

Camping Ban Forum At May Delegate Meeting

Chief Robert White, Road Home Director Bennie Milliner, and Colorado Coalition for the Homeless education specialist B. J. Iacino joined six other panelists, including three from downtown neighborhoods, at a forum presented by Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Saturday (5/12). Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation represents about half of Denver's Registered Neighborhood Organizations. About 60 people attended the INC forum.

Councilman Albus Brooks was involved in this panel and explained the ordinance and offered to send anyone the ordinance who wants a copy.



Forum panelists represented various neighborhoods and City government.

Michael Henry led off the discussion with a rendition of the history of the creation of the "Homeless Action Group," in 1985 by Bernie Jones, one of the founders of INC.

Discussing Denver's ban on "urban camping," the police chief says nobody will be arrested just for being homeless; the city's homeless prevention program director says there's always some kind of shelter available; and an expert on homelessness says sustainable services cost less than temporary shelter.

Councilwomen Susan Shepherd (District 1) and

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Robin Kniech (At-Large) made impassioned comments opposing the ordinance. Councilman Albus Brooks (District 8) says Denver's ordinance is different from other cities because it contains an "assessment of needs provision." Brooks, who sponsors the ordinance in Council, says there are "hundreds" of similar laws across the country. "We are hoping to help the most vulnerable (homeless) people get the services they need," says Brooks.

Judy Schneider of Ballpark Neighborhood says the ordinance allows police to contact more homeless people on the streets and make more service referrals. She calls for a "thoughtful" approach to the problem, and says people will only get arrested for violating other laws.

Lower Downtown Neighborhood Association representative, Josh Davies, also a downtown business owner, says the ordinance "forces everyone into more collaboration" and homelessness "is not someone else's problem." According to Davies, "if there were a simple solution, it would already be done."

John Maslanik of Downtown Denver Residents Organization says he hopes the ordinance will be enforced "humanely" and improve conditions for everyone downtown. "We remain vigilant of how the ordinance is enforced," he says. Maslanik adds that the ordinance is defective because it has no permanent funding provision.

Antony Hepplethwaite of Occupy Denver expresses continued opposition to "any attempt to criminalize homelessness." He says more people are homeless because of the country's

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DENVER
INC

CONNECTION

June 2012

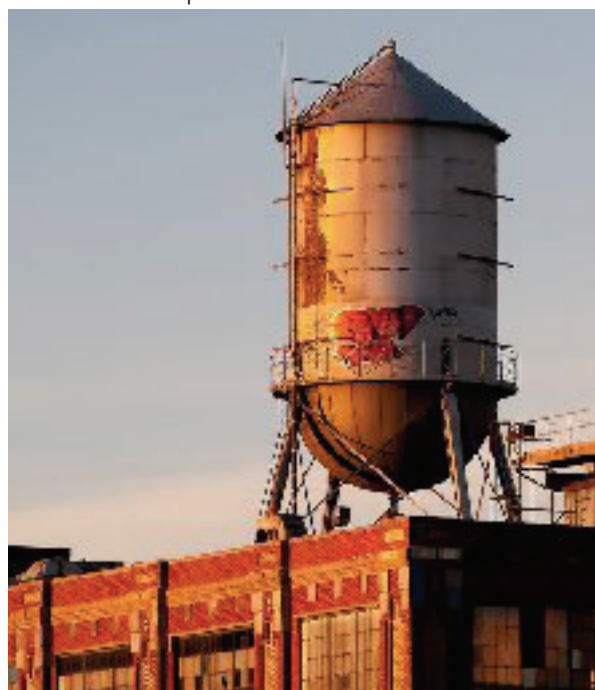
www.denverINC.org

Gates Is Coming Down!

by Richard Schutz

May 23. Gates executive, Tom Reeve, announced Gates wants to start demolition of the Gates factory at Broadway and Mississippi by the end of 2012.

Reeve said at this time, no party is engaged for development of the site. Gates wants to clean up the site so that in the future it will be easier to market the property and indicated it will cost Gates millions of dollars to demo the site and clean it up.



Reeve also stated that the Voluntary Cleanup (VCUP) will move forward. VCUP site 8 and 9 contamination will move forward with new wells that will pump up contaminated water, decontaminate it and pump the water back into the ground. This process will circulate the contaminated water through a decontamination process until it is cleaned up. The VCUP sites 6 and 7 which are under the factory building will be cleaned up when the building is gone.

While it was made clear that Historic Denver was not trying to get Historic Landmark Designation for the factory building, they were asked to have input as to what could be done to preserve some of the history of the site for future development that might occur. Reeve said that the water tower was taken down and saved.

Gates reclaimed the property from Cherokee and bought outstanding notes from Wells Fargo and owns the property. Kim Kucera of CRL Associates is helping Gates through the city demolition processes of the site.

Councilman Nevitt will update as the demolition process progresses.

NEED HOSTING GROUPS FOR INC MONTHLY MEETINGS IN 2012 If your RNO or organization would like to host one of INC's monthly meetings, please let us know! If you are interested, contact either Larry Ambrose, President at LDA@earthnet.net or Randle Loeb, Secretary, at randleloeb@gmail.com. Meeting space should accommodate up to 60 people, have handicap access and parking.

Minutes From The Delegates Meeting

May 12, 2012 at the Broadway Cop Shop –Quorum present
Submitted by Randle Loeb

The April delegate minutes were approved.

The camping ban forum was the featured program. See page 1 for story.

President's Report: There was an initial meeting with Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation regarding the city notifying Registered Neighborhood Organizations. These meetings will continue monthly and anyone is invited to participate. A protocol is being requested for all departments of the city to notify the neighborhood organizations of impending meetings and to ask for input from the beginning of the planning process. The communications with citizens making requests of any nature is being considered for review. A request was made to have responses made in a timely and efficient means.

The Library Commission is meeting again in June. They're considering two issues: the \$2.5 million dollar cuts in the budget from last year and an effort to raise taxes with a ballot initiative with respect to either a mill levy increase or a library district. The ballots are likely to go before the voters in November. If a library district is passed then the City Council would appoint the members. The library district will come under state law as to how the district will operate.

Parks and Recreation Committee met last Thursday at 2020 S. Monroe St. at the Heritage Club at 6 p.m. Again, the inclusion of neighbors and resident neighborhood organizations is critical to the quality of decision making of all departments.

Zoning and Planning Committee meets on Saturday May 19 at 1201 Williams Street. Tom Downey from Excise and Licensing and the new Public Works Director, Jose Cornejo will be presenting. The neighborhood planning process of Cherry Creek North is under scrutiny by RNO's and neighbors concerning the density and height of the structures. The planning department vociferously contested the proposed position of INC in the May newsletter [not to allow temporary patio permits for restaurants and bars] and has asked to clarify points that were made in order to have a chance to discuss their reasoning in making their plan. The original motion was withdrawn pending this deliberation.

The Public Works Department will be updating their policies with respect to right of ways. A motion was moved by Michael Henry and seconded by Randle Loeb to create a policy that includes the resident neighborhood organizations. This motion was passed 27 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

Education Committee met and the Denver Public School System is considering a scenario for 40, 50 or 60 million dollar Early Childhood Education mill levy initiative. More three and four year old children will be cared for with these increases in spite of the existence of a Denver Preschool Program at the moment. One particular of the increase in revenue is to provide full day kindergarten for 600 additional students. Four distinct committees are meeting. A decision whether to have this on the November ballot will be made by June.

Dollar Dictionary Committee has received more than half of the money needed to buy thesauruses and dictionaries for third graders for the upcoming school year for 6,500 students. \$8,000.00 is needed in the next month. A generous contribution came from Green Valley Ranch and another \$1,500.00 from the Kiwanis Club.

Public Safety Committee will establish a regular schedule in the near future. \$100.00 from INC was provided for the meetings at the Broadway Cop Shop and in honor of Doug Pimple who died recently.

Transportation Committee will be meeting again in June. They're considering

JUNE DELEGATE MEETING AGENDA

8:30am Coffee & networking

9:00am INC Business Meeting

10:15 am Denver Public Works will be coming to "Talk Trash, Ticketing and Towing"

1. Solid Waste Management Master Plan
2. Denver Strategic Parking Plan

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.

Dollar Dictionary Drive

Submitted by Steve Nissen, Chair DDD

A big thank you to the following RNOs who have taken the lead in Dollar Dictionary Drive funding this year. Bear Valley Improvement



Assn, Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, Cherry Creek North NA, Country Club Historic Neighborhood, Inc., Crestmoor Park (2nd Filing) HOA, Downtown Residents Org., Greater Park Hill Community, Inc., Green Valley Ranch Citizens Advisory Board, Harkness Heights NA, Historic Montclair Community Assn, Inspiration Point NA, Overland NA, Park Forest HOA, Virginia Vale Community Assn, and Wellshire East Home Owners. We ask every RNO to consider making a contribution to this worthy cause so that we can provide these great learning tools to students in your neighborhoods. While we are aware that some RNOs have very meager funds, we suggest launching a small fund drive among your members or business and resident neighbors.

At this date, we still need to raise \$10,000 to provide both the dictionary and thesaurus to all of the 6,500 third graders in Denver Public Schools. We need to reach our goal in early July as that is when the books must be ordered in time to have them available for the start of the new school year.

Personal contributions are a big part of our fund-raising and we encourage you to consider that as well. Spread the word among

your friends and colleagues! With your support, we are confident we will reach our goal. Please check out Dollar Dictionary under www.denverinc.org website for any additional information or questions.

Parks & Recreation

Submitted by Ray Ehrenstein and Diana Helper

INC PARC (Parks and Recreation Committee) met May 15, 2012 at 6 PM at the Heritage Club. Present were co-chairs Katie Fisher and Maggie Price. Also present: Cindy Johnstone, Ray Ehrenstein, James Sample, Dave Felice, Diana Helper, Cathy Donohue, Kathleen and Jay Rust, and from DPR (Denver Parks and Recreation) Angela Casias.

PARC members had just received an announcement from various sources regarding increased enforcement of the Leash Law in city parks. This email did not go to RNOs, and PARC requested that in the future DPR make sure RNOs are included. The fee schedule listed for violations is lower than the schedule established by DPR, and funds from such fees go to the city's Environmental Health Dept. (Animal Control) rather than to DPR. It is hoped that fees will be higher in the future. Park Rangers and volunteers on the Courtesy Patrol in parks will assist with enforcement.

Katie reported on a Dept. of Interior press release stating active military and their dependents will have free passes to National Parks and Open Spaces.

Angela spoke about park playgrounds, and gave PARC a copy of DPR's Playground Master Plan (also available on line). Parks are inspected and rated (age, safety, type of park) to help with decisions for improvements. Any time a playground change occurs the playground must be made to meet ADA requirements. Angela presented a schedule of park playgrounds to be redone. A standard playground costs \$100,000 (no funds for design). When funds are available in the DPR budget, a consultant is hired to design the new/redone park. The term "regional playground" such as the plan for City Park, is much larger and varied than a standard park playground. May 16, a press release will inform the public of eight concepts for this area of City Park.

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INC CALENDAR

DELEGATE MEETING

Saturday June 9

Denver Water
Three Stone Buildings
Cheesman Room
1600 West 12th Ave.

DIRECTIONS:

FROM Speer Blvd

Go to Bannock St. and turn West
Turn left onto 13th Ave
(it becomes 2-way at this point)
Turn left onto Quivas St.
Turn Right onto W 12th Ave -
Denver Water will be on the left (gated building)

FROM Santa Fe Dr.

Turn west onto 13th Ave
Turn left onto Quivas St.
Turn right onto W. 12th Ave
Denver Water will be on the left (gated building)

FROM I-25

Exit S. Speer Blvd towards Elitch Circle
Right onto Kalamath
Right onto W. 13th Ave.
Left onto Quivas
First right onto W 12th Ave.
Denver Water is on the left

May EC Meeting

Monday, May 8, 2012 7:00PM

1201 Williams St.

COMING UP

Mayor Hancock

Cabinet In The Community
June 30, Rude Recreation Center
2855 W. Holden Place
9AM - noon

Contact communications@denverinc.org
if interested in hosting a future meeting.
Hosting guidelines can be found under
Events>Meetings on our website

July Delegate Meeting
Saturday, July 14 Location TBD

July EC Meeting

Monday, July 9 7:00PM
Also see www.denverinc.org
for committee calendar of events

Camping Ban Forum cont.

economic recession, and calls for “compassionate approaches” to the problem. Hepplethwaite contends Councilman Brooks and Mayor Michael B. Hancock “did not consult the homeless community” before preparing the ordinance.

“My fear is that the law will be interpreted differently on the streets (and) compromise is difficult when one person has more power over another,” says Benjamin Donlon, a panelist who is homeless. “Actions are sometimes different from words.” In response, Chief White reminded Donlon that he has the chief’s private phone number.

B. J. Iacino, Director of Education and Advocacy for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, says there are more people homeless today than during the Great Depression of the 1930s. She says housing solutions can actually save money and that a “punitive first step” such as the ordinance, is not warranted. “The ultimate service we need is affordable housing,” says Iacino, noting that police are moving from a protective role to one of enforcement under the ordinance.

“Outreach and sheltering are only short term remedies,” says Denver’s Road Home Director Bennie Milliner. “We need to put people into housing.” Milliner also emphasizes that there is always some kind of shelter available. “If we need to find a place for someone who needs shelter, we will find a place,” declares Milliner.

Anthony Hebblethwaite says the lack of public toilet facilities is “dehumanizing.” Benjamin Donlon suggests the city install self-cleaning public restrooms with a limited time occupancy as some European cities have done.

Several times during the forum, Police Chief White reiterated that an individual would not be arrested just for violating the camping ordinance. White says police would only arrest someone if there were

an outstanding warrant for the individual or the person violated some other law. This led some in the audience to question the need for the ordinance. The process is:

People who are in a public place sleeping with their bedding will be asked to move. If they do not comply they’ll be given a written warning that they can refuse to sign.

Finally, they will be removed to shelters because we have an ample supply of them, or the person will move on. Bennie Milliner, elaborated that we have sufficient shelter space.

Randle Loeb pointed out that many people will not access services because they are suffering and afraid and/or have been turned away. For some, a better option is a drop-in place versus having to stand in lines.

Homeless Issue Background

In 2005 there was a study commissioned of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Homelessness and what to do about this that was a part of the People Living in Public Places. This Blue Ribbon panel was the origin of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. The reason that this is significant is that homeless people including other neighborhood representatives, social service providers and the police participated directly in creating this document and in the committee People Living in Public Places.

The earliest ordinances were related to public intoxication, open containers, disorderly conduct, curfews, and park restrictions on camping at night, trespassing and vagrancy. Poor farms, orphanages, and asylums were found throughout the region along with cemeteries for the poor. Most of the housing stock that was present at the turn of century for poor people

was wiped out and never replaced during urban renewal and the creation of the land settlement of Aurora Campus.

Michael Henry described the ordinances that have been passed with respect to the separation and density of shelters, large residential care uses and places for people who are homeless. One of the issues raised again and again throughout the discussion was the density of shelters in specifically four council districts with the impending issue that more and more demand exists downtown, as Councilman Brooks stated, “Build it and they will come.”

The end of year seven the Ten-Year plan is reaching its final stages and projections are that homeless people will remain a fixture in and around the communities of the Denver Metro Region despite increased ordinances like the Anti-Camping Ban in Denver. As Councilman Brooks said this is the fifth in the state including one three years ago in Colorado Springs, and for which there have been no direct arrests due to violating the camping law. Boulder followed suit with one two years ago. Fort Collins and Aspen also have bans on camping.

What was not stated was that these bans have never stopped anyone from being outside who wanted to be despite the vigilance and determination of the officials. In fact, all that occurred as a result of the ordinance is that people were dispersed and as B.J. Iacino from the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless said, “became more fearful and fretted whether they’d be illegal.”

A decade later people were more obviously wondering what would happen to people who live in public places. For the latest exact information on the contacts with homeless people in the county and around the seven county metro-area go to www.mdhi.org.

Executive Committee Meeting Recap

Monday May 14, 2012

Submitted by Randle Loeb, Secretary

Quorum Present: BOD: Larry Ambrose – President, Randle Loeb – Secretary, Cindy Johnstone – Vice-president, Delegates-at-large: Cathy Donohue, Anthony Thomas, Rafael Espinoza, Judy Schneider.

Committee Chairs: Gilbert Gonzales, Maggie Price, Bradley Zieg, Michael Henry, Steve Nissen, Karen Taylor. Guests: Dace West – Dody Erickson, Office of Strategic partnerships, Michael Sapp – Community Relations Mayor's Office.

Minutes April 9 EC meeting minutes were approved by BOD.

Treasurer Report April Treasurer's report was reviewed by Cindy Johnstone. April 31 all accounts: \$30,758.45. Liquid assets: \$19,309.64. Report was approved by BOD.

Dollar Dictionary: \$1,500.00 has been received from Kiwanis Club CHUN has offered \$500.00 and Green Valley Ranch \$500.00 for the Dollar Dictionary fund.

Shared Space Project The Office of Strategic Partnerships presented the Denver Shared Space Project. One of their projects is the Alliance Center at 16th St. and Wynkoop. They aim to support grass roots initiatives combining interests and identifying businesses that wish to collaborate and partner throughout the City and County of Denver. They serve the community promoting the deep seeded needs, creating a dialog with neighbors and communities on issues and common interests. Non-profits are a key component of their planning. INC is interested in becoming a partner in a shared space, having a budget that is raised to support an office for meetings and developing partnerships and membership.

Michael Flaherty has been developing a zoning map that shows the density of shelters, large use facilities, the relationship to distances and presence of schools. There is also a Geographical Information System – G.I.S. that shares locations of commercial spaces, city properties, and uses of potential places for development. Where a 24 hour shelter or drop-in center was raised.

Larry Ambrose said that a budget was

being offered for developing a strategic use of shared spaces. It was proposed that grants and funding sources be determined to support \$6,200 in expenses for a place, an administrator, and board development.

Budget 2012 In the Audit Report, it was proposed that INC track account transfers and reimbursements for multiple receipts in a more detailed manner. The budget for the next fiscal period has received 83% of the anticipated membership dues. The Denver Tourist Bureau will sponsor the Annual Dinner which is now set up as a self-paying event for INC. \$1,260.00 was proposed for the Annual Dinner budget for out of pocket expenses that occur before sponsorships come in.

ZAP requested a \$750 budget for Neighborhood Handbook production which includes design/layout and a limited print run. It was suggested that the handbook be solely electronically distributed which saves a great deal of revenue. The prior budget amount was \$2500. It was last produced in 2006. \$250.00 was proposed for the INC Handbook. A committee meeting will consider the pros and cons of this decision.

The proposed budget is \$8,400.00. The official budget will be voted on in June though BOD did approve a \$250 expense for membership development.

Neighborhood Conference July 21 is the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation City-wide Conference at Coors Field. Gates will open at 7 a.m. Registration will take place until 8:30 and breakfast will be served. \$1,000.00 has been proposed for the conference. The theme will be about community development and government relations. How do we build partnerships?

There will be a portion of the conference devoted to experiences of leaders of the community as to how they get things done. Two workshop tracks will offer five workshops for an hour that focus first on navigating through city government and second, neighborhoods developing strategies for new members.

Bradley will send to everyone the ordinance creating the registered neighbor-

hood organizations. The event will be open to everyone to attend and we will seek to draw community members and officials to listen and to build partnerships.

Zoning and Planning will meet at 1201 Williams Street on May 19 and features Tom Downey, Excise and Licenses, and Jose Cornejo, Director of Public Works. The theme that resonates with the neighborhoods is to be at the table from the beginning in decision-making.

Parks and Recreation is meeting at 2020 S. Monroe St at the Heritage Club on May 22 with a focus on how to use parks for special events and close off spaces to the public will be a topic and considering a festival park for alcohol and special events that is primarily for the purpose of these activities. Red Rocks, while not a part of the park system is a public space that is being used for special events. How do they decide where play grounds are developed and the input of the neighborhoods in planning is crucial. Part of the Parks Platform is the use of parks and Larry Ambrose spoke before the Parks Advisory Committee about creating a festival park. Related to the issue is insurance, permit fees, impact on normal uses and scheduling.

Dollar Dictionary Drive The Dollar Dictionary needs to raise \$10,000.00 in the next 60 days. Thus far \$17,000.00 has been raised for the dictionaries and thesauruses that are ordered in July, to be boxed and labeled in August for all Denver Public Schools third graders.

The Education Committee is examining the proposed mill levy for early childhood education.

Public Safety is looking for a co-chair. On May 24 on the 4th floor of the Webb Building there will be a discussion of nuisance abatement. Councilwoman Robb is organizing this meeting.

Library Committee will be meeting to consider a bond issue in November.

Transportation Public Works is working on the emerging plan to develop the route for I-70 partly underground and four blocks in a tunnel. 46th Ave was a

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ZAP Committee Meeting Recap

The INC Zoning and Planning Committee met on May 19. Tom Downey, the Director of Denver Excise and Licenses told the committee that he hopes to web-enable all license applications by the end of 2012. He said that his new system of designating neighborhoods around liquor and cabaret license applications will be implemented at the same time, with radii in linear feet instead of blocks (because the city's Geographic Information System cannot read blocks). He said that he has decided that "temporary" permits will be temporary and not allowed for up to six months, as some recent permits have been. He said that soon the department will be sending notices to registered neighborhood organizations, which is required by ordinance. He introduced the Department's Senior Fellow, John Jennings, and said that they will "in the next few months" revise the policies and procedures for liquor and cabaret licenses (which have been removed from the department's website). He said that he will ask for the help of INC representatives and other stakeholders to review them. He said that he will accept "good neighbor agreements" and will allow a limited number of conditions from GNAs to be placed on the face of licenses, so long as they are legal and enforceable. He said that he is still accepting comments about whether the 500-foot limit from schools should be eliminated for hotel and restaurant liquor license (only) applications and that he may set a public hearing for public comment. Tom and several committee members discussed the recent phenomenon in a few neighborhoods, including West Washington Park and Ballpark of "beer buses" or "beer pedalcabs." He has not observed them, but thinks they probably violate state law if they are serving liquor and ferrying passengers. He invited neighbors to e-mail him information and/or photos. He remarked that his staff has been cut in all areas and that the department now has only 4 inspectors for all of the licenses from the department.

The committee discussed the budget for the upcoming third edition of the INC Neighborhood Handbook.

Jose Cornejo, the new Manager of the Denver Department of Public Works (sworn in on April 16) spoke with the committee. The department has 1100 employees, whose primary function is to plan, build and maintain the city's infrastructure. He said that he hopes to have interactions with neighborhoods and citizens instead of just making presentations, in order to develop a good level of trust between the departments and citizens. He said that he will need to cut \$8 million from the 2013 city budget and determine the minimum level of services required. He said that Public Works is working with other departments to plan for an aerotropolis/ airport city, connections between Auraria and downtown, Brighton Blvd., Interstate 70 improvements, the 16th Street Mall, Northfield-Stapleton, the east corridor for Fastracks and regional drainage, among other projects. In particular, he wants to think about health impacts in his planning. He said that "without citizen support, we cannot do anything."

The committee's next meeting will be on June 23. Contact Michael Henry for information – michaehenry824@comcast.net.

Minutes From The Delegates Meeting cont.

topics such as traffic speed, modes of transit, transportation solutions and what is in store for the future.

With reference to committees and committee makeup, President Ambrose asked what issues need the most attention. Responses included: Snow removal and public works, budget financing, the I-70 corridor, aging and impact of more people staying in their homes. One committee that we could revise is the homeless action group with the "People Living in Public Places."

New Business:

- There is a desire to have a tour of the new crime lab in early June.
- The book, "Take Back Your Government" by Senator Morgan Carroll, was cited as a good resource for understanding expectations and responsibilities of being a citizen.

JPUN's Better Block Project

by Helen Hu, North Denver Tribune

JEFFERSON PARK – The sleepy commercial block of West 25th Avenue will become a colorful, bustling place for a day under a project that is being tried out in Denver for the first time, and one that has been proven out in other major US cities.

On Saturday, June 23, a host of volunteers will descend upon 25th between Federal and Eliot Street. Armed with paint brushes, hammers, trucks, props and their imagination, the volunteers will create a welcoming atmosphere conducive to gathering and strolling.

Organizers plan to set up fruit and vegetable stands and "pop-up" shops in vacant storefronts, and move benches, food trucks, music, bike racks, and outdoor art onto the block. Some facades will be given a much-needed coat of paint, and trees, plants and outdoor furniture are expected to be brought in.

The anchor for the event will be 2914 Coffee, which opened on 25th Avenue in March and quickly became the busiest spot on the block. "I'm excited about this," said Anthony Davis, the proprietor. Davis, an artist whose paintings hang on the café walls, will do a street painting at the intersection of 25th and Eliot. Kirsten Brundage, an interior designer whose office is nearby, is planning to create a pop-up restaurant in a big empty storefront on the southwest corner of 25th and Eliot.

The street will be closed the day before, on June 22, for crews to paint the street and let it dry overnight. Set-up will start very early the next day, with the event officially being held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Gosia Kung, a local architect who is organizing the event in Denver, said she is looking at a \$4,500 budget. The city is giving a \$1,000 grant and about \$2,000 has been raised from neighborhood groups and local business owners, but more donations are needed. They're tax-deductible, with the recipient being Jefferson Park United Neighbors, a non-profit organization. Besides JPUN, Walk Denver, an advocacy group that Kung helped found, the Federal Boulevard Partnership, Live Well Colorado and Groundwork Denver are participating in the event.

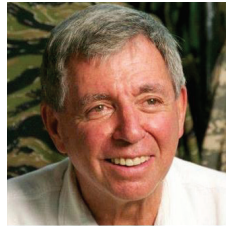
Other needs: Volunteers! Food and drink for the volunteers the day before and day of the event; white exterior paint; donated flowers, mulch and dirt; and 15 large potted trees to borrow.

From The President

Communicating with the City

Notifications to Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) from City agencies are required under the Denver RNO Ordinance, Denver Municipal Code, Article III, Section Sec. 12-91 through 12-99. When we update our various groups' contact information with Community Planning and Development, they receive email contact information which is supposed to be used to send such notices. There have been problems with this system and in, this regard, INC past Chair, Steve Nissen (bless his heart), spent a good deal of time forwarding messages to INC RNOs just to be sure no one was left out.

So, in the interest of improved communication between RNOs and Denver residents, INC VP, Cindy Johnstone and I, have begun having regular monthly meetings with Members of the Mayor's staff, Kendra Sandoval, Derek Okubo, Roz Alston and Michael Sapp. We have suggested 1.) an Executive Order from the Mayor be made to all City employees requiring timely response by phone or email to all citizen inquiries, 2.) the RNO contact information be updated monthly, a single list of email contacts be made available to all City agencies and that notifications of all information relevant to RNOs be sent by City agencies whether required by law or not, 3.) all City employees have accessible phone num-



bers, all such phone numbers be made available to the public that they may be contacted directly and 4.) 311 be changed to: a.) allow introductory messages to be skipped, b.) give callers an initial menu choice of either i.) calling for a particular City employee, ii.) looking for the proper City employee with whom to talk or iii.) filing a complaint or report c.) allow operators to look up and provide direct numbers for City employees and either connect or give out the phone number to citizens.

Recruiting for INC Committees

INC Committees are where the rubber meets the road, pot-holes and running paths. The Zoning & Planning Committee (ZAP) has served to inform and advocate for neighborhood interests on a number of issues for many years. As a standing committee for only a few years now, the Parks & Recreation Committee (PARC) has stepped up to the plate on matters of water quality and keeping our parks free and open to all. The "Platform for Denver's Parks" provides a community blueprint for the future development of Denver's historic park system. It is our intention to grow and strengthen INC committees to cover new issues of neighborhood concern as they arise.

However, it is not widely known by either INC Delegates or our respective RNO members that INC Committees are open for participation from any member of an RNO and, if appropriate, any resident of Denver.

The INC Bylaws state, "A Committee Chair should be a Delegate. Any individual of a member organization may serve on a committee; however, the INC President may appoint any resident of the City of Denver to fill these positions with majority approval of the Board of Directors." INC and RNOs are doing a disservice to our members by not widely promoting and offering membership on INC committees to the thousands of people in our neighborhoods who care about the City.

Please help us. We are currently seeking a Membership Committee Chair and additional members for all our committees including ZAP, PARC, Communication, Education, Public Safety, Library and Transportation Committees. Please inform and keep reminding your RNO members that they are welcome and can make a difference in city-wide issues as well as improving INC through their involvement. Based on my experience, you will even find such civic activities will heighten their involvement in their own RNOs.

Parks & Rec Recap cont.

There will be opportunities to view and comment on these concepts. PARC asked that at least one "stakeholder" on the concept committee be from INC PARC. It would be even better to include an INC delegate from all five Denver areas. Three concept plan finalists will be presented at a public meeting. PARC will send Angela a name to put on the stakeholder committee.

School playgrounds are private property and their landscape is not under city regulation. If a new school playground design includes removal of mature trees from the site, school may do so, in spite of opposition.

The fee schedule for residents who want to gather in a park is in effect if it is an organized, announced event for more than 20 people. 501.c.3 organizations pay half price. Fees assure your use of the site and include insurance. Live music requires a festival permit. There is no fee for events in parks on National Night Out, or for events sponsored by a City Councilperson. PARC urged that DPR consider allowing free neighborhood events on National Holidays. Residents may call Angela for assistance with neighborhood event fee considerations.

Twelve free movies-in-the-parks are scheduled this summer. In addition to downtown venues, movies will be at four parks in other areas. It

costs \$2,000-\$2500 for a movie-night, and PARC suggested that RNOs might be able to find sponsors for movie nights in their local parks—something to study for 2013. Cathy took exception to having a private organization in charge of the Civic Center movie nights.

Those who attended the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) May meeting reported that adding alcohol sales at Ruby Hill Park and Fleming House passed 16-0. Dave said it seems as if Ruby Hill will become the "festival park" INC has been promoting (although not at that site). The concern of 7500 people parking, the precedents set, and other potential problems were not discussed, and the older residents did not speak out. PARC suggested studying term-limit policy for PRAB.

Other items: B-Cycle plans await receipt of funding. Red Rocks park will be open except for the theater, when it is in use for athlete training. DPR is developing policy for Denver park use by businesses, such as exercise groups, massage, personal trainers, etc. The Mayor has requested that departments use 311 so calls can be tracked. 311 is often ineffective, however, so not used. Angela will give us a phone number for DPR Support Staff- a real person. Work at DPR continues on public engagement, which again DPR wishes to make a "guideline" rather than policy.

EC Report cont.

major thoroughfare in 1960 that divided the communities that were located in the surrounding area.

Membership 69 RNOs – 82 total memberships. 146 RNOs are not members. Based upon a request from Jane Lorimer, Interim Membership Chair, a motion was proposed by Cindy Johnstone to approve appropriating \$250.00 directly for the purpose of mailing, invoices and postage to seek participating of all of the neighborhood organizations. It was approved by acclamation.

Committee Expansion

Issues that need to be addressed leading to development of committees and focus toward new endeavors in INC was considered. Public Safety may include health, behavioral health and people who are impacted by lack of places to live or stay.

A Budget and Finance committee was proposed.

Library may come under an infrastructure committee that mirrors the same committee of City Council. It was proposed that the committees be based on the standing committees of the City Council and local government.

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