; the motion was seconded by George and was approved nine to zero.

Randle moved to approve the December Treasurer's Report; the motion was seconded by Cathy and was approved nine to zero.

There were a plethora of highly deserving candidates nominated to receive awards at our upcoming Presidents and Delegates Dinner. From among those, these were selected by vote of the EC:

- **Virginia Oredson Award:** Wayne New. (A second ballot was required as there was a tie between the top two nominees.)
- **Walt Kembel Award** – Larry Ambrose.
- **Bill Gross Award** – Randle Loeb.
- **Nancy Jackson Award** – Roberta (Bobbie) Heisterkamp.
- **Neighborhood Stars** – Pam Adams, Tom Anthony, Betty Cramm, Jacqui Kimble, Ellen Van Ness-Seymour, Joel Noble, Adam Page, Christina Roybal, Beth Trudgeon, and Julius Zasko.

All standing committees will meet at their regular dates and times except Transportation that has no regular date and time. The INC website study, new INC Brochure layout, and Neighborhood Handbook design will continue in development. A window of opportunity for our INC Mayoral Candidates Forum exists between April 6th and April 8th at The University of Colorado, Denver Campus.

Chair Nissen announced the next INC Delegates Meeting would take place on February 12th at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's Ricketson Auditorium. Steve also told us he had heard from Albert Gallo of Berkeley Regis United Neighbors. Al raised the idea of the

INC having a booth at the Denver County Fair in July. Mr. Gallo volunteered to take the lead in this matter if the EC approved. Brad moved and Larry seconded that we allow Al to proceed; the motion passed unanimously.

Delegation Recap

By Ray Ehrenstein

On January 8th, the INC Delegates met at the new and beautiful Evie Garrett Dennis Campus of Denver Public Schools (DPS) in the Green Valley Ranch Neighborhood. This charter school within DPS is in far Northeast Denver just off Pena Boulevard in land acquired by Denver for Denver International Airport.

Chair Steve Nissen opened the meeting by introducing Tim Sheehan, Chair of the Green Valley Ranch Citizens Advisory Board. Tim thanked us for coming so far a distance (for many of us) to meet. Al Habercorn reassured him that it was okay, "We packed a lunch." Tim invited INC members for a noon tour of the facility for those wishing to stay after the meeting. Besides this new campus, Tim told us that Green Valley would have its first library opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 12th, just four blocks down the way. Tim told us that High Point Academy had opened just across the border in Aurora and that he had toured its new facilities last night. It too was beautiful and a real step up for a school formerly located in modular buildings. He said The Promise Center would break ground soon and encompass an outreach community center for Early Education through seniors, a 37,000 square-foot center anchored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Denver. Also within will be a privately funded Qualistar Early Childhood Learning Center as well as offices for Denver Health. Tim ended by telling us that with 7,500 homes in Green Valley presently, it is at only about 50-percent build-out.

Tim introduced Councilman Michael Hancock who welcomed us to "the Far Northeast." He began by telling us that in 2005, he began talking with residents about a strategic planning process that resulted in a citizen advisory board that in time would become a RNO. He told us we were sitting in a "compromise" worked out between DPS and the citizens' own vision that resulted in putting the elementary school and high school onto the same campus. The facility (of some four buildings) "is Platinum LEED certified and one of the most energy efficient facilities in the entire state of Colorado." On this campus, we have a nationally recognized School of Science and Technology for grades 6 through 12 as well as a high-performing program out of New York called SOAR as the provider for grades kindergarten through five. The new preschool program will be at The Promise Center. Michael then reminded us, "Here is an example of how, when the citizens stand up to become the voice of their community, this is the result of that fight". He added, "This area has been dis-

proportionately impacted by foreclosures" more than any other part of Denver. "At one point we led the state out here."

Michael had been shown a map by a builder of a 90 acre park to be built (as part of the bond project) just west of here with three football fields, an amphitheater by the recreation center, a manmade lake, and foot trails. "People who are buying out here are attracted by the park and schools." (A familiar theme of Mayoral hopeful Hancock; it is doubtful he would get much argument about this assertion.) Michael praised the people of this community and said the new neighborhood RNO and INC are needed more than ever before. Raising his hand, Michael Henry asked Michael Hancock to explain about the name associated with the campus. Michael thanked Michael for the reminder and answered, "Oh, Absolutely! Evie G. Dennis was the first African-American Superintendent of Denver Public Schools." She is a former tri-athlete and an Olympian who still sits on the Olympic Committee. She still drives three times a week to Colorado Springs to participate in Olympic activities. When she was Superintendent beginning in 1991, she began the modern transformation of the Denver Public Schools. Michael said Evie Dennis attended the opening of this campus named in her honor and, at 85 years young, is "very healthy, vibrant, and engaged" in Denver and Colorado.

Chair Nissen asked us to be sure and sign in as there would be issues to vote upon. He started the clipboard around for "Around the City." Before they could slip away, Steve asked Bradley to give each of the several candidates present a letter announcing the planning of upcoming forums co-sponsored by INC. Chair Nissen said we are still working on our candidate forum. Steve asked for RNOs to step forward with potential sites for our forums in different parts of the City. The Chair recognized Michael Henry who asked us to think about consolidating locations for holding forums.

Randle Loeb's motion to approve the December Minutes was seconded by Steve Lawrence; the motion passed unanimously.

Steve said he had received the resignation of Executive Committee (EC) member Eugene Howard. Steve said, "I'm sorry to see him go. I have appointed Cathy Donohue in replacement and the EC has approved that appointment but we need the approval of the Delegation." A motion to approve was made by Dave Felice and seconded by Jane Lorimer. The appointment of former Councilwoman Donohue was approved unanimously. Cathy thanked us to "mad" applause!

Asked by the Chair, Larry Ambrose, as Co-Chair of the Parks and Recreation committee and on behalf of his Co-Chair Katie Fisher and the other committee members, presented a statement: "In reaction to a growing numbers of conflicts within the City over Urban Park Policy, the INC Parks and Recreation Committee platform is designed to

provide a proactive and positive framework in which citizens may discuss park policy with other citizens and public policy makers." He asked for our vote to support this platform "to be reviewed today."

Larry said that the INC EC had voted to forward this proposed platform by a seven to zero vote. He introduced Cindy Johnstone of Friends of Washington Park, on Power Point, Kathleen Wells of CHUN, and Kathleen Rust of Friends and Neighbors of Cheesman Park who would be speaking for the presentation. Cindy, with a bit of assistance, had gotten the Power Point software prepared and the ladies proceeded to present the platform.



Larry Ambrose presents the Parks and Recreation Committee Platform
Photo by Ken Beaudrie

This platform could be found in the December newsletter but was again distributed to the Delegates to review along with the presentation. First, Kathleen Wells took the microphone and spoke for about half the presentation followed by Kathleen Rust presenting the last half. Their presentation, along with Cindy's Power Point, was well received. Asked by the Chair for a motion, Ray Ehrenstein moved to adopt the platform and Michael Henry seconded.

Much discussion followed and included the desirability of creating a Festival Park within Denver. The issues of finding the land, economic constraints, and better communication with public officials and the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation was well discussed. Cathy Donohue told us that Denver has 6,000 acres available but only 3,000 developed. Brad said we should not start a fight with the developers. Ray said we should join with Jeff Shoemaker's Greenway Foundation and develop vast parklands the length of the South Platte River in Denver, including a Festival Site and room for the National Western Stock Show, replacing old industrial sites along the river's banks entirely!

Al Habercorn said we were already ten minutes over time and he called the question; the call was approved unanimously. The vote was taken and the result was - for 23, opposed 0, abstentions 3. The Chair declared the motion carried.

Gertie Grant pointed out that, thanks "to good old Frieda," Denver was landlocked whereas the surrounding

communities did not have to operate under such constraints.

Michael Henry and Billie Bramhall rose to present two proposals vetted by the Education and Zoning committees. The first relates to the Byers School being proposed as a site for a Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST). Michael gave us some background: In 2003, the voters gave approval to renovate and reuse Byers; however, the money approved was used elsewhere. He pointed out that the facility we were in was the second DSST built; the first was in Stapleton on East Montview Avenue. A third is planned at the Cole Middle School at Humbolt Street and East 28th Avenue. He pointed out the obvious geography and stated the need for the next DSST to be in some other quadrant of Denver "besides the Northeast" This was another reason to select the Byers site in South-Central Denver. Billie added that a discussion had been going on within the Education Committee of the impact upon existing Cory Merrill and Grant Schools. Hence, a part of the motion states that consideration must be taken of any impact on neighboring schools along with the condition of the building at Byers. Diana Helper seconded the proposal.



Mike Henry and Billie Bramhall present motions on the Byers school and medical marijuana.
Photo by Ken Beaudrie

Discussion began again. Don Tressler said he spoke this week with a neighbor who recently had toured Byers School; the neighbor reported that DPS had let the building deteriorate terribly. Don does think that a DSST is needed in our South Central area although we should not lock ourselves into the Byers location. Gertie wants to be sure that kids have a choice for a DSST middle school in the area as does Don. However, she wants to be sure that DPS does not sell off the Byers property. The Chair called for a vote; the results: eighteen for, four opposed, and three abstentions.

The second motion was about Medical Marijuana. This motion also can be found in our December newsletter on page five. It was read aloud by Michael Henry and seconded by Cathy Donohue. The motion passed with twenty-four for, zero opposed, zero abstentions. Pointing out that we were running late, the Chair sent us to break.

After the break, the Chair recognized the candidates for City offices who had stuck it out through the meeting. There were a few left who called out their names; Steve Lawrence and Josh Davies for City Council were within the Secretary's earshot and he spotted Carol Boigon, Michael Hancock,, and Doug Linkhart—three Mayoral candidates.

Then the Chair introduced Neddra Niblet and Richard Villa of Denver Public Works. Neddra told us the program on graffiti removal has been going 20 years now. She began handing out several pieces; one was a graph showing that 5,368,822 square-feet of graffiti was cleaned up in 2010, a huge jump from 2009's 4,035,790 figure. There was one handout showing graffiti by Council District. Another showed where the most graffiti had been reported and removed. She said that during the transition from the Graffiti Hot Line to the 311 system, some calls were lost during the changeover. She gave us her email address <neddra.niblet@denvergov.org> if we wanted to check just on our specific neighborhoods. She said they really need volunteers to take responsibility for small areas such as a dumpster behind one's property. They have free supplies, including seven standard colors of paint available. We can get customized colors from her suppliers at a discount. We can even sign up to remove graffiti from our own property or a willing neighbor's. We were given a Graffiti Vandalism Removal Form. We were given a separate form that one may fill out and mail in - to request a Graffiti Vandalism Removal Authorization Form, request paint, pledge to promptly remove graffiti from our property, report graffiti, or even choose a Brush-Off-A-Spot (like a sign, pole, dumpster, et cetera) to maintain. She stressed that we all have to use the authorization form, especially when working for a neighbor.

Neddra Niblet invited us to all sorts of cleanups with suggestions like "Adopt-A-Spot" cleanups, campus cleanups, and this year - two citywide events: Earth Day cleanups on April 22nd and "Calling All Neighborhoods" on Saturday, May 21st where you rally your neighborhood to clean garages, alleys, and entire blocks. Neddra said she had lobbied for the above noting that "We have not had such a city-wide cleanup in years."

As she spoke of the 2011 Great American Cleanup (March 1st to May 31st), she gave us handouts. She hopes to have four or five Stationary Wipe-Off Sites where we can obtain supplies available in our neighborhoods. They will give out gloves, black bags, trash pickers, and other supplies. Karen Cuthbertson suggested that business owners along central business corridors need to be made aware

that it is volunteers who quite often are removing the graffiti in their alleyways and that the business owners need to become involved as well. Neddra said (after being questioned about graffiti investigations) that her department is working more closely with the police and that a new program called "Graffiti Tracker" is finally emerging. What will happen is that all Richard's crews will have cameras; they will take pictures and each night send those to a company in California that will catalogue, analyze, and track the movement of graffiti thus being able to build cases across the country. They are awaiting the cameras and training.

Asked what constitutes an "incidence," Mr. Villa responded: any graffiti, large or small. Rich said we also should file a police report. Cathy Donohue informed us, "They do brick." They came out with a chemical wipe to clean her brick. The Chair complained that some contractors do not clean their own containers and Neddra agreed that they should be held responsible for their property equally as are individual homeowners. She said, "Some companies are good, check their containers, and clean them." However, some commercial container owners have responded to the departments complaints with, "We do not have someone to put money in our budgets to remove graffiti." We learned she has a staff of two in administration, the rest are in the field.

Rich Villa told us "My job is basically the Operations job; we go out and abate the graffiti." "WM," a major group of taggers, is well organized and assigns taggers to areas around town to give themselves exposure so as to be known. He has seven trucks for the entire City. "There are eight of us against thousands of taggers." And, of the 5,368,822 square-feet shown in the graph, around 2,000,000 spots are repeatedly tagged over and over. "Where we need help is for you to keep reporting it." His crew has a goal of two-days turnaround. She and Rich were applauded when they finished.

Rising to speak regarding the upcoming Presidents Dinner, Karen asked for donations of dinner tickets to accompany several theatre tickets that Jane Lorimer already has gotten. Jane added that we have 27 items for the Silent Auction so far. Billie asked us to remind our RNOs to check the box for the Dollar Dictionary fund when renewing!

Randle Loeb spoke to us of a District 6 Citizen Advisory Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 19th from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Volunteers of America, 2660 Larimer Street,

concerning issues of homelessness. Randle had flyers from Police Chief Whitman available.

Then the Chair gave us a few minutes for Around the City after which we adjourned.

PRAB Meeting Recap

By Ray Ehrenstein

Scott Robson is the new Manager of Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR); Chantal Unfug is his Deputy. I signed up to speak and ask some questions, mainly those supplied by Diana Helper but with an added one of my own. We were given opportunity to ask our questions early on and I was called upon first. Others decided not to speak after I did; I hope that is because I covered the issues they wanted to hear about.

Beginning with Diana's questions, I asked about the process for handling public City parks that seem to have become unusable by the public; "Is this because DPR cannot manage them?" "Is there is a requirement that such acreage be replaced in that neighborhood by public park land that is usable by the public?" "Is there a requirement for shelters to provide, on their own, needed areas for their clients?" Regarding Civic Center, this stewardship arrangement does not appear to impede public use of that park. "Will the public be welcome to use the now-unusable triangle parks at any time, if they are made usable by the steward?"

After reading Diana's questions, I asked, "In consideration of Denver being a city comparable in size to Portland, Oregon and noting that we have approximately one-half the park acreage of Portland, should we not need to increase our park acreage and certainly not lose any park from public use?"

The matter of Ballpark Neighborhood's efforts was addressed first and later Manager Robson addressed Diana and my questions:

- 1 Ballpark Neighbors, along with other nearby RNOs, had asked for and received permission from Denver City Council to form a so-called "non-taxing Metro District" that would become quasi-governmental and is being created for the purpose of soliciting grants as well as private donors for neighborhood improvements generally – as well as specifically for Eddie Maestas Park. (One of the triangle parks)
- 2 Scott Robson sought to quell "rumors" that parks would be given or sold to any entities such as the Denver Rescue Mission (DRM) or The Samaritan House.

Data Corrections

Keep INC informed of changes in your organization's president and delegates. Notify the membership chair at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net.

Organizations and persons not affiliated with INC should also communicate their desire to obtain this newsletter or submit address changes to the editor at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net.

Each of these organizations as well as members of INC and Curtis Park Neighbors have met with Councilwomen Montero and Madison along with Ballpark Neighbors, the Denver Police Department, and multiple other stakeholders to address the problems in all the triangle parks located in this area. Scott Robson stressed, "No park land will be sold nor given to anyone."

- 3 Scott told us that the mostly cement covered Eddie Maestas park is located in a rather visible gateway location for Denver and has continued to be a problem public property known for drug dealing, prostitution, and graffiti; it is located just across from a homeless shelter. For some time, the shelter's staff has reached out to the homeless who congregate there and who have been preyed upon by the aforementioned drug dealers and others. DPR, staffers from the shelter, and other citizens remove graffiti on a daily basis. Under this Stewardship Agreement, shelter personnel will only be doing more of what they have been doing, including coaxing homeless in for meals and shelter during bad weather. The Stewardship agreement between DPR and Denver Rescue Mission is an agreement such as already exists at Civic Center Conservancy. The DRM staff would be able to add another layer of maintenance and security - in cooperation with the police.
- 4 Manager Robson noted Mrs. Helper's comment about the Civic Center Conservancy agreement; he and another PRAB member said this agreement is becoming something of a model for effective stewardships although each park is different.
- 5 There is no requirement for DPR to replace lost parks because DPR has not, nor shall not, lose nor sell any of the parks entrusted to them. The hope is that improvements to Eddie Maestas Park and all the triangle parks will make them more appealing to all Denverites and to our visitors.
- 6 In answer to Ray's question: having lived in Portland, one PRAB member was familiar with their park system. He stated that indeed Portland has one of the largest park systems in the nation. However, Portland is considerably larger in area and one of its parks is the largest of any municipal park in the country. The gentleman added, Portland has a problem with graffiti, drug dealing, and other issues within its downtown parks that is much worse than Denver's. He praised Denver's Road Home and credited Denver with making better progress with many social issues than has Portland.

Neither Jim nor I could find anything troubling or threatening to Denver's Parks from Manager Robson's and the PRAB members' description of what DPR is planning with Eddie Maestas Park and its stewardship arrangement. Perhaps other observers and listeners heard something differently.

Also, Ballpark Neighbor's plan for a non-taxing metro district seems only positive from what we heard; it did not sound controversial to me. Maybe on someday, Judy Schneider will be kind enough to present her group's results.



ABC Streets – Construction continues on Colorado Boulevard from Martin Luther King Boulevard to Alameda Avenue; traffic is particularly heavy when this major artery/state highway is clogged with construction.

Green Valley Ranch Citizens Advisory Board – The grand opening of the new Denver Public Library Branch will be March 12th. Join our Earth Day event on April 23rd. More information is available at www.mygvr.org.

Cory Merrill N.A – Our January meeting was visited by Lois Court, the State House District Five representative. She addressed budget shortfalls that the voters and legislature will be faced with as the legislative session reconvenes.

James Sample - The rail yard at Ruby Hill Park will open on January 1st at noon. The rail yard will be open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.; free ski rentals are available from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Parks are for People – We are a voice for the people and the use of our parks for all residents of Denver. Check us out on Facebook "Parks are for People" or Twitter at "parks_R4_people."

14th Street Repairs - Repairs and upgrades will continue for the next ten months. It is the most significant street-scene improvement in the City of Denver since the 16th Street Mall. It includes improvements for pedestrians, a dedicated bike lane, and major landscape improvements. It is a partnership between business and the City with a total cost of \$14 million.

www.main.nationalmssociety.org – Bike MS Colorado, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Team, will participate in the June 25 to 26 ride from Denver to Fort Collins and back. They are raising money for two great causes: the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and towards curing Multiple Sclerosis. They are on the main page for the MS Ride on Facebook.

Policy Change Motion

By Jane Lorimer

The Executive Committee established the policy that INC membership records, other than the name of member RNOs, would be kept confidential with the exception being that INC officers are provided a complete listing and INC officers are listed in this newsletter.

In practice, if anyone expressed a desire to contact a member RNO, the membership chair would either forward a message from the person to the designated RNO(s) or send information to the RNO(s) of the requested contact and information on how to contact the requestor. Jane Lorimer of George Washington HOA would like the Delegation to establish the following policy instead: **INC would publish the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of the president and delegates of member RNOs as designated on RNO applications and renewal forms and make a listing available to all member RNOs. For those who do not wish any or portions of contact information such as email addresses be made available to other member RNO's, there would be an option to request information or parts of the information to not be published.**

Jane's reasoning is that the advantage in being able to contact the other neighborhood leaders without going to INC for "permission" is invaluable. There are times when neighborhood issues arise where immediate contact would be of benefit and it might foster a stronger bond within the INC Delegation itself to know who we all are. It would give us a chance to recruit other neighborhoods who are not members.

Be prepared to vote on this motion at the February meeting.

Recycler's Corner

By Tom Strickland

Recycle Your Old Electronics at Denver's Eco-rally on Saturday, February 12th

Denver residents may recycle their old electronic devices on Saturday, February 12th, by **scheduling an appointment** to attend the "Eco-rally Electronic Recycling Collection Event." Electronics recycling services will be offered at a significantly reduced price of \$5 per vehicle (limit of two "screens" per vehicle, see below for more details).

EVENT PARTICIPATION IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY! It is as *EASY AS 1-2-3*

1. **Sign up at DenverGov.org/EcoRally**
2. **Choose your appointment time slot.**
3. **Show up on February 12th at your scheduled appointment time with your electronic items.**

- **LOCATION:** Metech, 500 West 53rd Place
- **APPOINTMENT TIMES:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **FEE:** \$5 per vehicle – cash, or check only. Limit of two "screens" (televisions, monitors and/or laptops) per vehicle. Additional screens will cost an additional fee of \$5 per screen.
- **ITEMS ACCEPTED:** Televisions, monitors, CPUs, laptops, printers, scanners, faxes, keyboards, mice, stereos, external hard drives and storage devices, cellular phones, telephones, DVRs, VCRs, digital cameras, video recorders, MP3 players, and some small appliances such as microwaves.
- **ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:** Air conditioners, large appliances, vacuum cleaners, and car or household batteries (rechargeable batteries okay).

The Eco-rally is an electronics recycling, education, and engagement initiative that partners Comcast with the City and County of Denver and local consumers to address the serious environmental concern of televisions and electronics in landfills. As residents are increasingly upgrading their televisions, computers, and other electronics, they have put their older technology in storage or the trash. The U.S. EPA estimates that, between 1980 and 2005, 180 million electronic devices have accumulated in storage and in 2005 alone, Americans threw away an estimated 1.5 million tons of e-waste. It is important to know that electronic waste is potentially toxic; it can leach dangerous chemicals into our groundwater and pollute our air. Additionally, by recycling electronics we can reduce the need to extract the planet's natural resources to make more electronics components. Comcast is proud that they were the first cable company to host an electronics-recycling event.

This event is sponsored by Comcast, Denver Public Works, Solid Waste Management/Denver Recycles, and Metech.

Five Items You Should Never Put in Your Recycling Cart

Making sure that Denver Recyclers place the correct recyclable materials in their purple carts is important to us. Unacceptable items (*often called contaminants*) in recycling carts increase the cost of recycling and reduce the value of the materials. Below are our top five **UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS**. Please do not put these in your recycling cart.

- #5 **NO FOOD OR LIQUIDS** – Cans, bottles, and other containers should be empty. Containers do not need to be spotless to recycle them but a quick rinse can help to prevent any odor or pest problems from arising in your cart.
- #4 **NO TISSUES, NAPKINS, OR PAPER TOWELS** – These items are made from paper that has very short fibers (this makes them soft). Unfortunately, these fibers are too short to recycle. These items can, however, be composted in your backyard compost bin or

your green compost cart. Remember, you can recycle tissue boxes and paperboard rolls.

#3 NO STYROFOAM® OF ANY KIND – Styrofoam®, or polystyrene, is like no other plastic. The available markets for reprocessing these materials are very limited. There are a few companies that will take a limited supply of Styrofoam®; to find them, check out our online Recycling Directory at **DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles**.

#2 NO COAT HANGERS – Neither metal nor plastic coat hangers are accepted in your purple cart. Check with your local dry cleaner to see if they take back coat hangers for reuse or recycling.

#1 NO PLASTIC BAGS – Plastic bags are the worst thing you can put in your purple recycling cart. Plastic bags get caught in the equipment used to sort recyclable materials and too many can cause the entire facility to shut down. Most grocery stores accept plastic bags for recycling; better yet, reduce the amount of plastic bags by using reusable bags.

For more information about our Denver Recycles' programs, call us at 3-1-1 or visit us online at **DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles**.

Zoning and Planning By Diana Helper

The INC ZAP (Zoning and Planning) committee met January 22nd. Katherine Cornwell of the Denver Department of Environmental Health spoke about Denver's Sustainable Food Policy Council, formed by then Mayor Hickenlooper in October 2010. Its purpose is to see that the people of Denver are getting adequate, healthier, and safer food. The Council meets the third Wednesday each month, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Webb Building, room #210. Contact 311 or Katherine.cornwell@denvergov.org for full information.

Tina Axelrad of the Denver Community Planning and Development Department spoke about a proposed amendment to the Denver Zoning Code regarding allowances for Food Producing Animals (FPAs). Its intent is to assure the long-term care, health, and welfare of FPAs; to prevent the spread of disease, cruelty, and neglect to animals; to protect adjacent properties from adverse impacts from improper care or treatment of animals or their waste; and to minimize regulatory barriers for keeping food-producing chickens and small goats in the city. This proposal is still being worked on so Tina will return to ZAP in February with updates.

Councilwoman Judy Montero of District 9 spoke about her proposed amendment to the upcoming medical marijuana ordinance. For marijuana growing operations in districts that were no longer to be zoned Industrial under the new Zoning Code, she proposes that the licenses for these operators be terminated rather than renewed when the li-

censes lapse. This would give the operators time to move to an Industrial zone and provide the residents of these neighborhoods a time-line to complete the improvements listed in their visionary neighborhood plans under the new mixed-use rather than industrial zoned areas. She also proposes a 1,000-foot buffer zone between such operations and residences or businesses.

Larry Burgess, Susan Powers, Brian Brainard, and Mickey Zeppelin all spoke representing the River North neighborhood; they indicated that the marijuana grow operations impede planned neighborhood improvements, are a stigma to the growing arts area, support marijuana outlets outside of Denver, and support an amendment to assure such operations are moved to industrial zones. Peter Park, Manager of Planning and Development, stated that this is more a license matter than a zoning matter. Licenses control the business and receiving a license is a privilege. Assistant City Attorney Kerry Buckey stated that licenses do not contradict zoning.

Councilman Chris Nevitt of District 7 reported that medical marijuana production brings in considerable money to the City and some operations are in Industrial-turned-Mixed-Use areas where there is no neighborhood complaint these operations should be allowed to renew licenses. His proposed amendment to the ordinance requires that City Council should decide in each case of renewal. He also said that he will propose that Registered Neighborhood Organizations be notified of any changes in medical marijuana matters.

There was discussion by ZAP members on all these points; good questions were answered by Montero, Nevitt, Park, Buckey, Susan Barnes-Gelt, District 5 Councilwoman Marcia Johnson, and others. It was moved to vote on Councilwoman Montero's amendment but consensus of the committee was that it needed more information on this topic. It was agreed that the impacted neighborhoods need relief and should be able to continue implementing their improvement plans in the future. The motion was formally tabled with one nay to the otherwise unanimous vote. If Council is still considering the new ordinance, the Committee will consider the latest version on February 26th.

Cindy Patton of Public Works spoke about implementation of the Strategic Parking Plan in Highlands, the North Congress Park/Colfax/South City Park area, Cherry Creek, Downtown (overnight parking), and cooperative plans with Parks and Recreation to assure there will be ample parking to match the size of events applying for park permits. If there is not enough parking, the venue may be changed. It was suggested that a Festival Park for large events would be a great asset. Ms. Patton agreed, pending availability of space for such a park.

Emily Snyder of Public Works spoke about implementation of Denver Moves' plans for bicycle and pedestrian routes and its working to complete the Downtown network of routes that includes a much-needed "track" for bikers

going against traffic flow on a one-way street, both in order to facilitate connections. The first Bike Boulevard is being designed for the Westwood neighborhood; new bike signage is being developed. The matter of licensing bikes to create City income is deemed unfeasible as administration of that program would cost more than the license fees would bring in.

The topic of home demolition after the house has been nominated by someone (not the owner) for historic preservation was discussed briefly by Rosemary Stoffel. Peter Park stated that anyone currently can nominate a building for landmark preservation in Denver and as in most other preservation-minded cities; indeed this is often the basis of preservation. City Council must vote to designate a building or a district as historic. The forthcoming Survey of Denver Buildings will result in a file of data of value to builders, realtors, buyers, and owners. There is presently a class for realtors presented by Historic Denver about preservation issues, processes, and advantages.

The next ZAP meeting will be February 26th. All neighborhood representatives are invited to join the ZAP committee that usually meets on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Gertie Grant at gertiegrant@estreet.com to be placed on the list to receive meeting notices.

Elections are coming

By Steve Nissen

March 12th will be the date of elections for members of the Executive Committee (EC). All nine positions are always up for election. They are Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Delegate-at-large positions. Two current members are term-limited; they are Vice Chair Brad Zieg and Delegate-at-Large Larry Ambrose. However, these officers are entitled, by our bylaws, to run for any other office on the EC.

Any person interested in running for any EC position is encouraged to report your intention to the Chair prior to the newsletter copy-deadline of February 20th. Nominations of all candidates, even those identified ahead of time, still must be made from the floor on election day, March 12th.

Bylaw Changes?

See Article XIII of the bylaws, "These Bylaws may be amended at the Annual Meeting of the Delegation by two-thirds vote, provided the amendment is submitted in writing and is published in full, in the call to the Annual Meeting." Please review your copy of the INC Bylaws to see if you wish to propose any amendments.

The 'call to the Annual Meeting' is the March issue of the newsletter, therefore any proposed change(s) should be directed to the Chair prior to newsletter copy-deadline of February 20th.

Financial Report

By Karen Cuthbertson

Fourth Quarter 2010 Financial Report

Certificates of Deposit

December 31 Balance 11, 063.16

Savings Account

December 31 Balance 2,610.64

Dollar Dictionary Account

December 31 Balance 7,645.46

Checking Account

December 31 Balance 2,206.44

All Accounts

December 31 Balance \$ 23,525.70



Denver Neighborhood Connection

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requests and changes of address should
be e-mailed to
kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net
Articles should be e-mailed to the editor
by the 20th of the month.

INC organizations should send
changes to their president and delegate
data to the membership chair at
kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net

Delegates' Meetings are held on the second
Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m.
See this issue for location.

The INC Executive Committee meets
monthly at 1201 Williams Street in the
19th floor meeting room.
RNOs are welcome to reprint the articles
in their own newsletters.

Please renew

The 2010 INC membership year ends on December 31st of each year. The members that have renewed their membership for 2011 are displayed on page four with the "➤" symbol preceding their name. All others are being "carried" on the roll during February.

However, these members must be dropped from the roll at the start of the March 12th Delegates Meeting, the Annual Meeting. Unless a renewal is received at the start of the meeting, the delegates of those delinquent members will not be able to run for office, will not be able to vote for those who do run, or vote on any matter brought before the delegation.

Bring you renewal to the February meeting of the delegation; waiting until the beginning of the Annual Meeting may delay what is otherwise a very busy meeting.

Parks and Recreation

By Diana Helper

The INC Parks and Recreation Committee (INCPR) met at 6 p.m. Wednesday, January 18th at the Heritage Club, 2020 South Monroe Street. Present were co-chairs Larry Ambrose and Katie Fisher, INC Chairman Steve Nissen, Angela Casias of Denver Parks and Recreation Department (DPR), Mary Ewing and Darrell Watson of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), and committee members Cindy Johnstone, Kathleen Rust, Kathleen Wells, Ray Ehrenstein, James Sample, Maggie Price, Steve Fisher, Michael Smilanic, Cathy Donahue, Dave Felice, and Diana Helper.

Angela answered questions regarding the Maestas Park voiced by INCPR members. These concerns included the process used by the stakeholder group, the precedent being set, the constitutionality of the City partnering with a religious organization, the responsibility of such organizations to provide their own property (inside or outside) for their clients' needs, and the process DPR uses when considering "stewardship" arrangements. Angela assured the group that, to her knowledge, DPR has no intention of seeking other such agreements. She said that the Civic Center Conservancy's (CCC) job is only to raise funds. In return, the CCC may hold four events at Civic Center Park each year at no charge from DPR, and this is not a "model" for future "stewardship" arrangements. There will be a public process to redesign Maestas and the other nearby triangle parks.

INCPR requested that DPR plans that impact neighborhoods be sure to include INC and other citizens at the beginning of the planning process, rather than after DPR's plan is made and then brought to INC for comment. This way there is citizen input from the start and it is truly a joint plan that is developed.

Angela reported that the Vending Program is tabled until a new mayor is elected. INCPR again requested an opportunity to look at it early in the process. The Duck Lake project is complete. OSHA found no hazardous materials there.

The INC Platform on Parks was unanimously accepted by all INC Delegates present at the January 8th meeting. The document will be printed and distributed to candidates for mayor and city council, and others interested. INCPR considered every question embedded in the document for candidates to answer. Questions were slightly revised, and reduced from 15 to 12. Jay Rust will handle follow-up on the questions. Angela stated that DPR will hold briefings with all candidates and that the DPR statements are really much like those in the INC document. Darrell asked if INC's Platform is for long-term as well as candidate use. INCPR said it is a way to start determining the purpose of parks as open space. It is presented in a positive, constructive way, so that there will be progress. We requested that

Darrell include this Platform on the PRAB agenda, as INC represents citizens citywide. Mary Ewing encouraged INC to provide a city map showing all INC member neighborhoods—perhaps with their population figures.

The lack of inclusion of recreation in the INC Parks Platform is not a matter of disinterest but a matter of the limited time this volunteer committee has had to study and comment appropriately. It is a topic INCPR will include at some future time. Angela announced the opening of Central Park Recreation Center at Stapleton January 29th.

Steve Nissen thanked Cindy, Kathleen R., and Kathleen W. for their fine work on the presentation. He asked if there was interest in a "parking meter" fund raising project in Denver parks, but INCPR was not in favor. Katie and Larry thanked Angela on behalf of the committee for attending its meetings, bringing information, answering questions, and taking our concerns back to DPR.

The meeting ended at 8 p.m. The next meeting is February 15th.

From the Chair

By Steve Nissen

On behalf of INC, I want to recognize the many persons and entities that contributed to making the 25th Annual INC Awards Dinner a wonderful success.

Our sponsor of five years or more, VISIT DENVER – The Convention & Visitors Bureau, was great to work with again this year. We enjoyed the enthusiastic words of Richard Scharf, CEO, as he shared with us the great work of VISIT DENVER and what tourism means to all of us as it relates to jobs, sales-tax income for the City, et cetera. Anthony E. Graves, Director, Government and Community Affairs of VISIT DENVER, was a pleasure to work with as together we ran the many hurdles of planning this event. The efforts and contributions of the two of them are very much appreciated. Our thanks also go to Kirk Scheitler of Xcel Energy for providing a Community Sponsorship for the event.

Jackie Watkins, Director of Catering at the Doubletree Hotel, did a splendid job of accommodating our event layout, dinner plans, engineering details, and special needs for our very first silent auction. A special thanks to the serving staff of the hotel.

Our own event planners, the Dinner Committee consisted of Karen Cuthbertson as Chair, Larry Ambrose, George Mayl, Susan Morrison, and Jane Lorimer; this committee worked through the myriad of details needed to make this event happen. Special recognition is given to Jane Lorimer of the George Washington Homeowners Association. Jane was very committed to overseeing the numerous aspects of our first ever, silent auction that was a tremendous success, thanks to all the bidders. \$3,300 in auction returns will go to the Dollar Dictionary Drive. See

the item donor list on page three. We encourage all to patronize these establishments in appreciation of their generosity to our silent auction.

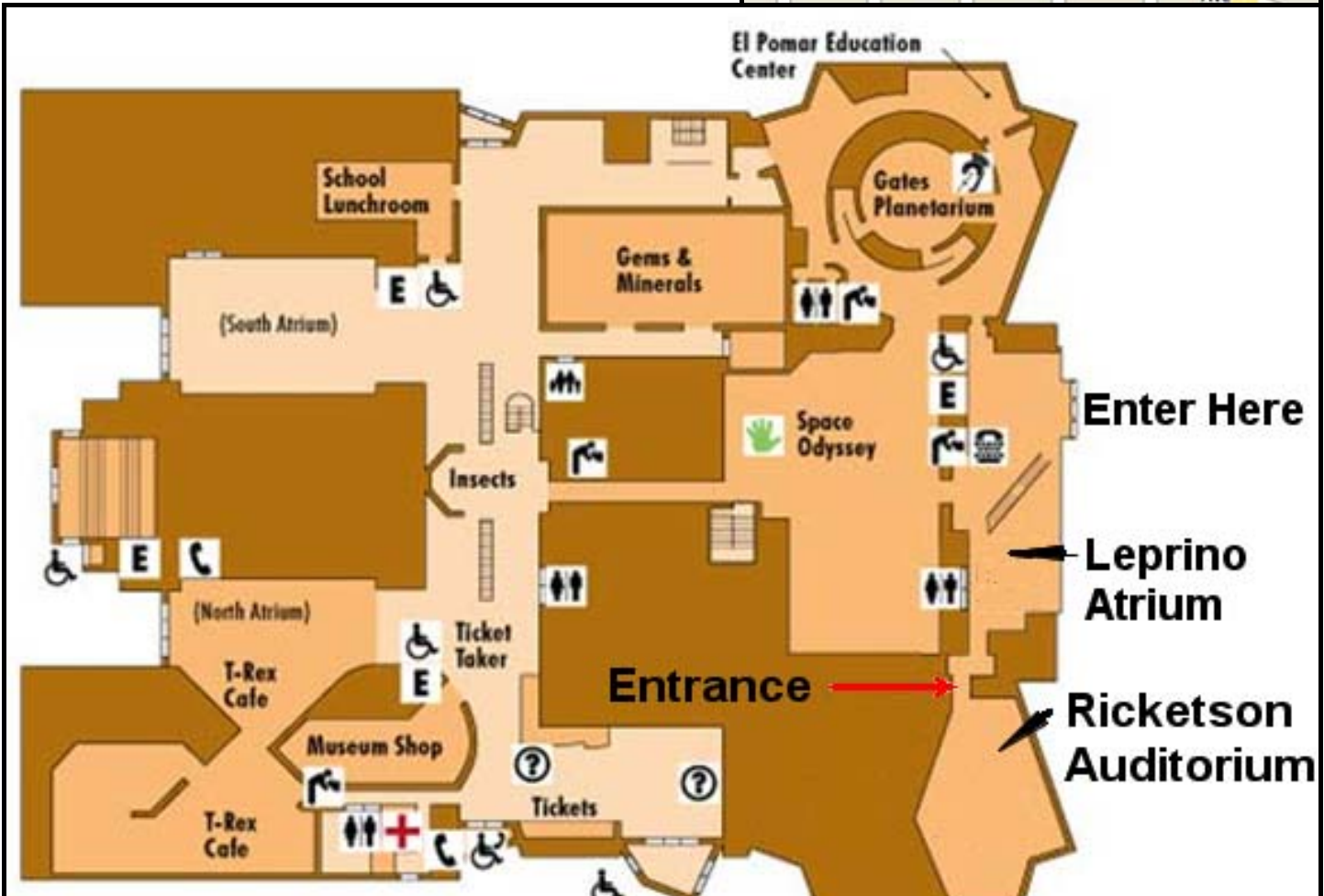
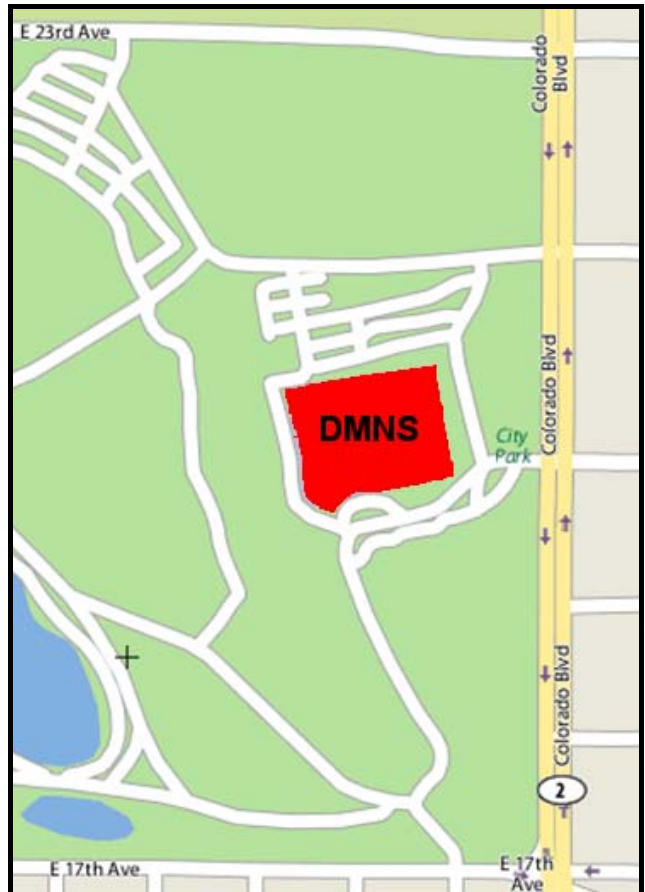
Our thanks go to Andrew Romanoff, our emcee extraordinaire, who kept our rapt attention throughout the evening. His enthusiastic auctioneering skills added to the enjoyment as well as to the coffers.

A special thanks to our fourteen award winners. We are very proud of these individuals who commit selflessly to make their neighborhoods, and thus Denver, a better place to live. Exceptional people like this act enthusiastically and with pride while mitigating the results of others who may have been careless of thought at times.

We are happy about the 256 of you who came out to endorse the work of Denver's neighborhood organizations. Ninety-four percent of INC's member RNOs were represented at the event. In addition, several new RNOs were present as new members. Our associate members were well represented as well. The public officialdom, Safety Departments, and candidates too were in attendance to give us their support.

The final of the evening was, of course, the INC Anthem led by lyricist Diana Helper and accompanied by the great Irish voice of Dennis Gallagher.

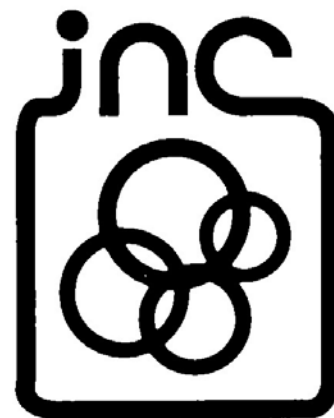
So, you see there are **MANY THANKS** to all mentioned above (and any I may have overlooked) from all of your INC Executive Committee.



Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

2011 Membership Application

INC is a consortium of Denver neighborhood representatives who believe that neighborhood organizations deserve a greater participation in city government and possess a shared vision that individual neighborhoods are stronger when they work together and learn from one another. **To join as a member neighborhood organization, the organization must be registered with the city as a Registered Neighborhood Organization. Log on to Denvergov.org for details. The names of Patron members and associates are listed in bold in our newsletter.**



We wish to donate \$_____ to the Dollar Dictionary Drive.

Join as a voting neighborhood organization: Regular Member (\$35) ☐ Patron (\$75) ☐

See below to apply as an INC Associate

Organization name: _____
 Address: _____
 Borders: North _____ East _____
 South _____ West _____

President's Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ President is a voting delegate: ☐
 E-mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Voting Delegate Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-Mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Voting Delegate (if President is not a voting delegate)
 Delegate Name _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Join as a non-voting supporting Associate : Regular (\$20) ☐ Patron (\$75) ☐

Organization Name: _____
 Organization Address: _____
 Agent's Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Bring this form to an INC meeting or mail to:
 Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, PO Box 181009, Denver, CO 80218-1009

**Meeting Saturday
February 12th**
The public
Is welcome to attend.

**Ricketson Auditorium
Denver Museum of
Nature and Science**

See map on page 14

8:30 a.m.

Coffee and Chat

9:00 a.m.

Welcome by North City Park
Civic Assn, South City Park
N.A., and Councilwoman Carla
Madison

9:15 a.m.

INC Business

9:20 a.m.

Around the City

10:00 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m.

Mayor Bill Vidal

11:00 a.m.

Bridget Coughlin, PhD
DMNS

11:15 a.m.

Committee Reports

Noon Adjournment

You can always view upcoming
INC meeting locations and get
information about presentations
on our website. Click on the
“meetings & more” link.
[www.neighborhoodlink.com/
INC/home](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/INC/home)

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

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