

## The Walmart Debate Comes To INC

Dave Felice, Greater Park Hill neighborhood, introduced new business at the recent August INC delegate meeting by making a motion for INC to stand with the residents from surrounding neighborhoods in opposing a proposed Walmart store at the University Hospital site development at 8th and Colorado Blvd. It resulted in one of the liveliest conversations among attendees we've had since the food producing animals/FPA ordinance discussion!

### Background

Fuqua Development LLC, has plans for the 28-acre site at Eighth Avenue and Colorado Boulevard, including some 40 retailers, a 325-unit apartment complex by Alliance Residential LLC, a parking garage and a restaurant row along 8th Avenue. Project costs are estimated to be \$150 million. The outcome is to be determined in November by City Council.



Per Dave Felice and an article in the *Denver Business Journal*, Fuqua wants to bring in a smaller, more urban-oriented Walmart store, to be located at East 11th Avenue and Albion. Dave indicated most of the neighborhoods are against Walmart coming in. As example, we learned that Congress Park did a survey which found 90% of the respondents were against Walmart coming into this development.

The proposed store format would have most of the parking underground and a 119,000 square-foot, two-story store. Fuqua representatives say Walmart was the only store to respond they could commit to the purportedly constrained structure available. The area has been determined to be a blighted area therefore Urban Renewal will also allocate funding for this site.

### Primary Issues

Neighbors are concerned with Walmart's business practices and the size/nature of the store in that it might shut down other retailers. Neighbors also have expressed a strong objection to the proposal that a tax-increment financing (TIF) district would be formed with the help of Denver's Urban Renewal Authority (DURA). Neighbors feel that taxes shouldn't go to support private businesses such as Walmart.

### CONNECTION CONTINUES

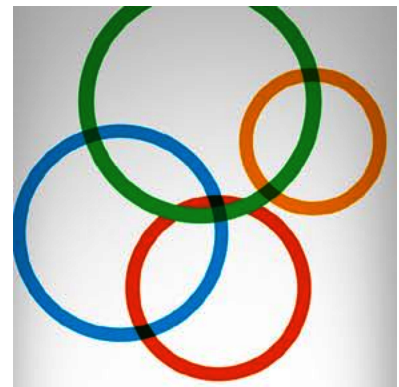
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DURA says the cost of demolishing the existing buildings and creating the necessary infrastructure improvements would be too prohibitive for any developer to make a return on an investment. DURA outlined a plan to rebate sales and property tax to the developer for some of the cost of the infrastructure improvements and indicated the developer would take 100% of the risk since the rebates came only in the form of taxes generated by development.

Bradley Zeig, INC Executive Committee member, indicated Walmart has nothing to do with this (TIF) decision, rather that this is a landlord-tenant relationship. He further stated that TIFs are being used to demolish buildings and restore 16 blocks of public streets, including putting back all of the sanitary system, sewers, and infrastructure, and if these things under the TIF are not done, they won't get Walmart or any other to come to this development.

### Resulting Motion

Michael Henry, Chair INC Zoning & Planning committee, asked Dave to withdraw his motion to have INC support surrounding neighborhoods against these developer plans and instead to send this matter to committee and give INC adequate opportunity to hear both sides of this issue before asking INC to take a position. Dave agreed and made a motion to have INC engage in a full bipartisan examination of the controversy through the ZAP Committee which will then present the position no later than the October delegate meeting. The motion passed unanimously.



DENVER  
INC

CONNECTION

September 2012

[www.denverINC.org](http://www.denverINC.org)

Networking begins at 9:00am. Meeting begins at 9:30am

- 1.) Welcome from Stapleton United Neighbors
- 2.) INC Business / Committee Reports
- BREAK
- 3.) Report on INC Survey
- 4.) Nicholas E. Mitchell - Denver's new Independent Monitor

## 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](http://www.denverinc.org) for committee postings and the calendar of meetings.

### Education Committee

INC had the opportunity to send a delegate to represent neighborhoods on the 2012 DPS Community Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC). The committee began meeting in February to discuss the school system's pressing needs in areas such as creating more preschool and full-day kindergarten programs, increasing enrichment opportunities, updating the city's aging school buildings and upgrading the learning technology available to serve students and teachers.

Over the past three years, state funding for DPS students has declined to \$6,872 for the current school year from \$7,672 per student in the 2009-10 school year. This is a loss of \$800 per student, and is a cut of more than 10 percent to the districts per pupil funding. In total, this reduction equates to a loss of more than \$70 million for the upcoming school year. Approval of a Mill Levy Override would provide \$49 million to fund academic support and student enrichment opportunities to help improve student achievement. This includes expanded arts, music and physical education opportunities, tutoring support for students who are behind and expanded opportunities for full-day kindergarten and early childhood education.

If approved by Denver voters in November, a Bond would provide \$457 million to fund critical school renovation, maintenance and repairs, including necessary upgrades to school roofs, heating and cooling systems, water systems, accessibility needs and fire detection systems across the nearly 14 million square feet of district facilities. The funds would also help alleviate overcrowding and provide facility space for new students by funding new schools to accommodate DPS's growing enrollment. Over the past four years, DPS has seen an enrollment jump of more than 8,400 students, with projected growth of another 5,000 to 6,000 students by 2016.

If the DPS Board of Education approves the measures recommended by the CPAC and both measures are approved by voters in November, the DPS portion of the property-tax bill of a typical Denver residence valued at \$225,000 would increase by \$143 per year, or about \$12 per month. With this change, Den-

ver residential property taxes would still rank below most metro-region school communities.

Recent news reports mention that the district tied teacher salary increases to passage of the 2012 Bond/Mill effort. We would like to clarify that the proposed increase for our teachers is in no way funded by bond or mill levy override dollars the CPAC recommended to the DPS Board this past Monday. The passage of these efforts would, however, release pressure on the general fund in one area (backfill of a portion of the current subsidies being provided to support preschool and full-day Kindergarten), which can support providing a well-deserved cost of living increase for teachers.

Please email Karen Taylor, Co-Education Committee Chair with any questions or concerns, [karentaylorphd@gmail.com](mailto:karentaylorphd@gmail.com)

### Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

August 21, 2012

INC Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC) met at 6 p.m. August 21 at the Heritage Club. Present were co-chairs Maggie Price and Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Marlene Johnson, Kathleen and Jay Rust, Cathy Donohue, Ronnie Crawford, Michele Fuerst, Diana Helper, and from DPR Angela Casias. Guest presenters were Polly Reetz and Nance Stocker of the Audubon Society.

PARC discussed the draft of a letter stating PARC's comments and questions regarding the proposed Dustin Redd Playground at City Park. Edits and suggested revisions are to be sent to Maggie ASAP.

Several concerns from University Park were discussed, and answered or noted by Angela. Art in Parks comes primarily from the city 1% for Public Art. She also told of the free movie night downtown, and later described the new park planned for the Heron Pond as a beautiful green space with bike trails. A meeting is set for 9/12 at 5:30 at Stapleton Rec Center.

Ms. Reetz and Ms. Stocker presented information in opposition to the proposed plan to enlarge Chatfield Reservoir, home to some 350 bird species. It would mean a loss of a major recreation area, just when a large residential area is to be built nearby. PARC recommended that, to gain strong allies, they inform the jurisdictions and towns which studies show will lose water if the plan is adopted. RNOs are urged to convey opinions to the Corps of Engineers and the Governor. An alternative is to store water in the emptying aquifer.

PARC agreed a thank-you letter be written to

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## INC CALENDAR

### DELEGATE MEETING

September 8, 2012  
9:00am - Noon

NOTE: Meeting time changes

9:00am Coffee & networking  
9:30am INC program

New Sam Gary Branch  
of the Denver Public Library

2961 Roslyn St. 80238  
(Near 29th & Quebec)

The September INC  
Executive Committee  
meeting scheduled for  
September 10, 2012  
will not be held.

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

### October Delegate Meeting

October 13, 2012

### October EC Meeting

October 15, 2012

### SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 13

Citywide Neighborhood Conference  
700am-800am Registration  
800am Breakfast and Keynote  
945am to 1230pm Breakout Sessions

Wellington Webb Building  
201 W. Colfax St.

Complimentary parking  
and continental breakfast

This date has been selected to replace  
the postponed Jul 21 Conference

## Steve Nissen Honored As An 'Everyday Hero' By Channel 7

Steve Nissen, former INC Chair and current Dictionary Drive program chair, was presented with an Everyday Hero award by Mitch Jelniker of Channel 7 News. The award was made during the recent book packing activities for the Dollar Dictionary Drive which operates under the Inter Neighborhood Cooperation banner. 2012 marks Steve's 17th year organizing this program. His award presentation will be aired on Channel 7 at the following times:



Sunday, September 2 during the 10pm news  
Monday, September 3 during the 5am news  
Thursday, September 6 during the 11am news  
Saturday, September 8 during the 5pm news  
Sunday, September 9 during the 7am news

The total news story will also appear on Channel 7's news website beginning September 3  
[www.thedenverchannel.com/7everydayhero](http://www.thedenverchannel.com/7everydayhero)

## The Dictionary Project

by Steve J. Nissen

The dictionaries and thesauruses, (7,200 of each) are now in Denver Public Schools for the seventeenth (17th) year that INC has been doing this project. That's about 250,000 books given to 190,000 third-graders at INC's cost of over a quarter million dollars. This past two weeks saw scores of hardy volunteers turn out to label and pack the books for 99 schools. Our thanks to the stellar group of volunteers who labeled and packed the books for the students.

A special thanks to all individuals, RNOs, grantors and businesses who have helped make this possible through your donations. If you missed the opportunity to contribute, it is not too late. We still have costs to cover for this year's project as well as begin the initial process for the next year. Please consider a contribution to this award-winning project.

RNOs who have contributed to date this year are:

Alamo Placita Neighbors, Baker Historic NA, Bear Valley Improvement Assn, CHUN, Cherry Creek North NA, Congress Park Neighbors, Country Club Historic Neighborhood, Inc., Crestmoor Park (2nd filing), DDRO, East Montclair NA, George Washington HOA, Greater Park Hill Community, Green Valley Ranch CAB, Harkness Heights NA, Historic Montclair Community Assn,

Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA, Inspiration Point NA, Mayfair Neighbors, Inc. Old San Rafael Neighborhood Org. Inc., Overland NA, Park Forest HOA, University Park Community Council, Virginia Vale Community Assn, Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn and Welshire East Homeowners.

Thanks to all these RNOs for their loyal support.

And thanks to the following volunteers who helped:

SueAcheK  
BibiAlexander  
Larry Ambrose  
Bobbi Amos  
Patterson Benero  
Sarah Bradley  
Gene deBeque  
Ray/Pat Defa  
Susan Edwards  
Ruth Falchero  
Barbara Fallon  
Kathy Ford  
Mitsie Funakoshi  
Gary Funakoshi  
Eleanor Garris  
Gilbert Gonzales  
Dorothy Gorai  
Mary Ann Grenawalt  
Merti Hubbard  
John Joffrion  
Roberta Johnson  
Annie Johnson  
Jim Kayser

Laura Kent  
Peggy Latourette  
Merce Lea  
Peyton Lea  
Soren Lea  
Tina Lehner  
Randle Loeb  
Jane Lorimer  
Gerri Maes  
Barbara Main  
Mary Masunaga  
George Mayl  
Ellis McFadden  
Karen Miller  
Patricia Moreno  
Steve Nissen  
Georgia Olakanye  
Susan Osborn  
Adam Page  
Henry Page  
Maxine Parker  
Jill Peterson  
Maggie Price  
Barbara Price  
Franz B. Rollii  
James Sample  
Kay Shaw  
Ray Sturns  
Karen Taylor  
Beth Trudgeon  
Debbie Turner  
Annie Walker  
Christian Wilheft  
Tina Willi



# From The President

## INC Committees

Like the POTUS (President of the United States) the POTINC (President of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation) has certain prerogatives. That is where the similarity ends, of course. Nonetheless, one of the "powers" available to me under the INC Bylaws is to appoint non-RNO, Denver residents as members of committees! Fortunately, just like the US government, there are checks and balances built into the INC governance. The INC Board has to approve my



non-RNO member, Denver resident, INC committee appointments.

INC Bylaws, ARTICLE X. – COMMITTEES states, "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."

My point is this: Such a clause would be superfluous if we could just get more RNO members to participate in our committees!

One of the most interesting and important findings from our recent survey (thanks to so many of you for participating) is that INC committees are viewed as being very valuable in terms of services INC provides to you. I don't think it is widely known within our membership, that any member of an RNO can serve on an INC committee. Serving on an INC committee is interesting and educational, sometimes fun and a good way for people from around the city to get to know each other. INC Committees are increasingly and rightfully doing the important work for which our organization exists, that of studying, informing and advocating for neighborhood issues of citywide concern.

So please remember on an ongoing basis to spread the word to your RNO members that they are welcome and indeed needed to serve on any one of INC's standing committees such as Public Safety, Budget, Zoning and Planning, Parks and Recreation, Membership, Communications, Transportation and Education, or on any of our special committees like Election Forums, the Annual Awards Dinner sponsored by Visit Denver, Neighborhood Conference and Library.

And, in fact, whether or not someone is a member of an RNO and is concerned about our parks, zoning, crime, libraries, traffic, schools or has public relations or marketing skills, they too can receive my blessing and participate in the fine work of INC.

## Survey and Beyond

We recently completed a survey to gauge how INC is doing and where it needs to go from here as an organization. Thanks are due to Jane Lorimer for putting this effort together and to the significant number who responded. Results will be discussed at the September meeting and will also be available online at [www.DenverINC.org](http://www.DenverINC.org) later in September. More importantly, the information gleaned will be very helpful in evolving our strategic plans for the organization.

Although, INC has been around for 35 years, has grown and can claim many accomplishments, it is my personal goal as President to establish the organized neighborhood movement as a permanent, visible presence and force in determining public policy by establishing a meaningful partnership with City government that will involve RNOs at the very beginning of planning processes. This means our organization needs to continue to strengthen our committees and goes back to my original "call for involvement" from RNO members.

## Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes cont.

DPR Manager Lauri Dannemiller for her quick and forthright response to concerns at Washington Park and other Denver parks. Diana will write it.

Concerns sent by email from Dave Felice were discussed. Some items are still not fully reported; others will be considered in depth by the newly formed Resources, Allocation and Priorities Project (RAPP). Kathleen Wells and Cindy Johnstone are INC reps on RAPP. Diana presented Kathleen's report from the organizational meeting. She and Cindy will report at PARC next month.

Among the City Goals for 2013 in the proposal for use of TABOR tax money (CB12-0566) is "Improve Denver's Parks irrigation and maintenance." City Council approved this inclusion on August 20, when DPR Mgr. Dannemiller and a number of Councilpersons spoke earnestly in its support. This bill would send a question to the November ballot for Denver voters. Jay suggested INC support this issue. Michele said the fountain at Stapleton park had been constructed poorly and repairs were costing \$250,000...a use of irrigation/maintenance money?

Maggie spoke about the Congress Park neighborhood, commenting on the difficulty of encouraging neighborhood involvement. Several agreed this is a concern in many areas.

Katie reported that Cathy Calder did not wish to be on the new Parks Public Engagement committee, and Cathy Donohue had never received a letter from DPR about it. Katie has one other person to check with, and Kathleen Rust agreed to serve if necessary.

Ronnie reported that fishing is good in the S. Platte, and he has been working with the State Biologist on stocking fish. At the Denver County Fair the booth for the S. Platte Greenway showed future destinations with kayaking, fishing, etc. Funds are being raised.

The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m. Next meeting: September 18.

Diana Helper, PARC member

## Produce For Pantries

Megan Bradley, Metro Program Manager, Cooking Matters Colorado, spoke about how residents can provide fresh foods to area food banks by having home gardeners provide their extra produce to food banks.

In response to the growing number of people visiting Denver area food pantries and to increase access to healthy and fresh produce for all, area organizations have come together to create Produce for Pantries.

A project of Cooking Matters, Grow Local Colorado, Denver Urban Gardens, Slow Food Denver, Plant a Row for The Hungry, Livewell Colorado, Food Bank of the Rockies, Metro C areRing, Yardharvest, and St. John's Cathedral,



Produce for Pantries connects food pantries with school gardens, community gardens, and home gardens in their neighborhoods to provide locally grown and healthy food and nutrition education to those in need.

Through Yardharvest, food pantries will also be

connected with fruit gleaned from residents' trees that have an excess of fruit they would like to donate. Dana Miller is the contact person for Produce for Pantries. [Produceforpantries@gmail.com](mailto:Produceforpantries@gmail.com)

Megan also told us that the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program / SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) covers the cost of food producing plants like basil, tomatoes and greens. She provided the attendees with a wonderful tasting sample of a pesto dish that she made from a combination of herbs, which can be home-grown, and canned food items (spinach and green peas) which are typically stocked by food banks and covered under SNAP. She wanted to show us a healthy example of recipes that can be created from low cost, available items.

# August Delegate Meeting Recap

The monthly meeting of delegates was held August 11, 2012 at Denver Health Rita Bass Trauma and EMS Education Institute

Larry Ambrose, INC President, welcomed and thanked this month's host, Denver Health

Olga Garcia, Director of Government and Community Relations, welcomed attendees to this meeting.



Denver Health is a Patron Associate member. She reported that she's been in her position for for only four months and she's learned so much. She introduced Dr. Bill Burman, Director

of Denver Health who told us about the group. Denver Health is one of eight Level 1 trauma centers in Colorado and has been in operation for 152 years. Level 1 trauma provides the highest level of surgical care to severe trauma patients.

Denver Health is a comprehensive, integrated organization providing level one care for all, regardless of ability to pay. Twenty-five percent of all Denver residents, or approximately 150,000 individuals, receive their health care at Denver Health. One in three children in Denver is cared for by Denver Health physicians as well. As Colorado's primary "safety net" institution,

Denver Health has provided billions of dollars in uncompensated care.

Denver Health has a pharmacy and outpatient services for HIV/AIDS screening, mental health, pediatrics and much more. At the end of this meeting, Olga took a group of about 10 INC delegates on a comprehensive tour of the Denver Health complex.

## Minutes

Approved Minutes from June 9 Delegate meeting (there was no meeting in July).

## Treasurer's Report

Approved treasurer's report for balance ending July 31, 2012. Balance of all accounts is \$38,293. Jennifer Tomeny, treasurer, advised about \$21,000 of this total will deplete once the Dollar Dictionary program pays for books and packaging activity. INC's total accounts without Dictionary savings equal \$16,494.

## INC Gains Ground on Public Input

Larry gave a follow up report about gaining opportunities for the public to speak at City Council Budget/Finance Committee Meetings. They are going to allow limited public comments for 15 minutes at meetings and permit up to seven people to speak for two minutes. The public must sign in to request time to speak. INC has strongly recommended the comment be made at the end of the meetings.

## De-Brucing Referendum

Larry reported on this referendum. The Denver

City Council is in the process of considering CB12-0566, which would send a question to the November ballot for Denver voters, asking for permission to retain all taxes collected under our current rates, without raising those rates now or in the future without a vote of the people. This measure, commonly known as "de-brucing" would allow Denver to retain what it already would have collected under current tax rates, taking Denver out from under a state-mandated formula within TABOR that has limited what the city can retain at the same time we have been cutting services and closing the city to our residents to make up for a persistent budget gap. Larry indicated there is no mention of revenue for parks. Jeanne Robb advocated for changing this. City Council President, Susman, drafted an amendment to the proposal which contains dedicated revenues for maintenance of parks.

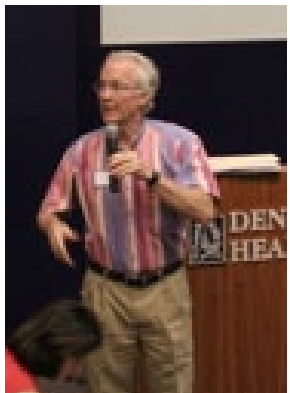
## Election Forums

Steve Nissen, Michael Henry, Larry Ambrose and Karen Taylor are involved in developing the forum planned for Monday, September 24 at Montview Presbyterian Church. The League of Women Voters will have their regular election forum the same night. There will briefly be an introduction of candidates and comments from each on forum topics. This will be televised DenverTV 8. We are sponsoring the event at \$500.00 (original budget was \$1,000).

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# Denver Health And Environmental Health

Doug Linkhart, Director of Environmental



Health, addressed the meeting about his areas responsibility and what his group does. In line with its mission to promote healthy communities, Denver Public Health and Denver Environmental Health recently released reports on the health of Denver's residents within each City Council district.

This report documented substantial disparities in a variety of health outcomes, such as premature death, teen birth, availability of health insurance, and use of tobacco. The purposes of the report were to:

- Identify important health trends in Denver

- Show changes in health in Denver over time
- Compare health outcomes in Denver to the state of Colorado and to national goals
- Identify disparities in health in Denver

Linkhart stated that it's well known that Denver consistently ranks as one of the nation's healthiest cities, yet health status can vary widely depending on the area of the City in which you reside. Educational, economic and environmental factors all impact health. Over the next year, he asks for INC (Denver residents) to help prioritize the primary health issues in the community so they can focus

more clearly on the top two to three issues.

The purposes of the report are to:  
Identify important health trends in Denver  
Show changes in health in Denver over time  
Compare health outcomes in Denver to the state of Colorado and to national goals  
Identify disparities in health in Denver

Dr Bill Burman, Director of Denver Health, also spoke about the importance of the Health Assessment and how Denver Health is partnering with Environmental Health in these projects. INC will be advised how residents can support the program in the near future.

## Office Of Strategic Partnerships

Dace West, Director, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Economic Development, spoke about her department.



The Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships (DOSP) was created in January 2004 to serve as a liaison between the City of Denver and the nonprofit sector. DOSP believes that by working collectively, the public and nonprofit sectors can be even more

efficient and effective in strengthening Denver's communities.

Dace talked about the "shared spaces" program. Started by the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships, Urban Land Conservancy, and Piton Foundation in 2009, the Denver Shared Space Project serves as a local resource for information and expertise around shared office space for organizations within the social sector and their are opportunities for partnering with INC. INC's Larry Ambrose has a goal to establish office space for both INC's regular



# August Delegate Meeting cont.

## Committee Reports

### Communications

Jane Lorimer reported on behalf of the chair, Michael Smilanic. The committee has changed the format of the weekly news and monthly newsletter to contain a link to the INC website. The goal is to drive people to the web site to read these news pieces and prompt visitors to peruse the site more often. She reported that INC will continue to mail the monthly newsletter to those who cannot access or download it. Sometime in September, the current originating email news alert address now from AOL will be replaced by [enews@denverinc.org](mailto:enews@denverinc.org) so please add this to your permission list for incoming emails.

Dave Felice expressed appreciation for Jane's work on the news and complimented

they must make it accessible for handicapped and provide easy, free parking. Based on preliminary member survey results, Jane Lorimer suggested they consider having an awards luncheon versus a dinner, and see if Visit Denver might become a sponsor for both the luncheon and the Neighborhood Conference. Lunches are lower cost than dinners.

### Library Committee

Gilbert Gonzales, co-chair, reported DPL will close up to 12 branches if they do not have increased revenue. He also advised that the Library Commission has a 15 minute public comment period at their meetings.

### Membership

Jane Lorimer, interim chair, reported INC currently has 97 RNO's and 24 Associate members for a total of 121 memberships.

Re-imagine Play playground project in City Park will cost \$5 million over five years and will be built with private funding. Concerns include: Evaluation of operational costs such as where the maintenance money is going to come from, issues with recreational space, and parking in the neighborhoods. More importantly, this proposal has not been vetted through the neighborhoods.

### Public Safety

Merce Lea, chair, reported the committee will meet the third Tuesday every month at Broadway Cop Shop at 6 p.m. Merce indicated they want and need committee representation at this committee. "With all of the changes in the police Department we have a lot that we have to think about in terms of public safety," said Lea. Larry supported this call for committee members by saying "We need Denver resi-



*At the meeting: Megan Bradley, Metro Program Manager, Cooking Matters Colorado, left; Michael Henry, center; President Larry Ambrose, right*

the committee for its improved communications in terms of timeliness, access, look and content. Special compliments were made to Maggie Price for her technical contributions and to Michael Smilanic for his great design and leadership.

### Education and Dollar Dictionary

Steve Nissen, education co-chair and program chair for The Dollar Dictionary, reported only the thesauruses are here. INC has been giving thesauruses and dictionaries to every third grader in the Denver Public School System for the past 16 years. This marks year #17. Book packing begins August 15 and 16 from 9 to 5 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 9th and Emerson. When dictionaries arrive, we'll pack those in the future.

The DDD fund is short \$1,400.00. There have been commitments from the League of Women's Voters and Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Association. DDD received contributions from 166 individuals and that's down from previous years. Steve will prepare a list and give it to the newsletter of contributors.

### INC's Annual Awards Dinner

Judy Schnieder, chair, reported they need participants on the Dinner Committee and the dinner will be in January, 2013. They are considering a change in venues and understand

INC would like to attain 100 RNO's this year. Lorimer also thanked everyone for completing the recent INC opinion survey. She reported over 150 had completed the survey and that formal results would be presented at the September delegate meeting.

### Neighborhood Conference

Judy Schneider, chair of the Neighborhood Conference, reminded delegates the conference date was moved to Saturday, October 13 at the Webb Building. Judy indicated the committee is working to obtain free parking. She asked for INC volunteers to help with the conference. It was suggested that she 'advertise' specific jobs that were needed as well as the time required and so on. This conference replaces our regular INC Delegate Assembly. There will be a substantial breakfast for the 4.5 hour program. T. Michael Smith will be the keynote speaker and "building partnerships" is the theme.

### Parks and Recreation

Maggie Price, co-chair, reported. September 6 is the last date to make public comments about Chatfield Reservoir in terms of in changing the area and its impact on recreation and wild life. This committee's regular meetings are the third Tuesday of the month at Heritage Club at 6 p.m. 2020 S. Monroe St.

dents in all of our committees so that we have representation in how our City is managed and how we access our services."

### Transportation

Brad Zeig, co-chair reported. They had a staff member of DRCOG speak at the last meeting in July. Vision 2035 predicts that twice as many people will be in the vicinity; they believe that the population will be 900,000. They see there being a slow-down in the economy. Inner-city housing will become more valuable. Committee plans to have meetings every other month and next meeting will be in September.

### Zoning and Planning

Michael Henry, chair, reported the next meeting is Saturday, August 25. The new City Planning Director will be named in the next few days. The two candidates are from out of town and the appointed person will be invited to attend the September ZAP meeting. "We need to educate the planning director and new cabinet members," says Michael.

At the August 25 meeting, the head of Neighborhood Inspection Services will address what kinds of cases they investigate. The Committee is also making suggestions to reconsider the structure of the Landmark Preservation Commission relative to protocol for buildings that are condemned or abandoned.

# Executive Committee Meeting Recap

Monday, August 13, 2012

7:00 p.m., 1201 Williams St., 19th Fl.

Attending: President, Larry Ambrose, Treasurer, Jennifer Tomeny, Secretary, Randle Loeb, Delegates-at-large, Cathy Donohue, Rafael Espinosa, Katie Fisher, and Anthony Thomas. Committee Chairs: Jane Lorimer - Membership, Michael Henry - Zoning and Planning, Chris O'Connor - Library, Maggie Price - Parks and Recreation, Bradley Zieg, and Joel Noble - Transportation, Karen Taylor - Education and Dollar Dictionary, Michael Smilanic - Communications

The meeting was called to order by INC President, Larry Ambrose at 7:00 p.m. Katie Fisher moved and Anthony Thomas seconded to approve the July 9, 2012 EC Minutes of the Meeting. The motion passed by acclamation.

Randle Loeb moved and Jane Lorimer seconded to approve Jennifer Tomeny's Treasurer's Report. The motion passed by acclamation.

A motion was made by Jane Lorimer, seconded by Cathy Donohue for the President of INC Board to send a letter to Anthony Aragon, the Appointments staff person for Mayor Hancock asking for notice of Boards, Commissions openings so that INC can disseminate to RNOs and make nominations.

## Report and Discussion on Neighborhood Conference

Neighborhood Conference: October 13 at the Webb Building on the theme of partnerships. \$1,000.00 was allocated for the event. A breakfast will be provided for which the city is soliciting in kind donations. It is expected that the two parking lots nearby will be rented for space to park. T. Michael Smith will give the key note on the theme. He's one of the founders of INC and has worked in different levels of local and state government. He has also been on the board of Greater Park Hill. Topics will include Dynamics of Neighborhood planning with awareness of certain issues, aging population, density increasing, housing, public right of way, community services, neighborhood and community building. After the opening there will be a panel made up of the City, INC and Stephen Griffin who lend perspectives on neighborhood involvement in the planning process. There will be two 1 hour and 15 minutes time blocks during the morning with a number of different breakout sessions. Publicity and signage for this event has to be precise and new members of the planning committee must take responsibility for the implementing the plan for the event. Other subjects for the conference will include neighborhood leaders' stories, mass transportation and intra-neighborhood transit, how to handle liquor license applicants and getting the word out to neighborhood groups when decisions are made in a timely and comprehensive way to generate both interest and awareness on issues.

The first breakout session will take place from 9:45 to 11 a.m. and the second from 11:15 until 12:30 p.m. There will be round table discussions on City Council, the Executive Offices. Councilwoman-at-Large Deborah Ortega has been asked to organize the part of this regarding the city administra-

tion process. Tools for the Neighborhood groups to take away from the conference will be offered on marketing, use of the web page, outreach, membership, fund raising, and sponsorships.

## Survey Report

Survey Results Sneak Preview: Jane Lorimer delivered a preview of what will be shared for the September 8 delegate assembly of INC on the 154 completed surveys, representing 35% rate of returns.

## Denver Decides

Election Forum and Sponsorships: The League of Women Voters is going to present a forum to be held at Montview Presbyterian Church on September 24 in the evening from 6 to 9 p.m. This will be held in the basement of Fellowship Hall. Denver ballot issues will be recorded for rebroadcast by Denver Channel 8 but the League forum will cover ballot issues throughout Colorado. INC will contribute \$500 to the League to help with expenses for the event.

## Committee Reports

**PARC:** Katie Fisher reported that City Park's 3 acre play area, which will cost 5 to 30 million dollars to develop. Sub groups of the parks have been integral in the process such as conservancies instead of the neighborhoods in the community. Councilman Brooks opened his remarks to the community stating that "City Park is a regional park not a community park." Maintenance of this project has not been addressed in the development plan. The current structure is in need of repair and a day will be designated for 75 volunteers to come in and work with Excel Energy on funding the repair on the west end of the park of the children's area.

The water level of Chatfield Dam will be raised 12 feet expanding the dam in an area that was created for greater water demands. This will have an impact on water flow all along the Platte River. September 6 will be the deadline for citizen comment on the EIS. A special alert needs to be sent for public comment.

**ZAP:** Mike Henry reported the next meeting is September 22. In the discussion of the Delegate Assembly concerning the redevelopment of the 16 blocks of the University Hospital area many people would be interested in the process of Tax Increment Financing and decision making around the schedule and process of establishing the many businesses that will be located on the premises. Walmart is one of many issues that neighborhood groups will be deciding on by November when City Council votes on the matter.

**Library:** Chris O'connor reported the refinancing of the City will stipulate that money from DeBrucing will be used for libraries and schools. There will be an additional mil levy proposed for education. 68 million dollars is being considered to support the city revenues. A proposed ordinance from City Council will be concerned with the funding if the ballot issues are approved by the voters in November.

**Education & Dollar Dictionary:** Steve Nissen said that Wednesday and Thursday the Thesauruses and dictionaries will be labeled and packed at

Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 9th and Emerson Sts. The work begins at 9 a.m. Everyone please come and support the drive for the third graders of the Denver Public Schools.

**Transportation:** Brad Zeig and Joel Noble reported Steve Ross from the Denver Regional Council of Governments came to the last meeting. Joel Noble is in charge of communicating to a master list of all of the members when the meeting take place. Their next meeting will be about further organizing the Transportation Committee. They meet every other month.

**Public Safety:** Bradley completed the Citizens Police Academy and urges others to participate. Nicholas Mitchell is the new Independent Monitor. There is a local emergency preparedness committee. Randle Loeb spoke of rampant drug dealing along East Colfax and the apparent lack of police response to the problems. He was urged to take the matter to the Public Safety Committee which meets at the Broadway Cop Shop on the third Tuesday monthly. Merce Lea is looking for others to participate.

**Membership:** Jane Lorimer reported there are 97 Registered Neighborhood Organizations.

Communication: Jane Lorimer and Michael Smilanic announced Newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of every month. They are sent to Jane Lorimer. Jane is going to do a tutorial regarding downloading the newsletter. Everything is being directed to the web site. Around the City needs to be included on the web site. Everyone has to send information to Jane but someone has to manage the information. Randle Loeb is offering to assist. They are also soliciting articles from members and all registered neighborhood organizations need to participate fully in the committees.

## Action Item

Scheduling Strategic Planning Retreat: November 17 is the date for the board retreat. One of the focal points of a retreat is what does INC want to do looking ahead? What charities do we wish to support? Larry believes we need [permanent space for INC for staff, interns, meetings and to strengthen the role of INC in the community.

## New Business

Randle discussed the location of the neighborhood service centers for up to 100 homeless people. Bennie Millener is suggesting that a place outside Districts 8 and 9 is to be announced in the Fall and will go into effect for the Winter. There is concern that what has been going on is not shared with the neighborhood organizations and public input has not been available. Randle asked that people track where they are seeing homeless people camping and whether they have moved into the surrounding neighborhoods. Thirty people are still remaining on the 16th St. Mall every night.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by Randle Loeb, Secretary

# Transportation Committee Minutes

July 12, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Call to order at 6:01 p.m.

Many thanks to Transportation Solutions, who paid for our meeting space for this meeting!

Introductions - 13 attendees

Main Presentation: Steve Cook, DRCOG - Regional Transportation Planner. [scook@drcog.org](mailto:scook@drcog.org), (303) 480-6749.

There are two major aspects of the Denver Regional Council of Government's activities to know about for this discussion: Planning (Metro Vision) and Transportation Funds Allocation. (We didn't talk about other aspects of DRCOG such as the Area Agency on Aging, Ombusman program for nursing homes, bicycle planning for smaller communities without dedicated planning staff, etc.) DRCOG does not build projects, does not maintain roads or establish bike lanes itself. It is primarily a long-range planning function, and the distributor of funds (including deciding which projects are funded).

The Metro Vision plan is the multi-topic comprehensive plan for the region (from Eisenhower tunnel in the west to Strasburg on the east - a large "9.5-county" area). Major topics are Growth and Development, Transportation, and Environment (including water conservation, water and air quality, and noise).

The plan focuses on "where do we want to grow and how do we want to grow?" while realizing there is local control. Finding the right balance between important overall concepts such as efficient growth and air quality, while maintaining local control. The connection between the overall goals and local decision-making is the voluntary agreement by local entities to support Metro Vision. DRCOG is one of the few "Metropolitan Planning Organizations" (MPOs) that have this voluntary model.

Growth of jobs, employment, and housing is encouraged to be directed to 93 "urban centers" within an "urban growth boundary" in the DRCOG area. Not all of these are the same (e.g. Downtown Denver and Arvada Old Town are both "urban centers"), varying in scale and texture. 3 or 4 are designated for the future (e.g. E-470 and 6th Avenue). 30 designated urban centers are in Denver, including the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) areas around major rail stops. See page 40 of Metro Vision 2035.

The "encouragement" is largely in the form of points given to projects in communities that sign on to Metro Vision and have projects that reflect the priorities of the plan (e.g. are multimodal) and focus growth in "urban centers", within the "urban growth boundary," etc.

Metro Vision has been the key planning document for about 25 years, each time looking about 20 years out. The current version is Metro Vision 2035, and the creation of Metro Vision 2040 is just beginning. There will be a lot of public meetings and listening sessions to help develop the vision plan for the area. Probably the same overall population estimates for 2040 as were used for 2035, due to the slowdown experienced with the financial crisis. Predicting population is relatively

non-contentious – the sum of the communities' estimates turns out to be approximately in line with overall predictions. Predicting employment growth is more difficult, and contentious, as the sum of each community's estimates yields an implausibly high rate of employment growth, so getting a reasonable estimate is more difficult.

Metro Vision sets out some regional goals by 2035, including:

Reducing the daily vehicle miles traveled per person by 10% (about 2.5 less vehicle miles traveled per day)

Reducing single occupancy vehicle mode share from 74% to 65%

Locating 50% of new housing in urban centers, raising share of housing in those areas from 7% to 24%.

Locating 75% of new employment in urban centers

The efforts seem to be making a difference. For example, for the first time since WWII the amount of driving we are doing in the Denver area has been flat for five years, having grown consistently prior to that. While some of it is attributable to the economic downturn, it also seems to reflect progress in use of transportation alternatives.

For transportation, DRCOG is the federally designated "Metropolitan Planning Organization" (MPO). Every major metropolitan area in the country with a population of 50,000 or more has one, which does transportation planning and which allocates federal transportation funds, which are sourced from the \$0.20/gallon federal gas tax. Of this, roughly 1% goes to planning and the other 99% goes to roads, transit, and other transportation related activities. DRCOG is the controller of the portion of these funds that are distributed to the Denver region.

Through formula calculations (largely based on population, with some other factors), the federal monies are divided among the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and the states distribute additional monies to more rural areas not covered by such an organization.

Prior to Feb. 1962, the federal monies were given to states' Department of Highways and the state decided how to allocate it. In 1962, in the large metropolitan areas, MPOs were created to decide how the monies are to be used in their region, moving control from the state level more local to the metro region.

Each MPO decides on its own governance structure. DRCOG has 57 board members, who are elected officials from 56 different communities (Denver has two). Since each community gets one vote, Aurora (with population of ~300k) and Empire (with a population of ~82) get the same representation, helping to give a significant say (and opportunity for funding) to all communities.

Denver's representatives are Councilman Chris Nevitt (alternate Robin Kniech) and Mayor Hancock (alternate is Paul Ryan - Mayor's Director of Regional Affairs, who is in practice the attendee).

DRCOG has some specific federal dollars it allocate to selected projects, typically on a four-year cycle with the federal transportation bill. Colorado

Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) also get specific funds, which come from the federal level directly for their use. But even CDOT and RTD's funds pass through DRCOG – DRCOG doesn't decide how those funds are allocated, CDOT and RTD make their own plans, but DRCOG is the conduit that ensures the funds are used as planned.

While DRCOG decides how monies are directed, CDOT actually holds the federal funds until they are disbursed.

Additionally, there are state laws from the early 1990s saying DRCOG must approve any RTD rail project, even if no federal funds are used for the project. This is a separate process from the federal funds allocation process. DRCOG reviews the financial plan for viability, and the technology used (the type of trains) before any RTD is taken towards construction. As a key document in this regard, DRCOG maintains the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is a fiscally-constrained plan that RTD can propose amendments to twice a year. It can only contain projects funded or reasonably expected to be funded within the planning period (currently until 2035). With the imminent acceleration of the I-225 segment of FasTracks consuming all of the FasTracks program's debt capacity, other FasTracks segments, such as the Central Corridor extension, will be removed from the fiscally-constrained 2035 RTP because there is no longer the expectation of being able to fund it in that period. The RTP can be amended if new funding sources become available (e.g. grants, a FasTracks sales tax increase, etc.).

Meetings can be contentious - any time money is available, they get at least double the available funds in requests. For example, right now, DRCOG is dealing with a small pot of money - \$40M (mostly cost savings from earlier projects or cancelled projects). Requests have come in for \$85M. Every four years there is a large federal funding round (\$200-250M), called the Transportation Improvement Program, to be distributed over a 4-year period. Denver can submit up to 16 projects for consideration. So now is the time to be talking with Public Works and City Council about what projects Denver is considering for proposal at that time, remembering that they should be selecting for projects that will score well to maximize the chances of getting funded. (e.g. projects in "areas of change" that are also in "urban centers" will score higher). Projects that won't score well in the DRCOG system, but are worthwhile projects, are ones that Denver may choose to fund totally with local money not decided on by DRCOG.

Scoring - Generally

The DRCOG Board sets the scoring system, and it changes over time. For instance, there used to be points for projects that showed inter-city cooperation or city-county cooperation. But over time, the Board felt it led to too much "gamesmanship" and wasn't helpful in distinguishing projects, and that factor is no longer given weight as points. (Of course, projects benefiting multiple communities may end up attracting more support in the voting, so in a different sense is important in selection, just not reflected in the scoring directly.)

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# Transportation Committee Minutes cont.

The federal government doesn't specify how scoring systems should work, but they do have some guiding principles that DRCOG checks in with periodically, as part of re-certification.

Projects are considered in different types – road project, bicycle projects, transit projects, etc.. Criteria include:

“Technical” merit: What are the transportation benefits? (e.g. a bicycle project looks at number of users, a transit project looks at ridership, a road project looks at the expected safety improvement, how much technical need there is for the project etc.)

“Non-technical” merits, such as:

How well does your community implement the policies of Metro Vision? (e.g. Do you do good, efficient planning. Do you support multi-modalism?) If your community demonstrates nine of these (in the appropriate way given the size of your community), and have signed the “Mile High Compact”, your projects get additional points.

Multi-modal aspects of any projects get additional points for the project.

If the project is in a low-income or minority environmental justice area, there are additional points.

All projects must have a local match component, with a minimum of 20%. Bonus points are given if the local match is higher than 20%. (e.g. some of the Broadway projects had a 30% match, which raised their score).

There can be so many points accumulated in the “non-technical” section, that sometimes projects with relatively low “technical” points score highly overall.

The criteria document for scoring is 102 pages long, available at [www.DRCOG.org](http://www.DRCOG.org) under Transportation, under Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), in the document “Policy on TIP Preparation.”

There are around 100 different categories of projects from a federal level, and occasionally DRCOG needs to seek clarification from the feds about whether a particular project can use a particular funding source.

Selected projects that take multiple years are encouraged to request the money over time based on the project schedule, and to stay on schedule with expected expenditures.

DRCOG staff uses the scoring system to rank the projects, predicting the benefits and costs using various criteria across very different categories of projects, in order to prepare the Board to make informed decisions that reasonably allow comparison across the varied project types. Ranking is not extremely detailed – all of the projects are ranked in about a month, so there isn't time to go into “ultra-detail.”

Board members then go “down the list,” using the scores as important input but also considering geographic equity over time and other factors. Since a city (or county) can submit only a limited number of projects, they must already have narrowed down to just the “best” projects – most likely to score well – before proposing them to DRCOG.

The scoring provides input to the Board on the relative benefit of projects, but the Board has latitude to select projects not strictly based on score.

The whole group found the presentation extremely valuable and insightful. A great hour and a half.

Other resources mentioned in discussion:

The book *Street Smart*, 2nd Edition, published by Reconnecting America. Focuses on streetcars as high-quality local rail transit to complement regional light rail and commuter rail.

DRCOG's “Report on Traffic Safety in the Denver Region” (2011). Analysis of crash data throughout the region showing types of incidents by location.

Denver Police Department - Crash data by month. [www.DenverGov.org/accidents](http://www.DenverGov.org/accidents) (Unfortunately the “top accident locations” monthly data appears to have not been updated in 2012, and annual statistics are only updated through 2009. Did DPD stop keeping this data?)

## Committee Business

Brad Zieg and Joel Noble as co-chairs.

Discussion of scope - “Transportation” or “Transportation and Infrastructure”?

Current mission statement for this committee is: “The mission of the Transportation Committee is to monitor transportation issues that impact the residents of the city and county, and to present feedback and positions on such activities as appropriate.”

Expanding to also include “infrastructure” would acknowledge that we may choose to talk about other topics under the Public Works purview, which are also in the right-of-way, but may not be limited to the surface transportation topic. As we build a great relationship with Public Works (as the Zoning and Planning committee has done with Community Planning and Development), covering the broader set of issues may be natural.

Yet, being the “Public Works” committee may be over-broad, as it would seem to include trash pick-up, etc.

Concerns expressed that “infrastructure” may not be clear to people. Concern that if non-transportation infrastructure would rarely be discussed in practice, it may be misleading to claim to cover it – the analogy is to the Parks and Rec. committee which in practice chooses to discuss parks but chooses not to focus on recreation centers, although the name suggests to potential attendees that recreation centers will be a focus.

Many neighborhoods are concerned about traffic, parking, traffic management and timing, and other transportation topics. Few are focused on storm and sanitary sewers.

Several people expressed that it's easier to start small and then grow as needed in response to areas of interest that arise.

Infrastructure can include alley maintenance, repaving, curbs which overlap both transportation and infrastructure.

It may be a good idea to list in the mission statement the specific topics we currently want to cover, so that potential attendees know what the areas of focus will be without jargon that may not

be clear (like “infrastructure” or “public works”).

By focusing on topics that may bring different city agencies together (e.g. Public Works and the police), new solutions may be found for long-standing problems.

For whatever scope is decided, we need to focus on learning and improving processes for working on issues, building relationships and educating neighborhoods on how to address these topics in their areas.

Select “case study” situations to focus on, that merit attention, and which can be used as examples for other neighborhoods as we work with the city to solve the problems. As we have experienced in other committees, the best way to select these examples is for neighborhoods to bring their issues to the committee, and the issues that many neighborhoods feel are widespread are the ones we should pursue first.

We may want to solicit input on what topics neighborhoods would like to cover with a survey in the newsletter and/or by e-mail.

Scope discussion tabled for next meeting, at which we will encourage attendees to bring their list of desired topics/projects, from which the initial committee scope will be determined and recommended to the Executive Committee, where the final decision rests.

## Next meeting

Next meeting will continue our pattern of every-other month on the second Thursday of the month: September 13th at 6 p.m. Brad recommends holding meeting at the same location, but will need to confirm. Main topic will be continuing the organizational/scope topic. Will also look to invite a speaker from the Denver Police Department about bicycle/auto conflicts.

Meeting Adjourned.

# ZAP Committee Minutes

By Michael Henry, Committee Chair,  
[michaelhenry824@comcast.net](mailto:michaelhenry824@comcast.net)

City Councilwoman Jeanne Robb informed the committee about a **proposed text amendment to the Zoning Code that would eliminate the expiration date (November 1, 2012) for provisions that limit the growing of marijuana plants for use by medical marijuana patients in residential districts** to no more than 6 plants for a resident patient and no more than 12 plants if there are 2 or more patients who reside in the dwelling unit. In other words, if passed, this limitation would become permanent.

Michael Sizemore, the Director of **Neighborhood Inspection Services**, updated the committee about NIS activities. NIS, which has 22 inspectors, performed many more inspections this year than the year before (resulting from complaints and from proactive inspections). He presented statistics about the types of complaints and the numbers of complaints by City Council District.

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## ZAP Committee Minutes cont.

He indicated that the inspectors give one or two warnings to owners if they find violations before administrative fines are imposed and/or the violations are abated by city contractors. There were 156 properties abated during the last year (such as weed-cutting or fencing of dangerous properties) if the owner failed to cure the violations, at a cost of approximately \$40,000 to the city. The quickest way to file complaints is through 311. Michael Sizemore and Councilwoman Robb also briefed the committee on upcoming proposals to strengthen the **Vacant and Derelict Building Ordinance**. Some of the provisions would tighten the registration process for absentee owners, centralize control of the ordinance into one department (Community Planning and Development) instead of several departments and require owners of vacant/derelict buildings to complete their remedial plans, instead of just filing plans. Committee members agreed that neighborhoods generally support strengthening the ordinance and reducing the ability of owners of vacant and derelict buildings to "game the system."

The committee discussed how Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation can best be involved in the ongoing discussions/controversies about the **redevelopment of the 28-acre former campus of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center at East 9th Avenue and Colorado Blvd., including the issue of Walmart** as a tenant. The committee will send questionnaires to all registered neighborhood organizations in the vicinity of the campus to determine if and how the RNOs are doing their decision-making on the issue. INC will then consider if it will take its own position to convey to City Council, which is presently expected to vote in approximately November 2012 whether to authorize the Denver Urban Renewal Authority to allow tax-increment financing to enable the redevelopment of the entire site. Michael Henry indicated that part of the purpose of this exercise will be to encourage neighborhood groups to have informed and fair processes to take their positions, including information from all sides of the issue.

Barbara Stocklin-Steely, staff director of the Landmark Preservation Commission, Councilwoman Robb and John Olson of Historic Denver presented proposed amendments to the Landmark Preservation Ordinance. The amendments are to

address concerns about 1) the applications for landmark designation resulting from the notification process since 2006 for applications for demolition or non-historic status; 2) applications by non-owners for landmark designation and 3) improving the general effectiveness of the landmark process. Several committee members expressed opposition to the proposal that the fee for a non-owner to file a landmark designation fee from \$250 to \$1000 would unfairly penalize persons or organizations in poorer neighborhoods who wish to protect historic/architectural landmarks.

The proposed ordinance will have a public hearing at the Landmark Preservation Commission on September 18 at 1:00pm and probably at City Council's Land Use Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on September 16. The final vote at City Council will probably be held on November 5. Neighborhoods are reminded that City Council committees now allow public comment on issues of general public policy by those who sign up a few minutes before the committee meeting.

Committee Member Stephen Griffin, Ph.D., summarized his dissertation at the University of Denver, a study of the 2009-2011 Denver dog park master plan process. The study concluded that the Parks and Recreation Department "conducted the process in a manner that defeated the potential for meaningful input by the public and dissipated any public goodwill and commitment that would have offered strong support for the plan...the Department staff saw themselves as experts and, as such, see themselves as the best people to make a fact-based dispassionate decision on an issue. They believe that involving the public in the decision-making process just introduces politics and emotion, which is counter-productive to good decision-making." He indicated that this attitude of government "experts" making decisions in America has been typical in the last 100 years. Katie Fisher, co-chair of the INC Parks and Recreation committee commented that the new Manager of the Parks and Recreation Department has been much more committed to meaningful consideration of citizen ideas. Steve offered to provide more information about his research to anyone who contacts him at [griffin.stephen@comcast.net](mailto:griffin.stephen@comcast.net). The next committee meeting will be on September 22.

## Call For Topics For The Transportation Committee

The fledgling Transportation Committee is seeking input from all neighborhoods as to what topics we should focus on over the next year.

Your neighbors may be troubled by traffic, pressured by parking, buzzing with bicycles, or just hoping to be heard. Help us set what we focus on! As with INC's most successful committees, we want to take specific topics from neighborhoods, find the commonality, and find solutions that can be replicated throughout the city.

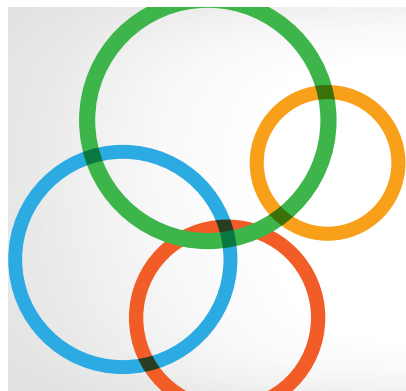
Please send your thoughts to Joel Noble, committee co-chair, at [jnoble@frii.net](mailto:jnoble@frii.net) or leave a message at (303) 332 8640.

To get your thoughts going, here are a few ideas that have come up so far. Let us know if any of these -- or others -- are important to you!

- Traffic safety / speeds
- Parking contention
- Painted crosswalks - experience on Colorado
- Boulevard, pros/cons, maintenance required
- Bike Safety / Rules of the road / Traffic rules enforcement for bicyclists / Bikes and pedestrians sharing park paths
- Bike infrastructure -- bike lanes, bike boxes, cycle tracks, and more
- Meeting with additional Transportation
- Management Associations around parts of the city (Downtown Denver Partnership, Stapleton Area
- Transportation Management Agency, 36
- Commuting Solutions, Southeast Business Partnership)
- Traffic and parking implications in areas zoned for additional density, around healthcare sites, etc.
- If Denver's population grows significantly in the same footprint and without adding lane-miles of road, how will we move that many people around and what are we doing to plan for that now?
- Colfax Streetcar Feasibility Study recap and upcoming Colfax Transit Alternatives Analysis
- Safety and rules regarding small motorized scooters
- New proposed bike routes and bike lanes in light of crash data and other foreseeable safety issues
- Changing demographics in neighborhoods (e.g. aging, influx of younger people) causing changed transportation mix. What are the challenges and how can everyone stay safe?
- Relative safety of stop signs vs. traffic lights -- does Public Works' opinion differ from the Police's experience? If so, why? How does traffic engineering evaluate risk among different alternatives for a given problem?
- How does the city decide where a stop sign or traffic light go, and how is it determined that where there are none, none are needed? Is there a set of criteria that is applied consistently throughout the city?
- Strategic Parking Plan - How are these new alternatives being used in Denver, and what are the cases when we should invite Public Works to consider their use in our neighborhoods?
- Strategic Transportation Plan - What's next from the findings of the Strategic Transportation Plan and its "travel shed" analyses?
- What should we expect now that Denver has adopted a Complete Streets policy in 2011? What's next?
- Why are some streets repaved regularly, and others seemingly never?

*Photos below: From the INC August Delegate Meeting, INC Members take tour Denver Health*





DENVER  
INC

[www.denverINC.org](http://www.denverINC.org)

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

Neighborhoods work better when they work together.

## Save the Date!

### Saturday, October 13, 2012

INC's Annual Neighborhood Conference  
At  
The Wellington E. Webb Municipal Building  
201 W. Colfax Ave.

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Please join Inter Neighborhood Cooperation's Annual Neighborhood Conference. The half-day conference theme is "Building Partnerships."

Sessions will focus on partnering and working with City agencies, building neighborhood organizations and much more!

Breakfast provided & Free Parking until 2pm

(at Cultural Center Garage, 65 W. 12th Ave.  
(near 12th & Broadway).

Must retain voucher at conference to exit garage at no cost.

Questions: please contact  
Michael.Sapp@Denvergov.org  
Director of Neighborhood Relations



**INC's Overriding Purpose** *MISSION STATEMENT* 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.

**INC MEMBERS** This list is updated quarterly. If you're not on this now, you will be on the next update in October.

**RNO Patrons** As Of July 23, 2012  
Ball Park Neighborhood Association  
Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods  
Country Club Historic District  
Crestmoor Park HOA, 2nd Filing  
Downtown Denver Residents Org  
Golden Triangle Museum District  
Hampden South Neighborhood Association  
Lower Downtown Neighborhood Assn.  
Mayfair Neighbors Inc  
Old San Rafael Neighborhood Org. Inc  
Overland Park Neighborhood Assn.  
Southmoor Park East HOA  
University Park Community Council  
University Park Community Council  
Upper Downtown Neighborhood Assn.  
West Washington Park Neighborhood Assn.

**RNO Members** As Of July 23, 2012  
ABC Streets Association  
Alamo Placita Neighborhood Assn.  
Baker Historic Neighborhood Association  
Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Association  
Berkeley Regis United Neighbors  
Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Assn.  
Cherry Creek East Association  
Cherry Creek North Bus. Improvement Dist.  
Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Association  
Cherry Hills Vista Community Assn.  
Civic Association of Clayton  
Colfax on the Hill  
College View Neighborhood Assn.  
Congress Park Neighbors  
Cook Park Neighborhood Association  
Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Assn.  
Cranmer Park- Hilltop Civic Association  
Crestmoor Park Homeowners Inc Filing One  
Cultural Arts Residential Organization/CARO  
Curtis Park Neighbor  
Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.  
East Cheesman Neighbors Association  
East Montclair Neighborhood Assn.  
Elyria Neighborhood Assn.  
Elyria Swansea/Globeville Bus. Assn.  
Far Northeast Neighbors  
Federal Blvd. Corridor Improvement Partnership

Friends & Neighbors of Washington Park  
George Washington Homeowners Assn.  
Globeville Civic Association #1  
Globeville Civic Association #2  
Godsman Neighborhood Assn.  
Golden Triangle Neighborhood Association  
Grandview Neighborhood Association  
Greater MarLee Community Organization  
Greater Park Hill Community  
Green Valley Ranch Citizens' Advisory Board  
Hampden Heights Civic Assn.  
Harkness Heights Neighborhood Assn.  
Highland United Neighbors  
Hilltop Heritage Association  
Historic Montclair Community Association  
Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA  
Inspiration Point Neighborhood Assn.  
Ivy Street Neighbors Assn.  
Jefferson Park United Neighbors  
Lighthouse at the Breakers Homeowners Assn.  
LoDo District, Inc.  
Lowry United Neighborhoods  
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Assn.  
Montbello 20-20  
Neighbors & Friends for Cheesman Park  
North City Park Civic Association  
Northwest Neighbors Coalition  
Park Forest Homeowners Association  
Platt Park People's Association  
Rangeview Neighborhood Association  
Rosedale Harvard Gulch N.A.  
Ruby Hill Neighborhood Association  
Sloan's Lake Citizens Group  
Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Assn  
South City Park Neighborhood Association  
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