

The newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

Neighborhoods work better when they work together

## Denver Days: Our Neighborhoods Get Together. Work Together. Serve Together.

Save the Dates! August 3-11, 2013

### What is Denver Days?

Denver Days is a week long event in August dedicated to getting neighbors to know neighbors through neighborhood gatherings, service and activities. It's a time for us celebrate each other and the community we call home!

### How Can My Neighbors and I Participate?

Over the course of the week you can host fun things like:

- Organize a neighborhood potluck
- Convene a clean up on your block
- Participate in National Night Out on August 6
- Hold a graffiti paint-a-thon or paint a senior's house
- Lead a historic walk or bike tour of your neighborhood
- Other fun ideas you may come up with!

Denver Parks and Recreation will waive the permit fee for reserving a park for Denver Days.

**For More Information** The Denver Days website ([www.denvergov.org/denverdays](http://www.denvergov.org/denverdays)) is live!! Please sign up for and register your block/neighborhood celebration, service activity or event. The mayor and other dignitaries will come to selected registered events.

Denver Days is a proud partner of Denver INC (Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation).

> See related story of Page 7: "5 Great Reasons"

## Dollar Dictionary Drive Progress

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, a network of 100 Denver neighborhood organizations, is in the final stage of its 18th annual Dollar Dictionary Drive to raise funds to purchase and deliver dictionaries to every 3rd-grader in Denver Public Schools. Contributions from neighborhood group members and other citizens are urgently needed and can be sent to INC Dollar Dictionary Drive, P. O. Box 300684, Denver, CO 80218. The INC website is: [www.DenverINC.org](http://www.DenverINC.org)

Many, many thanks to all of you who have generously contributed so far to INC's 2013 Dollar Dictionary Drive! We have had amazing support and representation from all across the city of Denver!

Thanks to all our many individual donors and to all contributing RNO's: Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn, Bellevue Hale Neighborhood Association, Capitol Hill United Neighbors, Cherry Creek North Neighborhood

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## Plan to attend our next INC Monthly Meeting

Saturday, July 13, 2013

Central Park Recreation Center  
(Stapleton neighborhood)  
9651 E Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Denver, CO 80238

8:30AM – Coffee and networking

9:00AM – INC business meeting

10:15AM- Speaker: Evan Dryer

Evan Dryer will be speaking about Aretropolis, which is a new urban form placing airports in the center with cities growing around them, connecting workers, suppliers, executives, and goods to the global marketplace.

At our business meeting we hear reports from committee chairs and board members concerning: Budget, Communications (newsletter and website), Education and Dollar Dictionary Drive, Membership, Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, Transportation, and Zoning & Planning



DENVER  
INC

CONNECTION

July 2013

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

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## 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.

### DPS Bond Oversight Committee

DPS Bond Oversight Committee met on June 21st. The Bond Oversight Committee Charter was approved (see website). Progress and plans around meeting the improvements approved by Denver citizens were discussed.

Priorities for timelines for heat mitigation in various schools were explained. If heat mitigation was tied to another project it was paired and 'bundled' for better pricing and prioritized to occur sooner rather than later. DPS website has proposed timelines for neighborhoods interested in finding when their schools will be effected.

In a Board of Education Update on May 16th it was reported that the Emily Griffith facility is in the process of completion of a Historical Structural Assessment. The report, when completed will be available on the DPS website. This summer a committee will be formed to evaluate the historical and architectural significance of the property and priorities for preservation. In late summer, early fall an advisory committee will be formed to advise the uses of the property and make recommendations for a sale process. The proposals will be evaluated this winter, and recommendations will be made for the sale process in the first quarter of 2014.

The Oversight Committee spent time looking at DPS's current practice on outreach around diversity and minority construction hiring practices for bond implementation. DPS is instituting a new tracking process using Lawson, and will continue to improve their methods of procuring and hiring local, minority contractors.

Dr. Karen Taylor reporting. Please email any questions or concerns, [karentaylorphd@gmail.com](mailto:karentaylorphd@gmail.com)

### INC Parks and Recreation Committee

Minutes can found at <http://www.denverinc.org/committee/parks-and-recreation/> Previous minutes can also be found there.

Notes From PARC Meeting on June 18, 2013

INC's PARC (Parks and Recreation Committee) met June 18 at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe St.

Present were co-chairs Katie Fisher and Maggie Price, Dave Felice, Marlene Johnson, Ronnie Crawford, Ray Ehrenstein, James T. Sample, Brad Cameron, Kathleen Wells, Cindy Johnstone, Diana Helper, and guests Dana

Schoonover and Lynn Crist from Bonnie Brae Neighborhood. Items discussed included:

Ruby Hill Park's possible appearance on a city map before 1955, thus making it automatically designated.

The need for a pedestrian/bike bridge from the Evans light rail station to Ruby Hill and the route there from a planned bridge from the station at Jewell Ave. PARC will ask Jeff Green of DPR about progress.

Hentzell Park petitions are doing well. Judge will rule on lawsuit June 28. (See below)

New Parks Planner apparently is coming soon. PARC will check with Angela Casias.

Need for more park space to keep up with densification of city. At present large apartments are built with no open space requirement, "assigning" residents to use existing parks and open space nearby, much of which is already over-crowded. It's a citywide issue that must be solved for the health and welfare of residents. This is ultimately a zoning issue, although it is directly related to parks. INC's ZAP (Zoning and Planning) committee will also discuss it. PARC's Platform calls for more parkland. Kathleen will draft a statement. PARC will support ZAP.

Guests from Bonnie Brae presented a plan to add playground equipment in Bonnie Brae Park (Bonnie Brae Blvd. and S. Milwaukee St./ Ellipse Way). PARC advised that they have good RNO, near-neighbor, and Councilman support, set their plan, raise funds, be mindful of safety issues, work closely with DPR, and report back.

Katie reported on the recent PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) meeting. Boot Camps, etc. in parks need a permit now. DPR will present the "tier" pyramid system of permits at INC on July 13. PRAB has a great many issues on its agenda. It is unclear where the "public engagement" item stands at this time.

Ronnie told of the DPR/City plan to remove all the cottonwoods along the S. Platte from Grant-Frontier Park north to Pond Park, removing the historic Grant cabin as well. There is an important meeting about this at 6:30 p.m. June 27 at Grant-Frontier Park which is on the east side of the Platte, just south of W. Evans Ave. between S. Huron and S. Galapago streets.

Diana said that former PARC member Mary Myers was remembered at the June 13 Transportation Solutions meeting for her advocacy of sidewalks and parkways, and a call to promote city-administration of Denver sidewalk repair and construction funded by a small fee to every property owner was urged in

her memory as the Mary Myers Mission. Those present supported this concept fully.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Next meeting will be July 16.

-Diana Helper, PARC member

Our minutes from June 18 mention a DPR/City plan to remove all the cottonwoods along the S. Platte from Grant-Frontier Park north to Pond Park, removing the historic Grant cabin as well.

**FYI: Here is an invitation sent out in June by Ronnie Crawford, a committee member of INC PARC and Vice President of Overland Park Neighborhood association**

*This has to do with a very important meeting, Thursday, June 27th at 6:30 pm at Grant-Frontier Park in the Overland neighborhood. The City of Denver has plans to remove the Cottonwoods and the Montana City cabin from the Park and along the river. This is part of a remodel of the Park. Many of these trees are 70-100 years old!*

*I would like to see a good representation of DTU folks, river stewards, and people concerned about our Parks, to attend. The cottonwood (and all invasive trees) removal will go north along the South Platte, along the Overland Golf Course, and up to and including Overland Pond Park.*

*Michael Bouchard, City Project Manager, said in our last meeting, that, "there is ONE cottonwood, near Overland Pond Park, that they are going to 'try' to save" ... ONE...!*

*Michael will be giving a presentation to the neighborhood folks and will have his drawings available for us to look at. Again, the skirmish will take place at Grant-Frontier Park, Thursday evening June 27th, at 6:30 pm.*

*I say skirmish, because we are the same neighborhood organization, that got the Shattuck / EPA verdict overturned, and were awarded, \$1,750,000 dollars, which was used as the seed money, for the reconfiguration of the Overland stretch, of the South Platte River. That construction will begin in the fall of this year. We're a feisty group and we don't want to see the Cottonwoods and the Cabin go away. Come and support us.*

*I invite you all to come and take part in the discussion. The Grant-Frontier project is at the 60% stage.*

*We strongly encourage any of you who may face similar situations in their own parks to attend this meeting and show support*

**Please see page 7 regarding the outcome of the meeting.**

On a similar topic, a new press release and final

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## Committee Corner > continued from PG 2

arguments from attorney John Case for plaintiffs Friends and Neighbors of Denver Parks can be found at [www.friendsofdenverparks.org](http://www.friendsofdenverparks.org). Arguments from Denver Public Schools and The City and County of Denver can also be found there. Current news articles are also found at <http://friendsofdenverparks.org/newslinks-and-articles/> (Today, June 28, we received news that Judge Herbert L. Stern III denied an injunction that would have stopped a land swap between the city and county of Denver and Denver Public Schools.)

### Transportation Committee

The Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Transportation Committee is meeting every other month in 2013, on the second Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at 1201 Williams Street, 19th Floor. Our next meeting is on Thursday, July 11th.

We hope your neighborhood can send a representative to the committee as we discuss a range of transportation, transit, and streets topics, build connections with the agencies and organizations involved, and ensure that neighborhood input is included in plans at all levels!

Attendees do not need to be neighborhood INC delegates -- all are welcome. Even if your neighborhood organization is not a member of INC, you are welcome to participate. Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested in joining the committee. I would be happy to add them to our growing e-mail list.

Next meeting - Thursday July 11th, 6 p.m.

We have three topics for our meeting:

1. City Council 2014 Top Priorities -- Bike/Ped Safety & Infrastructure -- Councilwoman Susan Shepherd

Councilwoman Susan Shepherd will be joining us to talk about the priority that City Council has placed first on their list for 2014: Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety & Infrastructure. Councilwoman Shepherd and Councilwoman Ortega are leaders in setting this priority. Find out what we can expect to see reflected in the budget and in action based on this new emphasis.

2. Possible Approaches for City-wide Sidewalk Installation and Repair -- Rob Duncanson

INC has adopted a Sidewalk Position Statement that "strongly encourages the City and County of Denver to implement a city-

wide program of sidewalks for pedestrian safety and mobility" including installing and maintaining sidewalks by "Replacing the current city policy which makes individual homeowners responsible for the cost of installing or repairing walks, with alternative sources of funding" and "Applying for federal grants and developing a comprehensive plan to implement the Pedestrian Master Plan."

How could Denver make this happen? We have invited Rob Duncanson, Director of Right of Way Services in Denver's Public Works department, who has studied how other cities implement comprehensive sidewalk programs, to join us and present his thoughts on how Denver could achieve the goals INC has been calling for. He has some interesting ideas and recommendations to share!

3. Pedestrian Crosswalks and Signals -- Matthew Wager

In response to updated federal guidelines, Denver is in the process of changing pedestrian crossing times at signalized crosswalks throughout the city to provide more time to cross safely. In addition, the city has implemented a program of regularly refreshing the reflective crosswalk markings to be sure they stay visible and in good repair. Matthew Wager, Director of Operations for Traffic Engineering Services, who oversees signals and markings, will give us an overview of these improvements, when to expect them in our neighborhoods, and how to provide input on changes.

### 2013 Meeting Schedule

The INC Transportation Committee's meeting schedule for the remainder of the year will be (all at 1201 Williams St., 19th Floor, 6 p.m.): Thursday, September 12th, 6 p.m. Thursday, November 14th, 6 p.m.

### Call for Topic Suggestions

Do you have a topic you'd like the INC Transportation Committee to consider or to find a speaker to discuss with us? Please let me know! Joel Noble [jnoble@frii.net](mailto:jnoble@frii.net)

### INC Zoning and Planning Committee Minutes -- June 22, 2013

By Michael Henry, Committee Chair

Michelle Pyle and Tina Axelrad of the Denver Community Planning and Development Department discussed several issues with the committee:

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## INC CALENDAR

July 11

INC Transportation Committee 6pm  
1201 Williams St., 19th Floor

July 13

INC Monthly Meeting 9am  
Central Park Rec Center,  
9651 E Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

July 15

State of the City Address  
10:00 – 11:30am  
Forney Museum of Transportation  
4303 Brighton Blvd.

July 16

Parks and Rec Committee Meeting 6:30pm  
Heritage Club, 2020 S Monroe St

July 19

Public Meeting: City Park Playground Design  
7:30 – 9:00am City Park Pavilion

July 27

Zoning & Planning Committee  
9:30am – 12:00pm  
1201 Williams St – 19th floor

For up-to-the-minute news,  
please visit INC'S website:  
[www.denverinc.org](http://www.denverinc.org)





# From The President

## Trust But Verify

INC took the historic precedent on June 8 at its June Delegate meeting to vote to become party to a law suit against the City and County of Denver filed by Friends of Denver Parks, et al., over the sale of a portion of Hentzell Park to Denver Public Schools. INC had previously taken a strong position against the deal and had asked the City to put the issue of the sale to a vote of the people. Here is the language of the Motion, which was sent to the Mayor, City Council and the Denver Parks Manager on January 20 of this year

### Motion

Regarding the purchase of Denver Public Schools Property at 1330 Fox Street involving payment of cash and deeding over of City owned land, and In light of the issues and threats to the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation System posed by the precedent that has been set by the de-designation of 9 acres of the Hentzell Park Natural Area by the Denver Parks and Recreation Department Manager, INC calls on the Mayor and Denver City Council to,

1. Table the proposed land swap and payment of \$300,000 from the City's General Fund to Denver Public Schools, and
2. Bring the issue of de-designation of the Hentzell Park Natural Area to a vote of the people.

Also passed at the Delegate meeting on January 12 and sent to the Mayor, City Council and the Denver Parks Manager on January 20 was the following resolution asking that all undesignated parkland in Denver be designated by ordinance that it not be sold without a vote of the people.

### Designation by Ordinance Resolution

In regard to the potential loss of additional park and/or natural areas;

Whereas, the Charter of the City and County of Denver provides that "No land acquired by the City after December 31, 1955, shall be deemed a park unless specifically designated a park by ordinance", and

Whereas, the Charter also states, "Without the approval of a majority of those registered electors voting in an election held by the City and County of Denver, no park or portion of any park belonging to the City as of December 31, 1955, shall be sold or leased at any time, and no land acquired by the City after December 31, 1955, that is designated a park by ordinance shall be sold or leased at any time..."

Whereas, there are a number of parcels of City of Denver owned land which have been administratively designated by the Manager of Parks and Recreation as Denver parks or natural

areas within parks but have not been designated by ordinance as such, and

Whereas, these parks and natural areas can be administratively "de-designated" without the approval of a majority of those registered electors voting in an election held by the City and County of Denver and then sold or leased at any time,

Now therefore, INC asks that the City immediately introduce legislation to City Council to be signed by the Mayor that would result in designation by ordinance of any such administratively designated parks and natural areas now and in the future so that these such parcels of land cannot be sold or leased without a vote of the people.

### What is this all about?

It is about the Charter of the City and County of Denver. Fortunately the Charter takes as seriously, as do most of INC's members, the importance of protecting our limited amount of parks and open space. It says that the people of Denver have to vote to allow such sales and it spells it out with some specificity. What Section 2.4.5 says is twofold:

All parkland belonging to the City prior to 1955 is to be considered designated and cannot be sold or leased without a vote of the people.

Likewise, no land acquired after 1955 that is "designated a park by ordinance" can be sold without a vote of the people.

Now what happened here is that the City said, hey, Hentzell Park was acquired by the City after 1955 and designated a park by ordinance. However, this little triangle of land just to the south of and adjacent to Hentzell Park was not part of the deal. Consequently, it was not designated by ordinance and therefore, it can be sold without a vote of the people.

Trusting souls that we all are here at INC, we said, well shoot, too bad, you should allow the people to vote anyway. But what we didn't know at the time about this piece of land (which we were told is merely a natural area "designated" not by ordinance but by declaration of the Manager of Parks only in 2007) was that the City acquired it in 1935. Whether it was a park prior to 1955 and is designated by Charter and would thus require a vote to be sold is still unclear. However, that is less important in a way than the fact that it is a class of land that is not addressed at all in Section 2.4.5. This is subtle but here is the crux of it: This land was acquired by the City in 1935 not after 1955 and used as a park after 1955 and thus it does fit the Charter definition of land that needs to be

designated by ordinance. It could very well be designated a park by "use" since it was identified and used as a park for at least a half a century. And, there may be other parks the City identifies as not requiring a vote of the people to sell off that were purchased by the City prior to 1955 but which have not be identified to be parks in 1955.

Now, in the motion that the delegation passed in June to join the lawsuit against the City, INC limited its liability to \$500. Unfortunately, before INC could actually join the suit, Denver Public Schools counter-sued Friends of Denver Parks, et al., for hundreds of thousands of dollars. This effectively precluded INC from participating directly in the suit. However, what did happen was that INC delegates set an important precedent. That is, INC may not sit idly by where the legality of a matter is at stake.

### Here is why INC's involvement in this lawsuit would have been appropriate:

1. INC's took an official position in January and requested to Council that the issue be submitted for a vote of the people
2. Information that the City may have ignored the Charter provision that land owned by the City prior to 1955 is designated by Charter in determination of what is designated, leads us believe the courts need to determine what City owned park land is designated by Charter or by common law and what requires a vote of the people in order to be sold.
3. INC had exhausted all of its political avenues to bring the issue to the people for a vote. The City has ignored the will of the neighborhood organizations, the advice of its own Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, which was created to be a check against unwarranted exercise of administrative power and fired two Mayoral appointees of the Board for opposing the sale of the land. Taking the step of asking the courts for fair and impartial hearing puts the citizens on an even playing field with the City
4. Settling disputes through the legal system is not only a Constitutional right but also an obligation of **INC as a civic organization, the mission of which is to inform and empower Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing City issues, especially when it believes the Charter of the City may have been violated.**

# June Delegate Meeting

Saturday June 8, 2013, SIE Film Center  
Hosted by Congress Park Neighbors  
Quorum present

## Welcome

Larry Ambrose, INC President, welcomed all. Congress Park and SIE Film Center welcomed INC to the facility. Eileen O'Brien, Director of Membership & Volunteers, gave a comprehensive overview of the Center and how it works as a non-profit and as a group that supports independent films and their filmmakers. She also offered INC and RNO's information about a fundraiser program they can use by selling vouchers for the theater. For more info on that program check out [member@denverfilm.org](mailto:member@denverfilm.org). Along with that, she handed out one free admission ticket to the audience, good for any regularly priced screening at the Center.

## Deputy Chief Bill Nagle, DPD

Gave a brief overview of what Chief White (DPD) wants to accomplish:

White's "motto": The only way to be successful is to optimize the eyes and ears of the community," so first and foremost, they want to create a relationship with the community  
They are reorganizing to meet goals and to better place a team approach to crime prevention and management and to have more cars on the street at any given time  
Hiring is open for the first time in the past five (5) years. Current number of police force = 1350

## Minutes – Larry Ambrose

Minutes from the May 11, 2013 Delegate meeting were passed unanimously without exceptions.

## Treasurer Report – Steve Nissen

The Dictionary Drive fund now has \$10,700, which means they are certain to be able to place at least the dictionaries in schools this year. There are 7000 third graders enrolled in DPS. INC Treasury has \$32,640 as of this date.

## Membership – Jane Lorimer

As of this date, there are 92 RNO organizations and 43 Associate members. We reached the goal to generate \$7000+ from INC membership with the new Associate Gold member level, The Denver Police Protection Association.

## Newsletter – Gayle Rodgers

Gayle introduced herself as the new newsletter person for INC. She reminded Committee Chairs and others to get news items to her in a timely manner and invited ideas and contributions from all.

## Parks & Rec – Katie Fisher/Maggie Price

The normal meeting space is under construction so members will be notified ASAP about location changes, if any, for the June 18 meeting.

## Hentzell Park Land Swap

John Case, of Benson & Case Law Firm, is representing groups who are taking legal action against the City's decision to authorize the land swap related to Hentzell Park and Denver Public Schools.

In a nutshell, the City cut a deal giving DPS 11.5 acres of undeveloped "natural area," city-owned property to build a school in exchange for a 46,000-square-foot downtown school building that would become a domestic violence resource center. The City's Parks & Recreation manger removed the "natural area" designation in January,

thus making it a City decision as to how the land is used. The City also advised this group they must sue to reverse the decision, which is the lawsuit John will represent. His argument centers on a few key points:

- The City says don't build schools next to a 4-lane highway and in a flood plain – this land use violates that.
- If land was deemed to be a public park prior to 1955, the City cannot remove that designation or trade it. The land has operated as a 'park' since 1936.
- The City did not have the right (without public vote) to remove the designation.
- The City did not consider other reasonable alternatives

A non-profit group called Friends of Denver Parks Inc ([www.friendsofdenverparks.org](http://www.friendsofdenverparks.org)) has been formed to:

- Initiate the lawsuit against the City which is being handled pro bono by John Case
- Collect funds to cover out of pocket costs
- Circulate petitions to get the ordinance repealed and placed on November ballot (They have 94 circulators and need 6500 signatures. To date, they have about 2000).

## Related Motion:

Katie Fisher made a motion for INC to become a party to this lawsuit with a limited liability of \$500.00 or less. Cindy Johnstone seconded. The motion passed with 19 "yes", 3 "no" and 7 "abstained."

Discussion included the fact that INC had not been a party to a lawsuit in the past, so this was setting a precedent for INC; this "outcry" was also because the City was not following the "spirit of the charter" in terms of public parks and natural area designations and the City was swallowing up open land in an alarming rate – open land used to be a benefit to the public. Cathy Donohue advised that City Council has no attorney on staff and would have to hire one and it is not uncommon for organizations (like INC) to get involved in such lawsuits. Michael Sapp (Mayor's office) advised INC "to think very carefully about passing this motion."

## Zoning & Planning – Michael Henry

Michael presented a motion, which had been passed by at the May ZAP Committee meeting. The motion was published in the June newsletter.

## Motion

**Whereas**, the Zoning and Planning committee of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, a network of approximately 100 registered neighborhood organizations in Denver, has reviewed a survey of 512 homeless people in Denver to determine the effect of Denver's Unauthorized Camping Ordinance, passed into law in 2012. The survey was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Tony Robinson, chair of the University of Colorado Denver Political Science Department and prepared and administered by Denver Homeless Out Loud, an organization concerned about the quality of life for Denver's homeless residents:

**Whereas**, the Unauthorized Camping Ordinance was passed with two objectives: to enhance the image of the Sixteenth Street Mall and Civic Center Park by eliminating the homeless sleeping in these areas, and to better meet the needs of the **homeless for shelter and services;**

**Whereas**, the survey indicated that the camping ban has been effective in meeting the first of these stated goals: moving unsheltered homeless people out of central, well-lit downtown areas like the 16th Street Mall. However, the goals of improving the services available to homeless people and improving their quality of life have not been met. In fact, most unsheltered Denver residents report their lives have become more challenging, more stressful, and less safe since the camping ban began;

**Whereas**, Since the ban was passed, homeless people report that they are frequently given formal oral and written warnings of camping ban violations by the police and are constantly pressed by police to "move on." But there is nowhere to "move on" to. Appropriate and adequate indoor shelter options do not currently exist for many of Denver's homeless residents, so the camping ban has resulted in homeless people scattering from downtown into the shadows, where they find unsafe and isolated shelter without access to needed services;

**And Whereas** the implementation of the Unauthorized Camping Ban Ordinance has failed to provide the emergency 24-hour shelter and services to respond to the complex needs of the diverse unsheltered homeless population in Denver;

**Now Therefore**, the Zoning and Planning committee of INC urges that Denver officials should move quickly to alleviate the negative conditions caused by the Camping Ban Ordinance by implementing the four recommendations outlined in the survey:

- Immediately identify at least one safe, 24-hour location in Denver where homeless people can sleep, access bathrooms and water and obtain necessary services.
- Develop a new dedicated revenue stream(s) to provide low-income housing production and necessary human services.
- Focus new revenues on expanding shelter options for underserved populations, such as women, couples, those with mental illness, and LGBT individuals (for example).
- Change the camping ban enforcement protocol to require police to identify and more effectively offer service and shelter options to homeless campers before warnings to "move along" or to desist from "camping" can be given.

Randle Loeb opposed the motion because it was not worked on with homeless coalitions and, to him, only the faith-based organizations were trying to address homeless issues. AE opposed it because of the complexities of homelessness needed to figure out whom to respond to root origins vs. band-aid approaches. "We are reacting to the ordinance but not the problem."

The motion did not pass. 11 "yes"; 12 "no" and 6 "abstained"

## Safety – Merce Lea

Merce thanked INC members who volunteered for the 2nd Annual Safety Expo held May 18. She commented the attendance was lower than expected and invited INC members to come

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## Committee Corner

> ZAP Committee continued from PG 3

They explained to the committee a proposed "omnibus text amendment" to the zoning code, which CPD hopes to present to City Council near the end of 2013, after considerable community outreach. This will combine "lots of changes" into one amendment so that numerous piecemeal City Council hearings will not be necessary. They will come back to INC in a few months when the draft is more complete. The purposes of the changes are to improve usability of the zoning code (through greater use of graphics and intent statements for standards), to clarify several sections (through inserting several missing items) and to add a few items of substance (such as a minimum area of active ground-floor use in Main Street zones).

The committee reminded them of the committee's request many months ago to amend the zoning code to require notification to Registered Neighborhood Organizations of "regulating plans" and an opportunity to comment before they can be approved by the Manager of Community Planning and Development.

Tina and Michelle said that they will wait to see if City Council wants to regulate the locations of recreational marijuana retail stores in the zoning code or another section of the Denver Revised Municipal Code. They said that in 2012 and 2013, the rate of rezoning applications has been approximately half the number before the new zoning code was adopted in 2010.

Jeff Archambau, Michael Guiet and David Solomon of Jefferson Park United Neighbors discussed an issue, which JPUN has appealed to the Board of Adjustment for Zoning Appeals and requested support for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation. The committee passed a motion (printed elsewhere in this newsletter) and expressed that this was an important issue that could impact many neighborhoods. The hearing at the Board of Adjustment will be on July 23. INC Delegates should be prepared to vote on this on July 13.

The committee unanimously passed a motion (printed elsewhere in this newsletter) to urge the legislature to amend state law to require posting, notification and a needs and desires hearing for proposed "breweries," which are a type of state license that currently has no such requirements. In recent years, approximately 7 have been approved in Denver neighborhoods. INC Delegates should be prepared to vote on this on July 13.

The committee briefly discussed the first draft of a proposed Planning and Zoning Platform being prepared by a subcommittee of the ZAP Committee.

## June Delegate Meeting

> continued from PG 5

forward with ideas on how to "advertise" this event in the future.

She urged all present to attend their local district police meetings about the Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program and the Citizens' Academy events.

### Transportation – Joel Noble

Joel indicated the meeting notes in recent newsletter were his report on activities. He advised the 'car share' program is underway with several organizations having opened car share rental companies.

**Motion** for Letter of Resolution be send to CDOT from INC

Joel introduced a resolution (motion to accept): INC urges the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to perform an Environmental Impact Study studying the "northern reroute" of I-70 along the current route of I-270 & I-76. Randle Loeb seconded the motion.

We were advised that UCAN posted a resolution to enjoin health information/studies into the proposed environmental studies. (<http://www.denverinc.org/2013/ucan-i-70-statement/>) UCAN is concerned about mitigating exhaust impact and other aggregate toxins. Michael Sapp advised that Mayor Hancock and Mayors from Commerce City and Adams County are against the I-70 re-route. The attendees were reminded this motion related only to studies and not the actual rerouting.

**A friendly motion amendment was made:** INC urges the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to perform a health impact assessment and an Environmental Impact Study studying the "northern reroute" of I-70 along the current route of I-270 & I-76.

The **amended resolution passed** 25 "yes", 3 "no" and 1 "abstained". Note: Joel abstained from the voting process.

### Guest Speakers

Public Nuisance Abatement (PNA) - Commander Fleecs

Data Analysis – Chris Wykoff

District Commander – Joe Montoya

Commander Fleecs gave a comprehensive presentation about Public Nuisance Abatement and how it works. He advised that if a rental property has a history of drug use it cannot be rented to a family member and that the owner can be legally

evicted for up to 3 years.

Michael Henry requested the Commander ensure that:

- RNO's are notified of every nuisance abatement citation
- Push to get the Citizen's Advisory Commission put into place.

Discussion on several areas such as rules for notification to owner if a vehicle is towed in connection to a criminal act or for other necessary reasons such as violating restrictions of the parking space or being moved if deemed "in the way" of operations.

Forty percent of Denver's drug arrests occur in District 6 with cocaine, meth & heroin and marijuana being the primary drug issues. He advised there is now an entire team devoted to criminal activities connected to marijuana. Question raised: What gain did Denver have in tax revenues compared to the cost of increased policing needed?

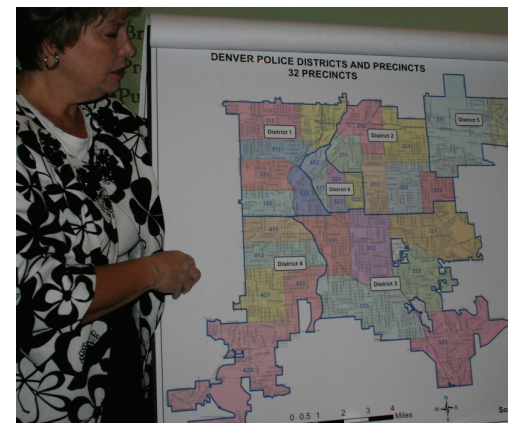
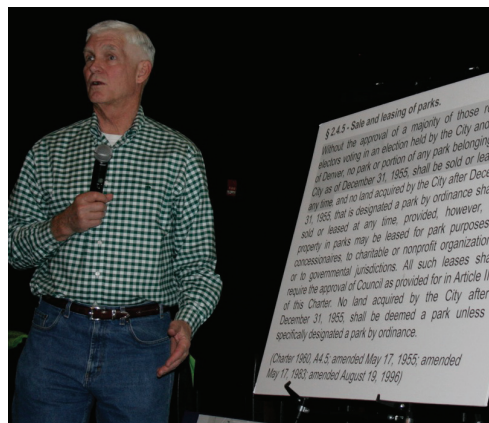
Concerns were expressed that if drug deals were chased out of one area, that they not spill into traditionally 'safer' areas such as Washington Park. Ball Park neighborhood has taken a very proactive stand in involving the police when drug dealing is suspected.

Chris Wykoff presented information about the re-districting and cited this was last done in 1995. The re-districting was based upon factors such as a need to allocate resources better, the number of hours officers spend taking calls, the number of crimes in various areas and a need to monitor areas differently. An example of consolidated areas was to include all of Colfax vs. splitting this with another district. New district divisions will be in effect July 14, 2013. Currently there are 78 precincts and with the reorganization there will only be 32.

Bike safety and hit and runs – Montoya indicated there are 10 hot spots for accidents, especially auto/bike and there was a major increase in hit and run and auto/bike accidents in the past year.

Katie Fisher raised a question about skateboarder rules. Fleecs indicated skateboarders were not legal in the streets or sidewalks.

Next meeting - July 13th Central Park Rec. Center, 9651 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and the special speakers will address "aerotropolis".



> From the June Delegate meeting: Left: Attorney John Case explaining the Henzell Park lawsuit. Right: Data Analysis - Chris Wykoff - with map showing new police district boundaries.

## 5 Great Reasons To Stay Connected in Your Neighborhoods

By Gayle Rodgers, INC Board Member, President of Hampden South Neighborhood Association

Why is it important to build connections within your neighborhood?

1. It allows you to work together for a Better Community.

- Stay current of City of Denver actions in our community.
  - That is easy to do when you are part of INC. Attend meetings and read the newsletter
  - Have a voice in plans that will have a direct impact on your neighborhood. Building strong connections will allow you to react quickly and with more impact when situations arise.

2. Connection creates a Safer Neighborhood

- Police will tell you that when neighbors know neighbors, crime in the area goes down. How do you create connection? You could do that with a website, social media site, organize events, collect email addresses, send out a neighborhood newsletter, and create interest groups such as BUNCO, book club, etc.
- Our neighbors enjoy the social media site we created through Nextdoor.com. It is free and only people within the boundaries can be part of the community.
- Get neighborly advice on reliable products and services in the area
- Learn immediately about unusual activities in the neighborhood (house break-ins, mailboxes super glued or bashed in, things people are giving away)
- A neighbor posted that she wanted to start a neighborhood book club and there was so much interest that they are starting two groups.
- Plan events such as block parties, community service projects (we painted two

neighborhood bridges), picnics, progressive dinners, etc. Many people enjoy social interaction. Read about Denver Days in this newsletter.

3. Building better Schools for the students in your area

- Stay informed about accomplishments and needs of the schools serving your community. We have parent representatives working with each school.
- You can combine forces with businesses to improve the area. In Hampden South we are working with Target in an effort to support our schools. They are giving money to the schools for field trips.

4. Help keep the Community Strong by learning about local retailers that support your schools and community

- "We do business with our friends" – Learn which retailers actively support your community and schools and support those businesses
- You can combine forces with businesses to improve the area like we are doing with Target. Businesses place ads in our community newsletter allowing us to keep in touch with the neighbors and build relationships with the business community.

5. Connection will help Improve Your Property Values

- You can learn about the type of projects that build (or hurt) property values in a newsletter
- When you support your neighboring businesses it helps the business and your neighborhood. Having strong retail areas around your neighborhood helps the home values.
- Keeping crime in check and doing things to create more community pride will increase property values.

## Dollar Dictionary Drive Progress

> continued on PG 1

Association, Cherry Point Neighborhood Association, Civic Association of Clayton, Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., Corey Merrill Neighborhood Association, Crestmoor Park Homes Association, Cultural Arts Residential Organization, Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc., George Washington HOA, Golden Triangle Association, Greater Park Hill Community, Inc., Green Valley CAB, Historic Baker Neighborhood Association, Historic Montclair Neighborhood Association, Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point, Inspiration Point Neighborhood Association, Lowry United Neighborhoods, Overland Neighborhood Association, Park Forest HOA, Platt Park People's Association, Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Association, University Neighbors, University Park Community Council, Virginia Village/Ellis Community Association, Wellshire East HOA and West Washington Park Neighborhood Association.

A special shout out to the Board Members and volunteers who supported and worked INC's concession booth at the Capitol Hill People's Fair. We were able to raise an additional \$600 in funds and to spread the word about INC and the Dollar Dictionary Drive.

For the first time ever we will be giving books to 100 schools! Up to this point, INC's Dollar Dictionary Drive has raised \$19,000. This is short of our goal, so we may be able to afford to give students only one book, a dictionary, this year instead of a dictionary and a thesaurus. With more students to serve, our need is greater than ever. Please consider giving! Denver's kids are counting on all of us to make it happen.

## Overland Park Neighborhood Meeting

June 27, 2013, Grant Frontier Park  
Councilman Nevitt joined many Overland Park neighbors to see the presentation by Michael Bouchard of Denver Parks. Michael described and led neighbors on a tour of what will be the Grant Frontier and Pasquinel Landing parks' designs to be completed by 2015. It was concluded that the plans are good and many trees, which they originally envisioned removing, will instead be saved. The neighbors expressed appreciation that our wants and concerns are being listened to and adjustments are being made to accommodate these inputs. It is great when our government and neighbors come together to plan for the needs of the community.



> Some pics from the Overland Park meeting



# Executive Committee Recap

INC Executive Committee Meeting  
June 10, 2013

Present Board: Larry Ambrose, Cindy Johnstone, Steve Nissen, Blake DiMeo, Katie Fisher, Randle Loeb, Jane Lorimer, Gayle Rodgers  
Committee Chairs: Michael Henry, Joel Noble, Maggie Price, Karen Taylor

## Minutes

Minutes for the May 13, 2013 EC meeting were approved without exception. Katie Fisher moved; Jane Lorimer seconded.

## Treasury – Steve Nissen

- Steve reported a \$250 Xcel dinner sponsorship is outstanding.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Jane to call to see if they have questions on previously submitted invoices. (Completed June 11).
- Cindy Johnstone moved (seconded by Katie Fisher) to accept the treasurer's report for period ending May 31, 2013. The motion passed without exception.

## Membership – Jane Lorimer

- A non-member list was circulated to EC via email on June 10. EC will make recruiting calls to those they know with special concentration on 10 non-renewed RNO members.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Jane would like for any who are interested in helping define membership benefits and future campaign directions to contact her so a task force can be formed to complete this task within the next 60 days. Interested parties contact Jane.
- Jane will do a mid-year membership special (50%) rate to join via e-blast (and mailing to those without email) to non member RNO's – to go out by July 1
- **ACTION ITEM:** Jane to send the 'rack card' BROCHURE for comments to Executive Committee by June 20.

## Budget Staffing & Grants – Larry Ambrose, Jane Lorimer

- Jane circulated an updated budget recap and asked that Executive Committee add \$500 to total budget, making year budget \$8750 annual. (Note: This amount was later removed because we canceled the Neighborhood Conference event for 2013).
- **ACTION ITEM:** We need a job description for newsletter layout staff to be hired. Gayle Rodgers, Jane, Maggie Price will develop. Due date June 20. INC expects the person hired to have software.
- Larry talked about Grant writing and a need to move forward on this project. The team of Jane, T. Michael Smith, Blake DiMeo and Larry to meet to hammer out language details. Blake has database access to all types of grants we can use.
- **ACTION ITEMS:** Jane & Blake to meet this week. Larry to arrange the T. Michael meeting.

## Denver Week-Cindy Johnstone

August 3 kickoff. There are stakeholders involved such as RNO's and this is intended to be a grass-roots get-to-know-your-neighbors type movement. Derek Okubo with Mayor's office is the person driving from that office. INC's role was determined to be enthusiastically help spread the word and encourage our RNO members to participate at their local levels.

**ACTION ITEM:** Cindy to get answers to these

questions by end of this week: What language should we be using online, newsletter, etc?

What's the standard verbiage for passing on info about the event such as "here's all the free stuff the City will provide? Due by June 13. Will Denver Week site post a list of those neighborhoods that are registered?

## Hentzell Park Land Swap Issue – Larry Ambrose

Recapped from Saturday: The Delegation approved INC to become a party to a lawsuit re determining whether or not this issue needs to go to the people for vote and the motion also placed a \$500 capped liability for INC's involvement. (See minutes from Jun 8 meeting of Delegates).

Larry restated this action was not personal against the City; it is to protect the Charter and nature of open space. A Court meeting June 12 is the injunction to stop the land swap decision and Cindy will speak at that hearing. Send to members – why is INC involved in suing the City? Kathleen Wells offered to put that together with Larry. See [www.friendsofdenverparks.org](http://www.friendsofdenverparks.org) website for the lawsuit document

**ACTION ITEM:** Larry to create a letter of explanation, which will be distributed to INC members by June 17. The letter will be sent via email or mail as appropriate. (See Larry's column in this newsletter).

## Neighborhood Conference – Cindy Johnstone

Serious discussion about INC's ability to "do the work" connected with delivering a good event since only one other person had stepped up to serve on the Conference committee. Cindy moved we cancel the Neighborhood Conference scheduled for September 28. Jane seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM:** Cindy will advise the City this week that we have canceled the event and we are releasing the Webb Building space for that date.

Other discussion: Why can't our monthly meetings become our monthly "conference" on salient topics? The INC monthly meeting announcements are "flat" – no pizzazz surrounding the speakers and meeting announcements are buried in the newsletter. EC suggested Gayle Rodgers, the new newsletter editor, 'shake up' the newsletter layout and put the meeting information on the front page. This would also mean our speakers or meeting content would need to be known in advance.

## Dictionary Drive – Blake DiMeo

Blake reported the DDD has generated \$16,688 to date and five grants are awaiting outcome. This means at least one book is affordable for the projected 7,000 third-graders enrolled in DPS this fall.

\$600 was generated from the People's Fair beer booth. The beer booth had more volunteers than were needed. CHUN will be contributing. If the beer booth is repeated, she'd like help getting the word out in advance next year.

August book packing activities will be announced in July.

## Transportation – Joel Noble

- Brief discussion about who manages City sidewalks and how that compares to other large cities
- Car share discussion– There were originally 3

operators in place and others are coming. Car2-Go has 33 cars on the street. [www.denver.car2go.com](http://www.denver.car2go.com) - Can leave cars at meters or other public parking. One must subscribe to this service. They check driving records. RNO's are to be notified either by City or car-share operator re where the dedicated spaces are. Prices are per-minute and inexpensive for short trips but pricey for long ones, intentionally giving an incentive for short trips, in contrast with traditional car rental.

## Old Business

Meeting Locations – Cindy Johnstone  
Because we voted to not proceed with the Neighborhood Conference, we need to find another location and topic for the September meeting (Date to meet was set as 9/21 v. 9/14 to honor religious holidays for some members). Jane also suggested October's meeting be located in a better spot than the Mokerie to better accommodate the requirements for the ballot forums planned.

## ACTION ITEMS:

- Cindy and Larry will work on balance of year schedule
- Michael Henry will find a better location for October's meeting.

Side discussion: Meeting hosts need to plan for enough coffee and food to cover early arrivals and break. Speakers be advised about time limits and if they go over we will cut them off to better keep INC agenda schedules.

## Nuisance Abatement Citizens Advisory Board – Michael Henry

Michael asked that INC send a follow up letter (from the June 8 monthly meeting) to the Mayor, Anthony Aragon and Commander Fleecs urging appointment and staffing for the Nuisance Abatement Citizens Advisory Board and remind the City of the requirement to notify RNO's for nuisance complaints and follow-ups.

## Bylaws Provisions Regarding Disclosure – Larry Ambrose

A reminder that INC's bylaws have a conflict of interest disclosure clause that all new Board and EC members should read and be familiar with.

## New Business

### Steve Griffin's Research – Jane Lorimer

Jane met with Steve and thought the rationale for the project was sound and not harmful to INC. Larry will circulate Jane's summary of the meeting and reasons for the survey, which was sent May 27.

**ACTION ITEM:** Board to vote on whether or not to do the survey after reviewing. Vote needed by June 17 via email to Larry and Jane.

**Randle Loeb** Randle will attend the Colorado Community Action Association's Conference on Poverty to be held in Grand Junction August 13-16. He is working on a plan for implementation with "legislative handles" for the protection of homeless and those "in harms' way".

### Michael Henry

Advised one of the past INC Chairs is interested in hosting a summer picnics for Past Chairs and the 2013 current ED members if we are interested. All were interested and Michael will advise details later.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20PM



## The following are items we will vote on at the INC meeting on August 13. Please read ahead of time.

### INC Parks Committee Resolution:

The INC Park Committee moves that the Zoning Code of the Denver City and County be changed in order to address two serious park-related problems:

1. The zoning code for high-density areas, especially Transportation Oriented Development areas, is inadequate because it fails to require adequate open space and recreational facilities for developments in these areas. Requiring publicly accessible open space as is done in other major cities should be seriously explored.
2. In the absence of adequate parkland and recreational opportunities in high-density areas, individuals who live in these areas tend to use parks and recreational facilities in other parts of the city, many of which are in the central city and are already over-used to the detriment of the parks and the neighborhoods surrounding them. The city must insist on additional parkland for recreational facilities in major density development areas.

In short, parkland and open space should be considered as a critical element of supporting high-density development. We endorse, moreover, the need in general for more parkland than we have at present throughout the City and County of Denver, as called for by the INC Platform on Denver's Urban Parks.

### Motion 1 From Zoning & Planning Committee

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation supports the appeal to the Board of Adjustment for Zoning Appeals by Jefferson Park United Neighbors (JPUN) of the decision by the Denver Zoning Administration to permit a new development at 2100 Eliot Street which, if built, would violate the bulk-plane protections given to adjacent R-2 property by the zoning code in effect under the Chapter 59 Zoning Code in effect until the new zoning code was passed in June 2010. Unclear language in the new code did not clarify the implied and necessary coordination between the adjacent zone districts.

INC should also communicate to Community Planning and Development, City Council and the Mayor's Office that the unintended error in the new zoning code which implies but does not effectively define the bulk-plane protections given to land in certain lower-density zone districts within 175 feet of a higher-density zone district should be corrected by an amendment to the zoning code as soon as possible. INC Delegates should be prepared to vote on this on July 13.

### Motion 2 From Zoning & Planning Committee

Inter- Neighborhood Cooperation should urge the Colorado General Assembly to amend state law to require posting, notification and a needs and desires hearing for proposed "breweries," which are a type of state license that currently has no such requirements. In recent years, approximately 7 have been approved in Denver neighborhoods. INC Delegates should be prepared to vote on this on July 13.

## South Broadway Drainage and Street Improvements

The last tree, a Catalpa, was planted on June 20th marking the end of the South Broadway drainage and street improvement project. This project was of great value to Overland Park and Platte Park Neighborhood Associations. It has improved the traffic flow along South Broadway. Mayor Hancock, Councilman Chris Nevitt representing District 7, and Manager Conejos from Public Works spoke at the event.

> Some pics from the South Broadway dedication



## Safety Expo

I attended the May 18, 2013 Denver Safety Expo at Broadway and Alameda and was very impressed with how well organized the event was and the level of community participation. This popular event continues to be quite successful. I am writing this note on behalf of the Manager of Safety to personally thank you, the Broadway Cop Shops and the Inter Neighborhood Cooperation for your work in putting together the Safety Expo and to tell you that your efforts are much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jess Vigil  
Deputy Manager of Safety  
Department of Safety  
City and County of Denver

## New Library is Named

Gilbert Gonzales

The new branch library in west Denver will be named after Rudolfo 'Corky' Gonzales. The library is expected to open in the fall of 2014 and will be located on the southeast corner of West Colfax and Irving Street.



### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Katie Fisher, Co-chair, Parks and Recreation Committee  
303-744-3888  
boardmember\_2@denverinc.org  
University Neighbors

Gil Gonzales, Co-Chair Library  
303-733-6570  
gggon@comcast.net  
Friends and Neighbors of Washington Park

Michael Henry  
Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee  
303-377-6609  
michaelhenry824@comcast.net  
Capitol Hill United Neighborhood, Inc.

Merce Lea, Co-chair, Public Safety Cmte  
720-210-4056 Broadway COP Shop  
broadwaycopshop@aol.com

Jane Lorimer  
Budget Committee Chair  
Interim Membership Chair  
303-388-9224  
membership@denverinc.org  
George Washington H.O.A.

Steve Nissen, Co-Chair Education  
303-733-8524 treasurer@denverinc.org  
Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn.

Chris O'Connor, Co-chair, Library Cmte  
720-859-8821  
mitz\_4@comcast.net  
Lowry United Neighborhoods

Maggie Price Co-chair, Parks and Recreation Committee  
mprice9980@aol.com  
Congress Park Neighbors

Michael Smilanic  
Chair, Communications Cmte  
720-932-1580  
communications@denverinc.org  
Sloan's Lake N.A.

Karen Taylor  
Co-chair, Education Committee  
303-455-0562  
karentaylorphd@gmail.com  
Harkness Heights N.A.

Joel Noble  
Chair, Transportation Committee  
jnoble@frii.net



### OFFICERS

Larry Ambrose, President  
Sloan's Lake N.A.  
720.490.1991  
president@denverinc.org

Cindy Johnstone, Vice President  
Friends & Neighbors of Wash. Park  
303.733.6570  
vicepresident@denverinc.org

Thad Jacobs, Secretary  
303.588.4040  
secretary@denverinc.org

Steve Nissen, Treasurer  
Alamo Placita N.A.  
303.733.8524  
treasurer@denverinc.org

### DIRECTORS

Blake DiMeo  
Civic Association of Clayton  
303.856.6679  
boardmember\_1@denverinc.org

Katie Fisher  
University Neighbors  
303.744.3888  
boardmember\_2@denverinc.org

Randle Loeb  
Capitol Hill United Neighbors  
303.620.1999  
boardmember\_3@denverinc.org

Jane Lorimer  
George Washington HOA/Winston Downs  
303.388.9224  
boardmember\_4@denverinc.org

Gayle Rodgers  
Hampden South N.A.  
303.770.4770  
boardmember\_5@denverinc.org

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from Overland Park

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