



DENVER
INC

CONNECTION

Neighbors Bond To Thwart Signage Plan

As reported in February's Connection, the proposed new signage for the Mile High Stadium was considerably different from the sign plan approved in 2001 for the new stadium which included lengthy participation from many citizens and design professionals. One of the major reasons for the newest plan was to brand the stadium with the latest sponsor's name—Sports Authority.

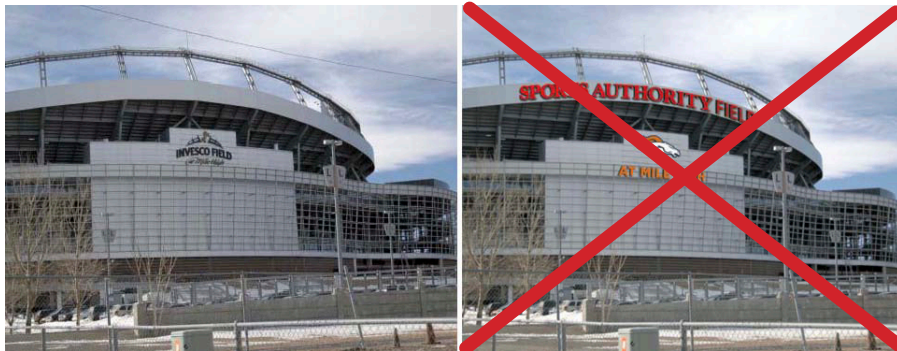
Jefferson Park United Neighbors (JPUN) complained that they had no meaningful input during the development of the plan and enlisted help from INC and other RNOs to support their efforts to alter the proposed

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als testified for four hours at the February 15 public hearing at the Denver Planning Board meeting. The outcome: "Officials from Sports Authority toward the end of the

meeting agreed not to place red-lettered 9 ½-foot-tall and 178-foot-long signs on the east, north and west sides of the upper ring of the 11-year-old stadium. The board and Sports Authority did agree



plans to something all could live with. Many RNO's and neighbors complained the signage would be too bright and garish. In support, INC Delegates approved the following motion related to the proposed signage plan at the February Delegates meeting:

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation opposes any signage which would be higher than allowed by the current sign plan at Sports Authority Field at Mile High.

The Victory Members of INC, multiple neighborhood groups and other individu-

to go ahead with an illuminated roof-line ring that wraps around the top of the stadium and can be lit up during events." (Source & Read more: The Denver Post)

Bottom line: The INC ZAP committee, INC Delegation and many RNOs which strongly opposed the proposed Sports Authority Field signage won a great victory on February 15 when the Planning Board rejected the sign plan. Congratulations, especially to Jefferson Park United Neighborhoods and Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Association for their diligence in this project. >SEE: Thank you from JPUN Page 2

March 2012

www.denverINC.org

Seeking Newsletter Contributions *INC Connection is looking for newsletter contributions relating to how neighborhoods band together to resolve problems and make positive things happen. Please send contributions and photos if available to DenverINCNews@aol.com. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, space.*

February Speakers

Denver's new DPD Chief, Robert White, was introduced to INC's Delegates. He spoke about what he is doing and learning in his role as the head of the Denver Police Department. His principal policy is to increase officer patrol from 48% to 80% to increase community engagement and presence. White believes the police have to understand what's going on with residents from the residents' perspective and he stated, "The greatest resource that police have is the 600,000 residents." There is a monthly meeting of the Colorado Metro Police Chiefs and twice a month, a meeting of commanders. The public is invited to participate in these meetings.

The City Budget Director, Brendan Hanlon, spoke about the 39 ideas that are recommended in the Structural Financial Task Force report. Three significant proposals emerged for the city to explore: charging for trash pickup and hauling; dedicated mill levy for revenue for various city functions; and changing the limits of raising revenue through the tax structure. There will be consideration of placing some of the recommendations on the November ballot. A number of the proposals will require a vote of the citizens.

He reported there is a negative annual gap between expected growth and expenditures amounting to 30 million dollars.

Photos Top: Police Chief White, Middle: INC Public Safety Co-Chair Merce Lea, President Nissen, Chief White Bottom: City Budget Director, Brendan Hanlon Photos by Ray Ehrenstien



> See Delegates Meeting Recap on page 6

In an effort to 'go green,' INC provides newsletters and weekly updates by email. If you would like to be added to this distribution via email (blind copy privacy), please notify DenverINCNews@aol.com with email, name, name of RNO or organization and which publications you want to receive electronically (Newsletter, weekly Community News).

An Open Letter from JPUN

Dear Community Friends,

Words cannot express our gratitude for your overwhelming assistance and support in opposing Sports Authority Field's signage amendment. Your incredible words and deeds helped shape an opposition case that couldn't be denied by the Denver Planning Board on Wednesday night. One Jefferson Park mom told her son the victory was like winning the "Super Bowl of Lights".

This cohesive effort, whether we won or lost, makes us proud to be a part of Denver's community. The incredible by-product of the movement is that connections with longtime civic friends were strengthened, and we found new friends where we might never have imagined. We are heartened by your embrace of this issue, and of us.

We are your friend and neighbor and look forward to working together to protect and enhance our neighborhoods. We can make Denver a great place to live.

Enjoy your views of our city, the mountains, and this iconic football stadium, and know that YOU are the reason why the views are still pristine.

Sincerely,

Michael Guietz Co-President
On behalf of Jefferson Park United
Neighbors

MARCH DELEGATE MEETING AGENDA

8:30am Coffee & networking	9:30am Annual meeting Year in review	10:15am Chief Tade-Denver Fire Dept. and Director Wilson of the Sheriff's Dept.
9:00am Welcome and house- keeping	Bylaw changes proposed Call for nominees , Elections Voting process ballot and announcements	Noon Adjournment

Committee Corner

INC has many special interest committees who meet to address areas of specific importance to the Denver community. The following reports were submitted for recent activities. Please see www.denverinc.org for committee postings and the calendar of meetings.

Communications/Website The new website is up and running since July. In response to recent delegate requests, payment online for joining and renewing INC will be added by end of February. DDD donations can already be made online.

The Committee recently produced all of the Annual Dinner collateral pieces including invitations, dinner program, and auction tent cards. This committee also writes and produces the INC monthly newsletter, press releases, the weekly emailed Community News and other emailed updates on behalf of INC, and manages other support items for INC monthly meetings such as meeting slides and special handouts. The committee plans to introduce a new INC brochure to the new Executive Council (EC and Committee Chairs) in April.

The Committee seeks either volunteers or interns (unpaid) to help manage website updates and contribute to the news process. Contact Michael Smilanich for more information at communicationscomm@denverinc.org

Dollar Dictionary Dictionary Drive has raised \$10,000 since the last dictionary distribution including anticipated proceeds from the annual dinner silent auction. INC needs to raise a total of \$25,000 in 2012 to accommodate both the dictionaries and thesauruses for about 6500 students. Grant applications have been sent to Kiwanis Club and the Denver Foundation. The recent mail campaign generated a 2% overall response and an average donation of

\$55 from some 99 donors for a total of \$5500.

Library Christine O'Connor urged delegates to attend the Denver Library Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 15 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to discuss sustainable funding for the library. The meeting will be held at the Central Library, at 13th Ave and Broadway; in the 7th fl. Commission Room. Agenda and materials will be posted at <http://denverlibrary.org/content/library-commission>.

Parks & Rec INC Parks & Recreation Committee is meeting on Tuesday February 21 at 6 p.m. at 2020 S. Monroe St. For more information contact Larry Ambrose at LDA@earthnet.net. They hold monthly meetings every third Tuesday of the month at the same location.

Public Safety There is a Safety Committee meeting on March 7, 6pm, at the Broadway Cop Shop. INC Public Safety Committee will have a city-wide Safety Expo at the Broadway Cop Shop on Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 407 S. Broadway. For more information contact Anthony Thomas at antthomas@juno.com or Merce Lea at broadwaycopshop@aol.com.

Transportation The INC Transportation Committee is looking for participants (representation) from all of the neighborhood registered organizations to address issues of transit, parking, sidewalks, traffic lights, stop signs and anything else that impinges on multi-modal transportation in the streets. Contact Brad Zeig for details bradleyzieg@msn.com

Zoning & Planning Committee meets Saturday March 25 from 930 a.m. – noon at 1201 Williams St. Contact Michael Henry for information at michaelhenry824@comcast.net. See lead story for recent activities.

INC CALENDAR

DELEGATE MEETING

Annual Meeting
of Delegates/Members

St. Patrick's Day,
Saturday March 17

Broadway Cop Shop
407 S. Broadway
Unit 500

March EC Meeting

Monday, March 12, 2012 7:00PM

1201 Williams St.

Planning for annual meeting

COMING UP

Mayor Hancock

Cabinet In The Community

Saturday, March 10

Washington Park Rec Center

702 S. Franklin St

9AM - noon

INC monthly meetings are hosted by member organizations. INC needs hosts for several months in 2012.

Contact communicationscomm@denverinc.org if interested. Hosting guidelines can be found under Events>Meetings on our website

April Delegate Meeting
Saturday, April 14, 2012 TBD

April EC Meeting
Monday, April 9 7:00PM

Also see www.denverinc.org for committee calendar of events

4 2012 Proposed Bylaw Changes

To Be Considered And Voted Upon At The 2012 Inc Annual Meeting Proposed changes are in green

ARTICLE VI. — OFFICERS

C. 4. c. Present a **written** financial report quarterly to the Delegation.

E. Elections. Any Delegate of record at time of election is eligible to be an Officer. Election shall be by ballot or acclamation. A majority of votes cast is required to elect. Voting shall take place for officers in the following order: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Delegates-at Large. Each office shall be filled prior to electing subsequent office. The top-five vote recipients for Delegate at Large shall be elected.

F. Vacancies.

2. The Chair shall, by appointment and with Executive Committee approval, immediately fill Officer vacancies for the duration of the term. Appointments must be confirmed by vote of the Delegation within two (2) regular meetings from **time of** notification to the Delegation of such vacancy.

ARTICLE VIII. — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Composition. The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected Officers and the five (5) Delegates-at-Large. **Committee Chairs shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee.**

C. Meetings. **Special** meetings may be called by the Chair, or may be called at the request of two (2) members of the Executive Committee, with not less than ten (10) days notice. Notice shall be given by telephone, email, or newsletter.

ARTICLE X. — FISCAL YEAR

CURRENT : INC's fiscal year shall begin April 1st and end March 31st each year.

PROPOSED CHANGE : INC's fiscal year shall begin January 1 and end December 31. The 2012 fiscal year shall begin April 1 and end December 31.

ARTICLE XIII. — AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

CURRENT: These Bylaws may be amended at the Annual Meeting of the Delegation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, provided the amendment is submitted in writing and is published in full in the call to the Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGE : These Bylaws may be amended at at the Annual Meeting of the Delegation, or at any time after a majority vote of the Executive Committee authorizes submission of an amendment to the Delegation. Proposed amendments must be published in the Newsletter at least 10 days in advance of any meeting of the full Delegation. Any amendment must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the delegation.

PROPOSED ADDITION TO BYLAWS :

ARTICLE XIV – CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

A. Rationale

Conflicts occur because the many persons associated with INC should be expected to have, and do in fact generally have multiple interests and affiliations, and various positions of responsibility within the community. In these situations, a person will sometimes owe identical duties of loyalty to two or more organizations. The best interests of INC do not require the termination of all relationships with persons who may have real or apparent conflicts that are harmless to all individuals or entities involved. However, Executive Committee and other Committee decisions must be made by disinterested parties. Even the appearance of a conflict of interest should be avoided, if possible, and disclosed if unavoidable.

B. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

1. Disclosure. Interested persons must disclose the existence of financial interests and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts. A financial interest exists if the person benefits directly or indirectly, through business, employment, investment, or family. If the Executive Committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual conflicts of interest, it shall take appropriate action.

2. Finding of Conflict. The Executive Committee (absent the interested person) shall determine if a conflict exists. If the Executive Committee determines a conflict exists, it may take appropriate action.

C. Voting

A voting member of the Executive Committee who receives compensation, directly or indirectly from INC, for goods or services shall abstain from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

D. Undue Influence

A member of the Executive Committee, or of the Delegation, having a financial interest in a matter shall not attempt to influence the decision of other members of the Executive committee or Delegation, regarding that matter.

The delegation will also be asked whether or not to change the name of the Chair and Vice Chair to President and Vice President and whether or not to change the name of the Executive Committee to Board of Directors. Should the name of the Executive Committee be changed to Board of Directors, the collective body of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs may be called the Executive Committee.

Recap Executive Committee Meeting

Submitted by Randle Loeb
February 13, 2012

PRESENT: EC: Steve Nissen, Larry Ambrose, Jennifer Tomeny and Randle Loeb—Quorum not present, therefore no voting. Committee Chairs: Anthony Thomas—Safety, Karen Taylor—Education, Bradley Zieg—Transportation, Michael Henry—Zoning & Planning, Jane Lorimer—Budget, Katie Fisher—Parks & Recreation, Ken Beaudrie—Membership. Guest: Judy Schneider—Annual Dinner

Minutes and financials were reviewed. The Chair requested the \$116 amount charged for the INC “corporate” mail box be transferred from DDD to INC. Minutes and treasurer’s report approval was deferred to the next EC meeting.

Annual Dinner Final income numbers are not available though preliminary numbers were reported at \$4500 from auction and \$2500 from sponsors per February newsletter. Judy is sending out thank you and IRS acknowledgements to donors and sponsors, and is waiting for final payments from a couple of buyers and one sponsor.

Budget Chair reported financials are in good shape and reminded EC of big ticket items to keep in mind for 2012 which are: Neighborhood Handbook, 3 events on the table for possible participation (Neighborhood Conference, People’s Fair, Denver County Fair), and new INC brochures/stationery. Jane requested to remain as Budget Chair in next term to provide continuity for the changes planned for next FY.

Jane presented two items for EC approval when there is a quorum:

1.) Conduct a follow up planning meeting with EC and Committee Chairs to define their roles, authority levels, duties and responsibilities to benefit new leadership group’s communications. Jane volunteered to facilitate this meeting and indicated there is ample budget to fund it. EC & Chairs present recommended this be done by the incoming leaders vs. this group and will decide who facilitates at a later meeting.

2.) Execute the member/non member survey that was agreed upon in the Fall but placed on hold due to demands of other planning activities. Jane volunteered to execute the survey, make a formal report of findings to delegates & EC and indicated INC has budget to accomplish. The EC & Chairs recommended the survey be reviewed by everyone and then it will be prepared to send to all members and past members. The assumption of this effort is to answer “How can we improve things?” The EC & Chairs agreed Jane would do the work if survey is approved, and she would make the presentations to EC and/or delegates.

Bylaws & Standing Rules Larry presented several proposed by law changes which will be offered at the annual meeting March 17. A conflict of interest policy is also to be included in bylaw presentation to the delegates at the annual meeting. See this issue of newsletter for proposed changes on page 4.

Election of new officers was discussed. Members of the present Executive Committee were polled as to whether or not they wished to serve next term.

Dollar Dictionary Drive drew in \$5,500 from a January direct mail campaign with an average donation of \$55 from 99 donors. The silent auction at the annual dinner will net other money yet to be determined. Education Committee- Karen Taylor will continue to serve as the Education Committee chair and community liaison. She is currently participating in a DPS school bond issue committee. Reminder: DPS will be on the ballot in November – INC needs to get informed and have presentations to delegates.

Transportation Committee is soliciting delegates from neighborhood organizations and then have those representatives attend the INC committee to consider issues of transit, parking, sidewalks, traffic lights, stop signs and anything else that impinges on multi-modal transportation in the streets. Reminder: A light rail sales tax is to be presented to voters for approval and

INC should get speakers to advise pros/cons.

Parks & Recreation continues to push for representation in the administration and being informed about parks issues. Public Safety continues to meet to consider the April 14 city-wide summit.

Zoning & Planning continues to work on excise and licensing regulations and communicating with the department on improving communication. See success article on page 1 of this issue. Next meeting is March 25 9am to noon at 1201 Williams St.

INC would like to hear about these developments:

- Metropolitan Community Planning District
- Denver Regional Council of Governments is working on the Boomer Bond Project and Metro Vision 2035.

The Chair directed an e-blast be sent seeking the names of those who want to run for the Executive Committee.

Randle: A request was made for a Drug Strategy Council undertaking to remove street crime around substance use and dealing on the corners throughout all of Metropolitan Denver, Capitol Hill and in surrounding communities. These efforts will combine with the Drug Strategy Task Force, the education program, with efforts of public safety to purge the streets of crime, while at the same time resolving to make our streets drug free zones.

These efforts will also be joint actions of municipal leaders from the Mayor’s office and the City Council, Crime Prevention and Education, Drug Court, Office of Strategic Partnership merged with business leaders and Colorado Works to also create opportunities for offenders to find ways to live and be productive citizens.

Action items carried over to next meeting: Approval of January minutes & treasurer’s report, approval and timeline for defining roles of EC and Committee Chairs, member survey, follow up on Drug Strategy Council.

Delegate Meeting February 11 Recap

Submitted by Randle Loeb

Submitted by Randle Loeb

February 11, 2012

Heritage Club – 2020 S. Monroe St.

Quorum present. Chair: Steve J. Nissen

Steve Fisher representing the University Park Neighborhood explained the history of the community dating back 125 years and the Marketing Director of the Heritage Club presented perspectives of the retirement community.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Motions (Not all delegates voted on all motions)

Inc Mission Statement A mission statement developed by the Executive Council (EC and Committee Chairs) was presented and approved by a majority vote of delegates (15 for, 1 oppose, 8 abstentions). The approved statement reads: "Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation's mission is to advocate for Denver citizens by bringing together, informing and empowering Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing city issues."

Sports Authority Signage A motion developed by ZAP Committee was presented and approved by a majority (25 for, 5 abstaining) to "oppose any signage which would be higher than the allowed by the current sign plan at Sports Authority Field at Mile High." Delegates were encouraged to attend and participate in the CPD February 15 public testimony meeting on this topic as well. It was noted that City of Denver staff supported signage as presented by Sports Authority. See the lead story on page 1 of this issue.

I-70 Bridge Expansion A motion developed by ZAP Committee was presented and approved (26 for, 1 abstaining) The motion: "INC supports the proposal by the Denver Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and neighbors in the Globeville, Elyria and Swansea neighborhoods to request the national AIA to conduct a regional/Urban Design Assistance Team Program (R/UDAT) of the Interstate-70 bridge expansion between the Mousetrap and Colorado Blvd."

A recommendation was made to have a press release for these motions.

Sidewalk Snow Removal In Public Areas

A discussion was led by Judy Sullivan concerning the ongoing troubles of snow-shoveling near East Hampden and Tamarac, where the city requires property owners to shovel their sidewalks, but the city has erected an impenetrable fence separating the homes from the sidewalk. A motion was made by Michael Henry and seconded by Randle Loeb recommending that INC should restate to the relevant city departments its opposition from a few years ago to this policy



Photo: Chair Nissen and Michael Sapp

Photo by Ray Ehrenstien

and situation on Hampden and also on South Quebec Street between Alameda and Exposition. The motion carried with 15 for, 1 opposed, 8 abstaining.

Further discussion added to the issue of investigating people who are unable to negotiate the curb cuts, alley ways, bus stops, and all places where snow is piled up making the passageway impassable. The delegation discussed the need to have a full discussion of these issues related to snow removal with all relevant city departments.

Michael Sapp, Director of Neighborhood Relations, spoke with respect to the issue of snow removal. He requested delegates send him their concerns. March 10 there will be a Mayor's neighborhood forum with all the heads of departments. The meeting will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at the Washington Park Recreation Center.

Inc Online Dues Payments A question was raised whether or not RNO's could join or renew membership on line at the new website. A number of representatives indicated they would use this method. Pay Pal is to be installed by end of February to accommodate this payment

method. DDD currently has a separate online pay system which will be switched over to this single source online. INC's membership form online is currently only a downloadable PDF format due to a website malfunction with the actual form. Communications Committee is working with the vendor to resolve the bugs. In general, the new website is working well and is current on calendar and news stories online.

Other Items

There has been no one appointed as the Manager of Public Works.

March 7 Wednesday night at 6 p.m. there will be a memorial service and celebration honoring mothers at the First Unitarian Society Church at 1400 Lafayette St. Everyone is invited to send their favorite memories and their mother's main dishes for dinner afterwards. If you are unable to attend, forward your recipes and memorable moments to randleloeb@gmail.com. The service is done as a small token of the formidable presence and loss of Ms. Elise Betty Kauders Loeb, INC's Secretary Randle Loeb's mother.

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Submitted by Diana Helper and Kathleen Rust
February 21, 2012

PRESENT: Co-chairs Larry Ambrose and Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Kathleen and Jay Rust, Cathy Donohue, Cindy Johnstone, Dave Felice, Marlene Johnson, Maggie Price, Ronnie Crawford, Ray Ehrenstein, James Sample, Diana Helper, Darrell Watson from PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board), and Bob Finch, DPR Dir. of Natural Resources.

Bike-Share Stations Cindy opened the discussion of a project proposed by DPR and a "non-profit owner-operator" to install Bike-Share stations in a number of Denver Parks. This is connected with Denver's B-Cycle program, and will seek to obtain grant money. Major issues seen by PARC include:

- Appropriate use of public park land for such enterprise (paving portions of grass areas)

continued on PG 7

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting cont.

- Placing bike-share stations where there is no easily/safely available public transportation to get you there or home after leaving the bike, or from the station to a bike path
- The basic issue of DPR once again coming to the public long after a project has been designed with no input from the communities involved.

There will be a meeting on February 27 about the Bike-Share proposed for Washington Park, which Cindy and many other FANS (Friends and Neighbors) of the park, and others interested, will attend for further information. A "letter or support" from FANS was solicited by DPR/B-Cycle, but more likely there will be a letter of concern for park integrity and suggestions for a community based process and more logical sites for such stations. All are agreed that ample bike-racks are needed in parks, quite different from "stations."

DPR Alcohol Policy A revision of the DPR Alcohol Policy to include Ruby Hill Park as a Festival Permit site was discussed. The Alcohol Policy states, "Sites may be added to the Special Occasion, Event Facility or Festival Permit site lists by the Manager of Parks and Recreation only if a request is received from a City Council member or the public and only after an open community process (which includes but is not limited to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and registered neighborhood organizations) is performed to introduce the potential new site and solicit feedback."

Focus by DPR and Councilman Nevitt is now to create a "destination" festival park at Ruby Hill. Ruby Hill Park was listed as a Festival Permit Site on the original draft of a revision to the Alcohol Policy dated August 11, 2005 and the draft published on September 7, 2005 but was taken off and was not on the Alcohol Policy published September 20, 2005.

Ray reported that Jan Belle of the Southwest Improvement Council has put together a list of questions to ask of DPR and the promoters who wish to hold events. There will be a public meeting March 20 at Goddard School.

PARC considered its role in this matter, and besides advising that community (if asked) regarding information it needs to have about such events, the ramifications of parking and alcohol, present rules and regulations, it will send

the INC PARC Platform Statement opposing ABEs to all who may need to be reminded of it. The need for a true Festival Park was reiterated, where large ABEs and other events would have a site with appropriate access, parking, infrastructure, bathrooms, security, etc., not in a residential neighborhood, available year-round, bringing in steady revenue for Denver. There was also discussion of possible amendments to the present rules/regs that would place some limits on such events. PARC will write a letter to PRAB. Darrell said these ideas could be surely be discussed by DPR and PRAB.

2012 Rules & Regs Updating Bob Finch, Director of Natural Resources, provided us with a summary of proposed changes to the Department of Parks and Recreation 2012 Rules and Regulations which were last updated in 1993. He said City Attorney Patrick Wheeler wrote them. Efforts to update and revise these DPR Rules and Regs have been underway for over ten years.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) has a "working group" formed to review the documents and guide the public review process. Parks and Rec. staff will meet with stakeholder groups such as INC PARC to solicit feedback as well. February 24th is the 45 day deadline for posting documents for the Public Meeting on April 12, 2012. Copies of the supporting draft documents can be found on line at: <http://www.denvergov.org/ContactUs/AdvisoryBoard/tabid/430499/Default.aspx>

Four specific elements must move forward for the 2012 Rules and Regulations update to be completed:

1. City and County of Denver, DPR, Rules and Regulations (draft proposed) - Under purview of Manager but must go through PRAB public meeting process
2. City and County of Denver, DPR, Rules and Regulations Governing Use of Administrative Citations for the Enforcement of Article I of Chapter 39 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code (draft proposed) - Under purview of Manager of DPR but must go through a PRAB public meeting process
3. Fines Structure and Schedule (draft proposed) - Must go through a PRAB public meeting process. Fines May be recommended by the Manager of DPR and PRAB but must be approved by City Council

4. Ordinance Amending Chapter 39 must be adopted (not yet written)

Bob discussed the following proposed changes on page 2 of the Summary handout:

- **Mountain Park Curfew:** changed times to one hour after sunset and one hour before sunset to be consistent with Jeff. CO. Open Space Regulations
- **Red Rocks:** clarified "rock climbing" prohibition areas
- **Summit Lake:** limits use to specific areas
- **Wildlife:** updates "wildlife" definition and prohibits feeding of wildlife including squirrels and geese. Will do a big education piece on this prior to enforcement. Need to focus on respecting the wildlife and the park. Will need help of all of us and our groups to educate public.
- **Trails and "human-powered" devices:** updates definitions of "trail" and "human powered devices" and sets speed limits of 15 mph on devices on park trails. Establishes rules for careless and reckless operation of these devices. Lots of discussion about the need to revisit this area of the proposed Rules and Regs to include consideration of "pedestrian only" trails and to differentiate between trails, paths, etc.

Other proposed changes include:

- Compliance with lawful order; identification; interference or evasion
- Administrative Citations (civil), penalties and procedures for violations of DPR Rules and Regs. Administrative Citations are already being used for enforcement by Forestry, Animal Control, Environmental Health, Neighborhood Inspections and Right of Way Control.
- Fines - most set at \$100. (Draft list of fines available)
- Ordinance amending Chapter 39 (to be written)

The DPR Rules and Regulations are designed to "help provide a clean, safe and enjoyable experience for park visitors." The process of enforcement has many steps and is designed to be progressive in nature beginning with education and verbal warning. The Park Rangers will employ "progressive compliance" to "avoid negative visitor contacts." The whole

From The Chair

By Steve J. Nissen, Chair

March Elections

Once again the time is upon us for election of officers to serve on the Executive Committee of INC for the coming year. All positions are for one year only. Candidates for election must be a delegate from an INC member RNO to qualify. Two current office holders are term-limited and cannot run for the same office this coming year. Those two are; myself as Chair and Delegate-at-Large Will Cornell.

All positions are to be filled by nominations from the floor, and election at the annual meeting. We have some delegates expressing interest in vying for positions. Those expressing interest thus far are: Chair--Larry Ambrose, Vice-Chair--Cindy Johnstone, Treasurer--current treasurer Jennifer Tomeny, Secretary--current secretary Randle Loeb, Delegates-at-Large--Judy Schneider, Anthony Thomas and Brad Zieg.. There are five (5) Delegate-at-Large seats to fill and all positions are open to additional names for nomination. Another year brings new challenges for a new Executive Committee.

The past year has been filled with numerous INC endeavors. In addition to our monthly meetings we have participated in other significant activities. Highlighting some of those would be; partnering with other entities to sponsor City Council and School Board candidate forums, participating in Denver's first County Fair, an INC Executive Committee and Committee Chairs retreat, and the finale would be the very successful Annual Awards Dinner in January. Not to be overshadowed, INC has a dozen or so committees diligently working to sustain quality-of-life issues in our neighborhoods. The INC membership has just reached the '100 RNO member' milestone and we invite all RNOs who are not members, to come and partner with us to improve neighborhoods citywide.

A momentous occasion took place on February 15 when concerned neighbors from across the city testified regarding the controversial issue of signage at 'Mile Hi Stadium'. Two neighborhood organizations adjacent to the stadium, Jefferson Park United Neighbors and Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Association, spent many

hours planning their testimony. Jan Marie Belle from Southwest Improvement Council gave eloquent testimony from her involvement in the original planning of the stadium, Neighbors from many other areas of the city also testified at the hearing. This camaraderie of citizens expressing compassion and caring from the heart, regarding their concerns for this iconic structure in our great city, has to be one of the greatest exhibits of 'inter-neighborhood cooperation' in a long time. That's what we are about; let's keep that spirit alive.

Let me take this opportunity to express my



thanks to all for having the honor of serving as your chair for the past two years. I have seen many changes during my twenty-five years with INC, and have met many wonderful people who sincerely care about the quality-of-life in their respective neighborhoods, and the city as a whole. One of the greatest resources of any community is the person making sacrifices to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood. Molly Brown would be proud to know; that we still have "beautiful people of Denver" here in the Mile Hi City.

Zoning & Planning Committee Minutes

February 25, 2012

By Michael Henry, Committee Chair

The INC Zoning and Planning Committee met on February 25. The first speaker was Tom Downey, Denver Director Excise and Licenses. He said that he has made some important personnel changes, including Judy Steele being hired from the Secretary of State's Office to be his Deputy Director and Ruthie Sullivan being promoted to head the front-desk processes. He plans to insist that all telephone calls and e-mails must be returned promptly. He said that he was very disappointed to hear from several committee members that some calls and e-mails were being answered slowly. He said that the biggest challenge for his office is a shortage of personnel and budget, due to the city's ongoing budget shortfall. He is working with the city's Geographic Information System office to remedy what he admitted is a notification system that is still "fraught with errors and time-consuming." He said some of the problem is that past "designated neighborhood" boundaries have been bounded by

Parks & Recreation Committee cont.

enforcement program is intended to educate public and increase "voluntary compliance."

FT Park Rangers There will be four full-time Park Rangers in the City and six on-call seasonal workers (approx. 6 months year) plus five Rangers in Mountain Parks paid for by ticket surcharges. The Rangers' actions are mostly "preventative" in nature and at the "civil" level. Eventually they would like to be able to have the Rangers issue "criminal" citations when there is property damage.

Bob feels it would be appropriate if part of the Park Permitting Fees could help fund the Ranger Program to support Park Ranger supervision and assistance at many of the larger events in the parks where damage and violations are likely to occur. He also feels it is key to get this framework of proposed rules and regulations and citations passed in April so it can be implemented this spring by the Rangers. The public meeting for the PRAB Public Hearing and Formal PRAB action has been set for April 12, 2012.

Bob asked for specific written feedback and questions to be sent to him at bob.finch@denvergov.org or to Angela Casias at angela.casias@denvergov.org.

After expressing many thanks to Bob Finch for attending, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Overland Park Neighborhood Assn. 2nd Annual Spring Equinox Celebration Tues. March 20th 3:00 pm - dusk Overland Pond Park

A stellar array of homemade baked goods and treats, as well as warm cider, hot chocolate, and coffee will be provided by the neighbors. All neighborhoods are welcome. Over 50 adults and kids joined us for the Winter event. Overland Pond Park is located on West Florida Ave, behind Circle K and Aqua Golf at S. Santa Fe.

blocks, while GIS does not "read" blocks. A new notification system with new boundaries for assigning a "designated neighborhood" for liquor and cabaret license hearings should be operational by June 2012, which will be based on a linear-feet measurement from the premises. Committee members urged him to share information about the new system with neighborhood groups as soon as possible and to accept suggestions for improvement. He also plans to introduce a "web-enabled" system by the end of 2012, by which anyone can access complete department files, briefs and decisions by computer, including training staff at public libraries to help citizens without computers to access the files. He is thinking about revising petition forms to indicate whether a signer lives or owns a business in a close zone around the premises or a middle zone or a farther zone.

He told the committee that he decides whether to extend hearing dates on a case-by case basis if requested and that he believes that he has always granted requests for evening hear-

ZAPCommittee cont.

ings if adequate signatures are turned in. He has hired Bill Hobbs, formerly of the Secretary of State's Office, as the chief hearing officer and that they are preparing uniform protocols for hearing officers to encourage consistency. Several committee members strongly encouraged him to reinstate a complete set of policies and procedures on the department website so that everyone will know exactly what all of the policies and procedures are and encouraged him to allow neighborhood representatives to review the proposed policies, as was allowed by former Director Awilda Marquez in 2009.

Mr. Downey invited comments from committee members and other neighborhood representatives about his proposal to eliminate the current city prohibition of allowing a new hotel and restaurant liquor license within 500 feet of a school. He assured the committee that the 500-foot rule would not be eliminated for liquor stores, taverns or cabarets. Contact him at tom.downey@denvergov.org about this or any other issue.

He said that multiple issues regarding medical marijuana have consumed the energy of the department since he was appointed last July. The interactions and inconsistencies of federal, state and city laws make this issue very confused for all concerned. After a year's moratorium, new license applications will be allowed in Denver, starting July 1, 2012. Pursuant to an ordinance passed by City Council in 2011, registered neighborhood organizations will be notified of new applications, although there will not be "needs and desires" hearings on new applications.

Jane Lawnhurst of Old South Gaylord Neighborhood Association said that they have recently appealed to the district court the granting of a hotel and restaurant liquor license in a block that they believe is over-saturated with liquor licenses.

Judy Schneider of Ballpark Neighborhood Association led a discussion along with Attorney MaryAnn McGeady and Jorgen Jensen of Community Coordinating District No. 1, an innovative effort to assist the place-making efforts and goals of the Northeast Downtown Neighborhoods, specifically around Triangle/Eddie Maestas Park (Broadway, Park Avenue and Lawrence Street), which is challenged by issues of many homeless persons and drug-dealers. Although the District was established by City Council in 2010, it has no taxing or fee authority and all help and contributions are voluntary. Architects and artists will present

alternate proposals to a community meeting on February 29. A proposal will probably be adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on a temporary basis. The district will be generating community participation through many methods, including social media. MaryAnn McGeady, who represents many other metropolitan districts, is willing to talk with anyone interested in knowing how metropolitan districts can be established and used – 303-592-4380, mmcgeady@mcgeady-sisneros.com.

Pat Kennedy, Engineering Supervisor for Street Maintenance of the Public Works Department (William.kennedy@denvergov.org – 303-446-3535), initiated a wide-ranging discussion of the city's snow removal programs. While the city has barely recovered from an unusually heavy 18-inch snowfall in mid- February, Pat reminded us that the 2 heaviest-snow months in Denver are March and April. He indicated that the primary responsibility of Public Works regarding snow is to remove snow from travel lanes and that the Department recognizes and apologizes for and is working to address adverse effects on some neighbors. He said that the city plows arterial streets first, then collector streets, then school routes. The city will only plow residential streets if it is mid-winter and if a 12-inch or more snowfall is predicted. They will use de-icing material as needed, depending on conditions. Citizens can call or log onto 311 to complain about specific problems, including ice-buildup in gutters. Public Works will not plow alleys. The average citizen of Denver pays approximately \$7 per year for snow removal.

Chief Neighborhood Inspectors Tim Kristofek (tim.kristofek@denvergov.org – 720-865-3180) and Becky Esquibel (becky.esquibel@denvergov.org – 720-865-3197) outlined how Neighborhood Inspection Services enforces the city's snow-removal ordinance, which requires owners of businesses to remove snow from sidewalks within 4 hours of a snowfall and owners of residences within 24 hours. They said that, in priority order, they deal with downtown, then small business districts, then residential areas where complaints are filed with 311. They first give warning notices, then official notices, then citations which can lead to fines. They said that, if a complaint has not been resolved after 4 days from the filing of a complaint, contact 311 again. It is good to keep the reference number for each complaint filed with 311, so that the caller can refer to it. NIS received 700 snow-shoveling complaints from the February storm.

Although the committee recognized that the recent snow removal was generally very well done and that every snowfall is different, many members spoke about many issues of heavy ice buildup in gutters, city snowplows pushing snow onto sidewalks that had just been shoveled by owners, snow buildup at bus-stops, hazards for elderly and handicapped due to icy or snowy sidewalks. Members encouraged more public information about how citizens can deal with these issues and more "common sense" from city personnel about individual situations. Stacie Loucks of the Mayor's Office said that she and Michael Sapp are trying, through the Mayor's Office, to develop ways for community volunteers to help with these issues.

Some committee members recommended that citizens should not use toxic-de-icing material on their sidewalks, but instead should use sand (and remove it afterwards). Many members said that neighbors need to help neighbors who have mobility problems during snow/ice season and neighbors who cannot shovel their own walks.

The Regional Transportation District sent an e-mail to the committee indicating that RTD will, through contractors, remove snow at all bus stops which have RTD bus shelters. RTD will not remove snow from stops that do not have shelters. Clearing snow from bus stops with advertising shelters is the responsibility of the advertising company that owns the shelter, whose contact information should be on the shelter. RTD responds to individual complaints regarding snow and ice at RTD-sheltered stops. The RTD Senior Manager of Facilities, Steve Pilon, can be contacted at steve.pilon@rtd-denver.com – 303-299-2373.

Judy Sullivan of Hampden Heights recounted the serious problem suffered for at least 4 years by many homeowners along the south side of East Hampden near Tamarac where NIS insists that homeowners must shovel "their" sidewalks, even though they do not have access to the sidewalks because of 2 impenetrable fences erected by the city and the state which separate the homes from the sidewalks. The City Councilperson, the State Department of Transportation, NIS, the State Senator, the Mayor's Office and the neighbors apparently are unable to arrive at a reasonable solution that will not penalize the residents for a situation that was not of their making. A similar situation exists along South Quebec near Fairmount Cemetery. The committee strongly urges city officials to solve this in a reasonable way.

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Cory-Merrill N.A.
Crestmoor Park HOA 2nd filing
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