

DENVER INC CONNECTION

www.denverINC.org

December 2013

Neighborhoods work better when they work together

Annual Award Dinner

This year our Annual Awards Dinner is on January 30, 2014. Please mark it on your calendar. It is our big celebration of the year where we come together to honor individuals in the community who make contributions to our neighborhoods.

Have You Nominated Someone From Your Neighborhood For An INC Award?

All Inter-Nighborhood Cooperation members are encouraged to submit nominations for the awards to be presented at the INC Annual Awards Dinner. For approximately 20 years, INC has utilized our Annual Awards Dinner to recognize individual neighbors, groups and institutions for their outstanding work and dedication in our great City. INC's Annual Awards Dinner is one of many incredible Denver events that remind us that we are all neighbors and we are all connected.

To nominate someone, go to our INC website where you can easily fill out a nomination form. Criteria are given for each award. Here is the link to the correct web page: <http://www.denverinc.org/2014-awards/>

Nominations must be submitted no later than **Monday, December 30, 2013.**

The following are the Award Categories:

- INC Neighborhood Person of the Year
- Community Policing Award
- Outstanding INC Delegate Award
- Dollar Dictionary Drive Award
- Youth Neighborhood Leader Award
- Neighborhood Stars

Can You Help Us With Silent Auction Items?

By Kenneth Worley

Silent auction items are needed for the 2014 INC Annual Awards Dinner and it's your chance to showcase your neighborhood. This year we are asking you to find the restaurants, services, and retail boutiques that make your neighborhood special. Ask your neighborhood businesses if they would be interested in providing a silent auction item or a donation to INC. We have a lot of great and unique businesses that deserve to be known beyond their district. Now is your chance to spread the word about some of your favorite local haunts AND help raise money for INC at the same time! So get out and meet some of your local business owners and let's make this year's silent auction represent the diversity of the Denver Metropolitan region. Forms for silent auction items are available.

Email Gayle Rodgers at myhsna@gmail.com and request them.

Membership Chair Needed

INC seeks an individual or group to take over the membership duties for 2014. The current membership chair will train you! Duties include: keeping a spreadsheet of members and non members, sharing email address updates with

the Communications team, sending renewal notices each December (INC covers costs). Skills needed: Computer literate, access to computer, Excel or other spreadsheet literacy. Please contact president@denverinc.org if interested.

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CALENDAR

INC Delegate Meeting

NO meeting in December

Next Delegate Meeting
Saturday, January 11, 2014
City Forester, Rob Davis
8:30 – 11:00 am

December 9

INC Exec Committee Meeting
1201 Williams St, 19 floor
7 – 9:30pm

January 2014

INC Transportation Meeting
1201 Williams St, 19 floor
6:00pm

January 21, 2014

INC Parks & Rec
Committee Meeting
Heritage Club, 2020 S Monroe St
6 – 8pm

January 25, 2014

INC Zoning and Planning
Committee Meeting
1201 Williams St, 19 floor
9:30 to 11:30am

Save The Date

INC Awards Dinner
Thursday, January 30
Wellshire Event Center
3333 S Colorado Blvd
In the evening

For up-to-the-minute news,
please visit INC'S website:
www.denverinc.org

Committee Corner

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

INC Parks and Recreation Committee

By Diana Helper, PARC member
November 19, 2013

The meeting began with viewing the film "Hampden Heist – The Abduction of a Denver Park" created by KC Keefer as a gift to Friends of Denver Parks. Featured speakers are Susan Baird (ret. DPR Sr. Planner) and historian Tom Noel—and the beautiful Hentzell Park Open Space. Discussion followed regarding wide distribution of this film. For info on this film please contact www.friendsofdenverparks@gmail.com. Renee also updated PARC on the progress of attorney John Case. His work is pro bono but donations for cost of filings etc. are requested.

"Stop City Loop" representatives discussed enlargement of City Park "Playground" from three to 14 acres, with need for plans to address safety, protection, proposed fences, parking and traffic. Neighbors say they will lose their longtime "neighborhood park" if it becomes a regional destination site. It is already well 'activated.' Primary concern is the DPR process of presenting a 'done-deal' plan rather than meeting with neighbors early in the process. Larry pointed out that this violates the INC mission as stated in its Platform on Denver Parks.

Tom presented a Proposed Resolution from Greater Park Hill Community, Inc. asking DPR to complete studies of parking, traffic, maintenance and funding before moving ahead with this project. Kathleen asked that he preface this Resolution with a brief statement of concern for the "top-down" process used in inaugurating this major park project. He will do so.

Larry urged that all RNOs (Registered Neighborhood Organizations) be aware of the city's plan to change open space requirements in General Development Plans from a percentage of gross area, to 10% of net area, resulting in much less open space (not a good thing). This is on the INC ZAP agenda for discussion Nov. 23.

Renee reported that in Englewood the city council voted to designate all its parks at once.

SEAP (Special Events And Planning) stakeholder reps from INC are Biddie Labrot, George Mayl, and Jane Parker-Ambrose, with Cindy Johnstone as an alternate. The first meeting was tonight (Nov. 19th), so we await a report. SEAP aims

to improve coordination of Denver's growing number of events. Kathleen reminded PARC that we had sent a list of all our park concerns to the Mayor and DPR some time ago. Maggie will locate this letter for INC stakeholders to reference.

The Greenway Foundation, considering Ruby Hill Park and a "re-think" of the Denver Coliseum site, is discussing Festival Park possibilities. Diana reported they also are involved with the possible availability of Xcel Energy's Zuni Plant site at 13th & Zuni and Arapahoe Plant on S. Platte River Dr. Xcel has asked the PUC to allow these plants to be shut down. Greenway sees these areas as opportunities for open space/development. PARC will keep in touch. Discussion followed regarding need for major park funding by citizens devoted to open space for the benefit of all, and the misconception than "young people" do not care about green space. They are often the main proponents of clean air and natural spaces, and we should reach out to them on behalf of parks.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. Next meeting will be January 21, 2014.

INC Transportation Committee

By Joel Noble, Committee Chair

The INC Transportation Committee met on Thursday, November 14th at 6 p.m., and had three topics. There was a packed crowd, bolstered by strong attendance by an apartment management company keenly interested in the parking programs topic.

****Wayne New, President of the Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Association**, presented a summary of the results from the **Cherry Creek North Business Improvement District (BID) Cumulative Traffic Study** that was funded by the area RNOs and residents. The study seeks to project potential growth of development in the BID in order to model likely resulting parking demand, cumulative traffic effects, and specific effects on key intersections.

Starting with a study database of all the properties in the BID, their lot and building sizes, use types, and identified current and planned projects, the study projects future development by positing that likely assemblages and existing surface parking lots will develop first. Using floor-area ratio and mix-of-uses assumptions based on recent experience, the study presents two cases: the 10-year case in which 50% of the area is developed (a 104% increase in floor space from today), and a 20-year case in which 100% of the area is developed or redeveloped (a 161% increase in floor space from today). With the assumptions for use-mix, a number of 1,200-sq. ft. apartments, 2,000-sq. ft. condominiums, and an

amount of retail and office space are arrived at in order to consider the additional parking and traffic effects each timeframe-scenario might bring.

In the next 10 years, under the given assumptions, and using City-provided trip rates for new development, the study projects a 36% increase in peak-hour traffic, and a 48% increase in the 20-year "100% build out" scenario. Related to this trip growth, the study looked at key intersection performance during the p.m. peak in these two scenarios, and found that some intersections on 2nd Ave. can be expected to continue to perform well, while excessive queue lengths can be anticipated at 3rd and University with just the addition of currently-underway and other identified projects, with additional issues at other 3rd Ave. intersections in the 10-year and 20-year scenarios. The study can be used to consider changes to intersection design at these intersections to help mitigate issues.

Parking demand is considered under several scenarios that differ by the amount of off-street parking new development would be required to provide under zoning. The current zoning generally requires more off-street parking to be provided than under the new zoning code (used elsewhere in the city in zone districts like C-MX-5 and -8). The off-street parking ratios proposed in the "white paper" developed during the recent Cherry Creek area plan are somewhere in the middle. The study presents the total number of off-street spaces that would be required under either the "white paper" parking ratios or the new zoning code C-MX parking ratios. The difference in these requirements is being used as information for ongoing discussions about the new area zoning, seeking to balance development needs with parking impacts on the neighborhoods adjacent to the BID.

For Cherry Creek, Wayne says a key insight from the study is the importance of transit to manage the future growth of the area – better transit alternatives relate directly to how much traffic and parking pressure the area will experience as it grows, and the study shows that there is ample reason to actively seek strategic transit alternatives given the effect of potential growth. Overall, he sees the key message of this effort for other neighborhoods to be the value of data to bring the city, neighborhoods and development interests into focused and productive discussions and problem solving when planning for the future. You can download the study presentation at www.ccneighbors.com.

****Our second presentation was from Denver Public Works presenters Sean Mackin, Manager of Parking Operations, and Robert Ferrin, Parking & Planning Program Administrator, on the new proposed Parking Permit Program Rules and Regulations.** The public hearing and

> continued on PG 3

Committee Corner > continued from PG 2

adoption of these new rules and regulations has been postponed to allow more time for neighborhood outreach and public comment, including the presentation at our committee.

The parking permit program relates to on-street parking and how the city can manage the effective use of this limited resource. Since the 1950s, the only parking permit program in Denver for managing these is the Residential Parking Permit program (RPP), created to protect low-scale residential neighborhoods from the parking demands of nearby attractions such as stadiums, hospitals, and commercial centers. While still a valuable tool, its limitations have been becoming increasingly clear as the residential density in the city increases.

In areas similar to what it was originally designed to handle, residents have a reasonable chance of finding on-street parking since the “competition” among residents is relatively low and parking by others is tightly time-limited. However on blocks where the residential density is much higher, with far more residential units than there are spaces on the street, the RPP program does not (and cannot) do much to improve the chances of finding on-street parking for residents.

The Strategic Parking Plan, completed in 2010, calls for a variety of parking management tools to help manage parking demand in various contexts. Last year City Council passed an ordinance that approved Public Works to develop multiple parking permit programs to better balance the available on-street parking inventory to meet the needs of diverse user groups. The proposed Rules and Regulations provide the basic regulatory framework to add two more parking permit “toolbox” – the “Better Manage the Use of the Public Right of Way” program, suitable for smaller scale situations with competition among one or two user groups, and the “Area Management” or “Traffic Management” Plan, which will identify context-specific strategies over a potentially larger area with multiple competing user groups. The RPP tool will still exist, focused on lower-density residential areas less than 4 blocks in scale (each), which is where that tool works best.

Our presenters emphasized that the Rules and Regulations document is seeking, for the first time, to capture in a technical regulating document the practices that Public Works personnel have been following in recent years regarding the RPP program, and to provide additional transparency and clearer expectations by having the written regulations available. However, they cautioned, it does remain a somewhat technical document. They also reminded the audience that a Residential Parking Permit merely allows the holder to exceed the posted time limits in the designated neighborhood – it does not and

cannot guarantee that a parking space will be available. They relayed some anecdotes about some apartment landlords and apartment management groups who assure potential residents that the city will give them a permit that guarantees a parking space, putting the city and the new resident in conflict when the new resident realizes that the expectation was untrue.

Sean and Robert also wanted to clarify several points about the program and the proposed regulations. Although the rules and regulations proposed do allow for and limit the cost of fees in the three programs, there are no plans to charge for the RPP program in 2014, and no immediate plans to charge after that. None of the programs distinguish residential renters from residential owners. And no current permit holders will have their permits revoked – renewals will continue to be sent out, regardless of the size of the building the resident is in. To help reduce the number of unused permits, renewals will become annual rather than multi-year, and may be renewed online.

There were a large number of questions from the audience, with considerable focus on the “higher level of review” being given to new RPP requests for residents in buildings with 9 or more dwelling units. Much of the frustration seemed to involve inconsistent information being given over time or recently by different City contacts. Given the technical nature of the Rules and Regulations proposed, it was suggested that Public Works consider a companion “Policies and Procedures” document that more clearly and readably provided the processes and expectations, particularly in light of the confusion possible with the highly context-sensitive approach being taken, block-by-block, in applying these three programs.

Public Works has assured us that once a new date for the rules and regulations public hearing is identified and confirmed, the time, date, and location information will be sent to all Registered Neighborhood Organizations at least 20 days in advance.

****Our final presentation was on the RTD Smart Card program, presented by Judy McMurphy, Smart Card Program Manager.**

In early 2013, RTD rolled out its new Smart Card program to holders of CollegePass and EcoPass cards. With this new card, riders “tap” their cards on boarding busses or before boarding trains. This reduces the administrative workload for replacing decals, provides better ridership information that will be used for setting pricing for the programs, and allows colleges and businesses to self-administer the programs by issuing and revoking cards as students and employees come and go. This serves as “Phase 1” of the program.

In Phase 2 of the program, starting in the second half of 2014, customer-purchased Local, Regional and Express monthly passes will be available using smart card technology. Two new programs will also be available: a 30-day pass and a Stored Value pass. The 30-day pass can be purchased in advance, and the 30 days will begin the first time the card is used. The Stored Value card holds cash value to be used instead of cash and can be reloaded with more value in-person or online. RTD is planning over 150 retail “points of sale” for the cards, including at King Soopers and Safeway starting in late 2014.

Cards can be purchased and used anonymously, or can be registered personally online which will enable the user to report a lost or stolen card which can then be deactivated in the system, with the remaining time and/or value transferred onto a new card. Judy spoke strongly about the data privacy policies of RTD, assuring us that individual ridership information or records will never be shared (even with employers paying for employees’ EcoPasses), and that the ride history and patterns can’t be read from someone’s card by someone with a smartphone standing near them (an issue in some other cities’ implementations).

Roving fare inspectors, similar to how light rail fare inspections are handled today will do fare enforcement. With the smart cards, the fare inspectors scan the passenger’s card to ensure they’ve “tapped” for this ride, and that they’ve paid for or their pass allows the particular service they’re using. Fare inspectors are getting practice during Phase I, only giving reminders to EcoPass and CollegePass riders who forgot to tap their passes. In the future, not tapping a card may result in being removed from the vehicle at the next stop.

The audience had several questions, largely relating to specific scenarios where getting the correct payment might be complex. For instance, if one has a Local pass and rides an Express bus how will the additional fare be collected? It sounds as if the monthly “Local” pass may also be a stored value card, so the additional cost above the normal Local fare would be deducted from the value stored on the card. In a more confusing case, it has long been possible to ride a short distance on an Express or Regional bus, and only pay a “Local” fare due to the short segment being ridden. Just like a brief conversation is needed now to indicate to the driver that a lesser pass or fare is being used due to the short segment being ridden, in the future a brief conversation with the driver will notify the driver to reduce the amount charged to the card accordingly.

Unfortunately, we ran out of time to further

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Committee Corner > continued from PG 3

explore possible issues or to discuss how the additional ridership information will help RTD optimize their routes and services, which may be revisited in 2014 as the program rolls out.

Thank you to all the attendees and speakers this year for a great 2013, and another big thank you to Michael Henry for our wonderful meeting space! We will publish our 2014 Transportation Committee meeting schedule in early January. Happy holidays!

Inc Zoning And Planning Committee

November 23, 2013

By Michael Henry, Committee Chair

Michelle Pyle, Tina Axelrad and Zoning Administrator Michael O'Flaherty of the Community Planning and Development Department (CPD) summarized the numerous **proposed changes to the Zoning Code** in the omnibus text amendment, which is just beginning in the informal public review process. The draft proposal will be presented to the Land Use, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of City Council on December 10 and CPD will hold office hours on December 12 and 18 for anyone who wishes to comment or learn about the changes. CPD asks that any comments on this draft be submitted no later than January 26, 2014. Michelle and Tina briefly described many of the proposed changes, most of which they described as "tweaks" or reorganization to make the Code more user-friendly. **A draft of the 17-page summary of the proposed text amendments and also the full text is available for public review and comment; view it by visiting DenverGov.org/CPD or clicking [here](#).** Final passage is expected in the spring. A few of the more significant proposed changes include:

- Projecting signs will now be allowed in all mixed-use districts without the need to go through the Board of Adjustment for Zoning Appeals
- Add a use to the Downtown Civic Center use district to allow "arts, recreation and entertainment services."
- Small-scale breweries, wineries and distilleries will be allowed in neighborhood mixed-use districts, with several limitations.
- Revise parking standards to require more parking for high schools than middle schools.
- Allow site development plans to be appealed to the Board of Adjustment for Zoning Appeals.
- Eliminate minimum area requirements for rezonings to certain districts.
- Revise the open space requirements for general development plans to require that calculation of required minimum 10% open space is based on gross acreage net of proposed and existing public right-of-way and proposed and existing city parks.

The city intends to hire a consultant in late 2014 to help to revise/update Denver's sign code, which is part of the zoning code, but was not revised in 2010. Members of the committee insisted that neighbors must be involved in the process to counter-balance the sign companies and lobbyists who can be expected to argue for larger, brighter and animated/flashing signs. Committee members also urged that brightness of signs needs to be regulated, which it is not how it is now.

Committee member Joel Noble said that the city has posted a list of the "neglected and derelict buildings" throughout the city, at www.denvergov.org/development/services/DenverDevelopmentServices/HelpMeFind/Inspections/NeglectedandDerelictBuildings/tabid/444450/Default.aspx. Apparently CPD, the Mayor's Office and City Council are considering methods to have such buildings that the owners cannot or will not repair turned into community assets. In the next few months, the ZAP committee will try to engage in this discussion.

Neddra Niblet, program manager of Denver Solid Waste Management of the Public Works Department, Neddra.niblet@denvergov.org, described **Denver's extensive graffiti-abatement programs and tools**. Residents or property-owners should call or e-mail 311 for city assistance to remove graffiti from private or public property so that a city work-order can be prepared. There are 7 city crews devoted to graffiti-removal. A citywide Graffiti Brush-Off program will be organized on the last Saturday of July in 2014. All neighborhood groups are encouraged to participate in that or to organize their own graffiti-removal efforts at other times of the year, but please coordinate with Neddra.

Julius Zsako, Zsako@comcast.net, recently-retired from Community Planning and Development, talked about his recent book, **DEFACING AMERICA - The Rise of Graffiti Vandalism**. Julius led graffiti prevention and removal efforts at the City & County of Denver, and later supervised property maintenance and zoning code enforcement for Denver and also administered the neighborhood registration lists. He argued that graffiti are not victimless or harmless, but harm neighborhoods and property-owners and have a large monetary cost for removal. He said that the key difference between illegal graffiti and art is that art is permitted or authorized by a property-owner and graffiti are not.

Rocky Piro, Denver's Planning Director, informed the committee that CPD will be adding 14 new employees in 2014, reversing a trend of staff cuts for the last few years. He also said that CPD would start "conversations" in 2014 to consider analyzing/updating the 2000 Denver Comprehensive Plan, in which neighborhood groups will be included.

Michael Henry said that the sub-committee

working to draft a Planning and Zoning Platform for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation will continue its work, with the hope of having a final draft to present to the ZAP Committee on January 25.

All neighborhood groups are reminded to re-register for 2014 before January 31, 2014 through www.denvergov.org/RNO. Groups that fail to re-register will not receive all of the notices of rezonings, zoning variances, liquor license applications, retail marijuana store licenses, and many other very important notices. Groups also need to be sure to designate one or two contact persons, who can promptly open, understand and distribute such notices to their groups.

There will not be a ZAP meeting in December. The next meeting will be on January 25, 2014. If you wish to be added to the monthly agenda list, please send your e-mail address to gerie.grant@estreet.com

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 11, 2013

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

Minutes The minutes of the October 14 meeting were approved without exception. Motion by Katie, seconded by Cindy. Carried with 7 for and 1 abstention.

Financial Reports Steve presented the balance sheet for period ending October 31, 2013. INC has \$23,666.49 in funds with \$2,322.20 under the Dollar Dictionary Drive funding. Jane moved to accept the report as submitted, seconded by Blake. The motion carried unanimously.

Jane emailed the budget report prior to the meeting and reported INC is currently projecting to be under budget by about \$2500 for the year. Coupled with anticipated expenses and changes requested, INCs projected "under budget" position to a little over \$2,000.

Action item: A correction is to be made to the line item related to candidate forums: Remove a 2012 payment of \$500 to League of Women Voters as that check was actually dated for 2012 and not 2013.

Action item: Steve asked that Dollar Dictionary Drive income/expenses as well as all INC income be included in the year-end report and in the upcoming 2014 budget tracking. It is needed for grant proposals.

Action item: Larry plans to meet with Cindy and Jane to create the 2014 budget prior to the next EC meeting on December 9.

> continued on PG 7

From The President

Strong Mayor, Strong Developers, Weak Council Threaten Neighborhood Character, Shrink Public Open Space

For better or worse, I came to INC involvement after years in many neighborhood zoning and open space skirmishes. In recent years, however, it seems that the public has become used to -- even numbed to -- Mayors and City Councils who seem to have become uncompromising cheerleaders for powerful development interests. If you are fortunate enough to live in a stable neighborhood not overrun by the stampede toward density, you probably don't live in the inner city.

There seem to be a number of reasons why people now perceive development interests to have carte blanche in Denver. Most obvious is the tradition of "courtesy zoning" about which I have written before. Despite Council's quasi-judicial responsibility, this is the very real, but unwritten rule, that a large majority of Council members will support and vote on site-specific zoning matters according to the wishes of the Council member whose District is effected. As a result, developers have learned that it takes only one vote to get a zoning change in Denver. Perhaps the most notorious example of Council's allegiance to courtesy zoning was the Lowry Vista rezoning in 2009. Despite the fact that the subject of the rezoning was an unmitigated, toxic waste dump, and that opponents stayed until 2 a.m. to voice objections to it being developed, the Council overwhelmingly (12-1) followed then Councilwoman Marcia Johnson's lead to approve a massive 400,000 sq. ft. commercial mixed-use development.

Another reason it seems that developers have carte blanche is the new zoning code and a new use of the General Development Plan (GDP) in Denver land development. Despite Denver's strong Mayor form of government, City Council traditionally has had more than proportionate power over zoning matters with the staff from Community Planning and Development (CPD) making recommendations to the Planning Board who would then forward on their decision to Council. For large developments of more than 10 acres, the GDP came into favor under Planning Manager, Peter Park and the old zoning code. GDPs were intended to allow CPD to help developers plan infrastructure, open space and building heights so that the City could assess the impact for services such as water, storm drainage, streets and right-of-ways, schools and parks and recreation. The Code actually envisioned a hierarchy in which overall zoning came first from Council, followed by a General Development Plan, and then Site Development Plans.

Originally, GDPs were tied to the existing zoning so that building heights and open space were related to whatever zone district was chosen. Generally, the higher the density zon-

ing, the more open space was required. Under the old zoning code, the T-MU-30 zone district at Gates and Union Station needed a GDP in order to reserve district-wide open space which was not included in the high density zoning. Individual T-MU-30 lots were required to have 20% open space. The GDP allowed the aggregation of open space and plazas for the larger area and the amount was lowered to 10%. Thus, developers were given a 10% density bonus in return for combining open space in one contiguous area.

Good planning practices should require zoning to be in place before the GDP. However, GDPs have been approved without any zoning tied

the Code as if Total means Net and is thus allowing the deduction of right-of-ways (streets, curbs, gutters and streetscapes). This results in significantly lower required open space. The more right-of-ways there are, the less open space needed.

Open space in developments didn't used to be taken so lightly. A number of recent GDPs including Denargo Market, Buckley Annex and Union Station have publicly accessible open space of up to 17% of the Gross GDP area.

In November, INC passed a Resolution calling upon the Denver Planning Board to require that 10% of Total (Gross) General Development Plan Areas, (including primary and secondary

areas) for all General Development Plans be devoted to publicly accessible open space as is clearly required in the new zoning code. INC also resolved that no GDP should be deficient in open space that would have the effect of diminishing the average per person amount of parks and publicly accessible open space available to Denver residents.

However, as a response to INC's Resolution calling for more rather than less open space, on November 18, CPD introduced a text amendment to codify using Net GDP area.

The "Omnibus" text amendment to the Zoning Code includes a language change that would allow GDPs to use 10% of Net instead of 10% of Gross GDP area.

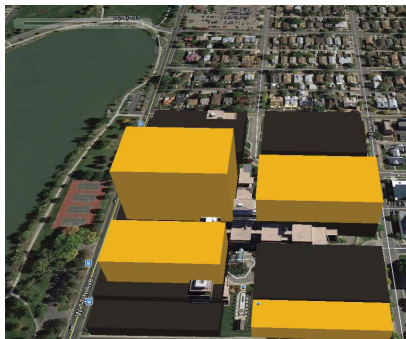
City Council will be asked sometime in the next three months to decide: more open space for large developments or less? In the meantime CPD is asking the Planning Board to allow calculating open space for the EFG GDP based on the Net area while at the same time admitting that the ordinance needs clarification from City Council.

Hopefully, one or more of our Council representatives will realize that the GDP process takes planning power away from City Council, the elected representatives of the people. If EFG is successful in getting approval of a net calculation for open space now that the planning office has put the question on the table, Council's prerogative to make the decision will have been usurped. The Planning Board is not supposed to be making law, just following it.

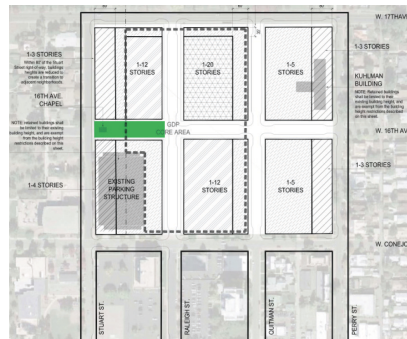
What then are appropriate courses of action in the interest of bringing balance back to Denver governance?

The Planning Board must wait to make a decision about any GDP open space until Council makes the decision on more or less open space for all future large developments in the City. Council should reject the Mayor's request to provide less publicly accessible open space in new large developments.

Council should also add their own text amendment giving themselves the ultimate power over approval and amendment of General Development Plans and amendments.



Left: Google Earth 3D Build Out Per Pg 10 of GDP Right: Green Signifies open space in EFG's Plan



November Delegate Meeting

November 8, 2013

By Thad Jacobs, Secretary

Willis Case Golf Course

Hosted by: Berkeley, West Highland, Harkness Heights, and Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Associations

Quorum established: 37 members present

Call to order: 9:06am

Welcome Remarks: Larry opened the meeting and went to approvals of minutes and treasurer's report

Approval of INC October Delegate Meeting Minutes: Motion made to approve by Katie Fisher, 2nd by Tim approved as submitted

Treasurer's Report

CDs: \$11819.82

Savings: \$7813.29

\$\$ Dictionary: \$2467.26

Checking: \$1566.12

Total Balance 10/31/13: \$23,666.49

Committee Overviews and Updates:

Newsletter / Communications (Bibi Alexander)

Awards dinner update:

- Would like each RNO to get silent auction donations from their neighborhood businesses
- Need volunteer to take reservations
- Need Nominees for the awards
- Dinner date: 1/30/14 - Wellshire Event Center (3333 S Colorado Blvd), Presenting Sponsor is VisitDenver

Larry recognized Michael Henry for his work on the newsletter, Gayle Rodgers, newsletter editor and Jane Lorimer for her email updates

Parks & Rec (Katie Fisher/Maggie Price)

Next meeting 11/19 at Heritage Club 6-8:30 pm

Grant Frontier River Park and maintenance, INC has asked City to do in segments. City has been working with the Neighborhood Associations with some compromises. See some issues with long term funding for these efforts

Ray spoke about the removal of a monolith of nuclear material from the park area

- Overland Park neighborhood awarded funds from EPA
- Removed and shipped off to the secure facility Green Way Foundation asked Overland Park to get EPA escrow monies as seed money to start the South Platte park development
- Little monies being taken from City P&R budgets

PRAB meeting – resolution of the Poo at the Zoo to convert waste to energy. Zoo needs public comment before they take the resolution

to City Council

www.stopcityloop.org – City Loop project is proposing a 13 acres of play loop area in City Park Friends of Denver Parks Lawsuit update – Larry reported District Judge Stern denied INCs appeal to join the lawsuit. This has gone to the CO Court of Appeals

Dollar Dictionary -no update

Education – no update

Zoning – (Larry Ambrose for Michael Henry)

Michael Henry is in the hospital recovering from pneumonia, wishes for a speedy recovery

ZAP working on a Zoning Platform Document, look to have for delegation to approve in 2014

Transportation (Joel Noble)

Meeting every other month, November meeting is on the 14th

Denver Public Works Parking rules & regulation changes

Joel is working with Public Works to ensure all RNOs are notified whenever a Rules and Regulations change is proposed.

Cherry Creek traffic study and zoning study will be discussed

RTD will present about the Smart Card program Public Safety – no update

INC Motion from INC PARC and ZAP Committees

Larry Ambrose gave initial remarks on the process and motion, recused himself and handed over to Cindy Johnstone to continue with discussion and vote.

Motion passed ZAP and PARC committee's (Motion Language in November 2013 Newsletter)

Comments:

What is definition of Primary and secondary areas? Primary area is area owned by the developer, secondary is adjoining areas owned by others

Why are we using Gross vs. Net on the 10%?

General agreement to change the wording from 'should' to 'shall' in the last paragraph of the motion – delegation acknowledged and agreed to the change

Motion brought forward, with wording change, by Katie, 2nd by Dave: In favor- 29, opposed – 1 abstained -7 (motion passed)

Guest Speaker:

Katy Strascina, Special Projects Manager in the Office of the Mayor and heads up Special Events and Permitting (SEAP)

• Events are a huge part of Denver's fabric that brings in business, tourists, etc.

• Denver's special events help create a vibrant city and support Denver's economy.

• Denver hosts a mix of local, national, and world-wide events

• We attract a variety of audiences, exhibit community pride, enhance the existing cultural environment
Stats for 2013

- Runs/Races 273
- Parades 55
- Festivals 141
- Assemblies 10
- Community Events 111

SEAP History/Reasons for Action – Internal Growing number and complexity of events in the city

• The City's approach to managing events is not coordinated across departments

• Less than optimal customer service for internal and external customers

External reasons for action

- Parking concerns
- Communication-notification and feedback
- Access to homes, businesses, and churches
- Environmental impacts such as trash and noise
- Number of events

There are 17 City departments that attend weekly planning meetings around City Special Events, as well as other secondary agencies like 911, 311 not directly involved in planning, but impacted

Future State of Event Management (Highlights of Outcomes)

• Consistent, coordinated and customer focused processes across City depts. And partner agencies based in best practices and stakeholder input

- Streamlines entry into the permitting and event process
- Clear and consistently enforced rules for events
- Balanced number and location of events
- Changes to take place starting in January 2015

What's Next? Proactive outreach to begin November 2013 to February 2014. Partnering with Public Works, Parks & Recreation.

Public Outreach Meetings (see sheet include)

Those interested in being INC members at the stakeholder meetings send email to Larry and Cindy

Calendar Items:

12/18/13 – 6pm Memorial for Homeless who have died in the last year in the Region
East steps at City and County Building

No meeting in December for INC Meeting

Adjourned: 12pm



Photos from the Delegate Meeting Left: President Ambrose Middle: Joel Noble, Transportation Committee, Right: Katy Strascina, Special Projects Manager

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

> continued from PG 4

Membership Jane presented current membership numbers and a few statistics related to how many renewed online and how many are new members for 2013. There are 98 RNO member organizations and 49 Associates.

She reported the membership increased by 7% as opposed to the 5% goal and revenues were up by about \$2,000, largely because of the new, tiered membership structure and the increased number of Associate members.

There was a short discussion about permitting marijuana related organizations to join. The consensus was "it's approved by the City" so we should accept as well and Associate members are non-voting so it doesn't impact our position voting.

Action item: Larry requested that Jane prepare an analysis / breakdown of the total RNOs in terms of condominium HOAs, RNOs, BIDs, etc by next EC meeting.

Renewal supplies (stamps, envelopes, labels, printing) have been ordered for renewal mailings to begin in early December. New member solicitation will follow and will be completed before December 25.

2014 Dinner Committee Blake and Gayle both reported. The committee is still seeking a local area celebrity to be the emcee. Josh Davies has agreed to choreograph the program content and be the backup emcee.

There was a long discussion on neighborhood awards with this outcome:

- No member of the Executive Committee is to be eligible for an award in 2014
- Wording on Neighborhood Stars nomination form will be changed to say anyone from an RNO in Denver may nominate a person or group for this award
- Neighborhood Star awards are limited to the top ten submissions

Action item: Wording is to be changed online for Neighborhood Star award re who can nominate and the deadline for submissions will be December 30.

The chairs asked the Board to consider a new idea for judging the submitted award nominations, which was to create a panel to include City and Visit Denver members who judged strictly on merit. The Board decided the whole of the EC is a better avenue based on the timing and other factors.

Action item: The EC meeting will be moved from January 13, 2014 to January 6 to accommodate judging of submissions

Action item: A mail alias will be established linked to the online submission form that routes submissions to all members of the EC (completed 11/12)

The chairs also asked about how the proceeds from the dinner will be split. After a lengthy, spirited discussion, it was decided that the net gain would be pooled and the Board will decide the ratio split at the next EC meeting in December.

Committee Reports

DDD reported they garnered \$200 from a neighborhood coupon book distribution. Action item: Jane is to send an e-blast to request interested parties who want to serve on the SEAP advisory committee to contact Larry with their interest. (Completed 11/12)

Old Business – Meeting Locations

Cindy requested that Jane pursue a location for January and March and she has confirmed Rob Davis from Forestry will speak. The INC elections are scheduled for March and decisions for meeting at DIA are under consideration. Jane suggested one of the meetings feature a panel of marijuana shop owners to address the delegates from their perspective of the community impact.

New Business – High Visibility Charitable Efforts Beyond DDD

Cindy suggested INC recruit volunteers for the Leaf Drop in 2014 because they seemed short-handed this year. Katie volunteered this is a PARCs effort and will take on the cause. Blake suggest INC support Gloves for Colorado. Steve moved that \$200 be donated to the Denver Rescue Mission for their Thanksgiving Dinner, seconded by Katie. The donation carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Why Have Neighborhood Organizations?

By Gayle Rodgers

Here are five reasons why it's important to spend the time and energy to build up your neighborhood organization:

- 1.) It gives neighborhoods a way to communicate with local government officials and other influential groups. An empowered group has a greater impact than an individual.
- 2.) Plan social events. This is a great way for neighbors to get to know neighbors. We've had a picnic the last four years to help the neighbors and local businesses get to know each other. Block parties like we had last August during Denver Days are fun.
- 3.) It has been shown through research that when neighbors know each other, crime goes down in that neighborhood. People like to move to neighborhoods where there are low crime rates and neighbors are excited about living in the area. The neighborhood organization is the vehicle to promote those relationships through events, meetings, and volunteer projects.
- 4.) Provides a way to communicate with neighbors through website, email and newsletters. We sell ads for our newsletter. This provides a vehicle for local businesses to promote their business to our neighborhood and pays for our beautiful full-color newsletter.
- 5.) Facilitate meetings to determine the common goals and what the neighbors would like to improve. We are in the process of determining our vision for our neighborhood for 2020.

INC is like a neighborhood organization for neighborhood organizations. With our collective RNOs we have even greater impact in our community. INC looks over the city as a whole. Many people are involved and committed to issues discussed at committee meetings like Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and Zoning and Planning. These are topics that impact us on a daily basis. Please take time to thank the committee chairs for commitment and hard work. It's renewal time so send your INC membership in when you receive the invoice. Happy Holidays!

Save The Date!

INC Awards Dinner

Thursday, January 30

Wellshire Event Center

3333 S Colorado Blvd.

In the evening

If you would like to help with the event, please contact the Dinner Co-Chairs:
Blake DiMeo or Gayle Rodgers.

Their contact info is at the end of this newsletter.

INC MEMBERSHIP The list below represents INC's membership. Membership is categorized as either Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNO) or Associates and membership offers various levels of membership.

INC MEMBERS

REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION MEMBERS (97)

RNO Silver

Crestmoor Park 2nd Filing

RNO Patron Members

Ball Park N.A.
Country Club Historic District
Downtown Denver Residents Org.
Friends & Neighbors of Washington Park
Golden Triangle Museum District
Hampden South N.A.
Mayfair Neighbors
Neighbors & Friends for Cheesman Park
South West Improvement Council/SWIC
Stapleton Master Community Assn.
University Park Community Council
Upper Downtown Dev. Organization

RNO Standard Members

ABC Streets Association
Alamo Placita N.A.
Baker Historic N.A.
Belcaro Park HOA
Bellevue Hale N.A.
Berkeley N.A.
Berkeley Regis United Neighbors
Bonnie Brae N.A.
Capitol Hill United Neighbors/CHUN
Cherry Creek East Assn.
Cherry Creek North BID
Cherry Creek North N.A.
Cherry Hills Vista Community Assn.
Civic Association of Clayton
Clayton United Neighborhoods
Colfax on the Hill Inc.
College View Neighborhood
Congress Park Neighbors Inc
Cook Park N.A.
Cornerstone Townhome HOA
Cory-Merrill N.A.
Cranmer Park Hilltop Civic Assn.
Cultural Arts Residential Org./CARO
Curtis Park Neighbors
East Cheesman N.A.
East Montclair N.A.
East Washington Park N.A.
Elyria Swansea/Globeville Bus. Assn.
Federal Blvd. Corridor Improvement Partnership
Five Points Business District
Globeville Civic Assn. #1
Golden Triangle N.A.
Grandview Neighborhood Assn

Greater Park Hill Community Inc.
Green Valley Ranch Citizens Advisory Board
Greens at Pinehurst HOA
Hampden Heights Civic Assn.
Highland United Neighbors
Hilltop Heritage Assn. LLC
Historic Montclair Community Assn
Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA
Inspiration Point N.A.
Ivy Street Neighbors Assn.
Jefferson Park United Neighbors/JPUN
Lighthouse at the Breakers HOA
LoDo Neighborhood Assn.
Lowry Community Master Assn.
Lowry United Neighborhoods
Montbello 20/20
Northwest Neighbors Coalition
Old San Rafael N.A.
Overland Park N.A.
Park Forest HOA
Platt Park People's Assn.
River north RNO
Rosedale Harvard Gulch N.S.
Ruby Hill Neighborhood Org./RHINO
Second Cherry Creek Townhouse Corp
Sloan's Lake Citizens Group
Sloan's Lake N.A.
South City Park Neighborhood
South Gaylord N.A.
South Hilltop N.A.
Southmoor Park East HOA
Stapleton United Neighbors
Stokes Place/Green Bowers
Sunnyside United Neighbors
Swallow Hill N.A.
UCAN of Metro Denver
The Unsinkables
University Neighbors
Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn.
Wellshire East HOA
West Colfax Assn. of Neighbors
West Highlands NA
Westwood Residents Assn.
Whispering Pines West HOA
Whittier N.A.
Winston Downs N.A.

2013 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (49)

Patron Gold

Denver Police Protection Assn.
Visit Denver

Patron Silver

Colorado Convention Center
Denver Water
National Western Stock Show
Pink House Blooms

Patron Bronze

Gertie Grant

Patron

Church of Scientology
Comcast
Denver Health
Denver Mayor's Office
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Bernie Jones, PhD
Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann
Councilwoman Deborah Ortega

Associate Organizations

Broadway Cop Shop
Broadway Partnership/MDLDC
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
Denver International Airport/DIA
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Denver Public Schools
Dept. of Environmental Health
Groundwork Denver
Urban Land Conservancy
Washington Park Profile
West Colfax BID
Xcel Energy Inc

Associate Individuals

Bibi Alexander
Trina Brockwell
Chris Citron
Dean Clark
Dennis Gallagher
Bonna Gayhart
Stephen Griffin, PhD.
Rose Mary Griffiths
Harriet Hogue
Debra Johnson
Councilwoman Robin Kniech
Sherri Liebhauser
Doug Linkhart
Councilman Paul D. Lopéz
David Oredson
Pam Oredson
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