



DENVER INC CONNECTION

www.denverINC.org

October 2014

Neighborhoods work better when they work together

Meeting Of Delegates & Neighborhood Leaders Election Forum – State and Local Ballot Issues

When: Saturday, October 11, 2014
Where: Denver Police Department District 3 Station, Denver, CO 80210
1625 S University Blvd
Agenda: 8:30am Networking with your fellow RNO members, coffee,
continental breakfast
9:30 am Election Forum: State and Local Ballot Issues

INC has partnered with the Denver League of Women Voters, Historic Denver and Denver8TV for this informative meeting. Topic: Congressional Candidates & Pros And Cons Of Ballot Issues

Please encourage your neighbors and friends to attend. Our meetings are open to all Denver residents.

Election Forums

For many years Inter-Nighborhood Cooperation has partnered with the Denver League of Women Voters, Historic Denver and Denver8TV as Denver Decides to organize and present election forums so that Denver citizens can learn about candidates for elective office and important ballot issues. We hope you agree that members of neighborhood groups should learn about and participate in state and local elections. We have organized the following forums leading up to the November 4, 2014 election:

Thursday October 2, Career Education Center
Middle College, 2650 Eliot Street
House District 4 – 6:30
House District 5 – 7:15
Senate District 34 – 8:00 pm

Tuesday October 7, Southwest Improvement Council, 1000 S. Lowell
House District 1 – 6:30

Saturday October 11, 9:30am, Police District 3,
1625 South University (in conjunction with INC
Delegation meeting), Topic: state and local ballot
issues

The forums can be viewed in person or (at later times)
on Denver8TV or online at www.denvergov.org.

Prepare and send us any questions for the candidates or invite your members to do so
Please contact Steve Nissen – pennissen@cs.com
or Karen Taylor – karentaylorphd@gmail.com to
send information or ask questions.



For your information, we will have similar forums for the Denver city elections for Mayor, City Council, Auditor and Clerk and Recorder in May 2015 and we will welcome your help then as well.

CALENDAR

INC Delegate Meeting

Saturday, October 11
South High School,
Louisiana & Franklin
8:30 – 11:00 am

INC Exec Committee Meeting

Monday, October 13
1201 Williams St, 19th Floor
6:00 – 8:30 pm

INC Parks & Recreation Meeting

Tuesday, October 21
Heritage Club, 2020 S Monroe St
6 – 8 pm

INC Zoning and Planning

Saturday, October 27
1201 Williams St, 19th floor
9:30 – 11:30 am

INC Transportation Meeting

Thursday, November 13
1201 Williams St, 19th Floor
6:00 pm

For up-to-the-minute news,
please visit INC'S website:

www.denverinc.org
www.facebook.com/DenverINC

WHAT'S INSIDE

INCMeeting, ElectionForums, Calendar	1	Executive Committee Recap	3 - 4
From The President	2	INC Delegate Meeting	4 - 5
3rd Annual Public Safety Expo	3	Committee Corner	5 - 10
Dollar Dictionary Drive	3		

Letter From The President

When INC Gets It Right, Who Listens?

I received an email from Councilwoman Susan Shepherd on September 25 expressing great concern and promising to do some unspecified things in to address a large number of complaints from her constituents about noise from the Riot Fest. This three day, hard rock festival was held in the parking lot of what used to be called Mile High Stadium the weekend of Sept 20 to 22. You may remember, the town of Byers would not have this event back this year but our publicly-private owned football stadium welcomed it with open arms. Although I live only a half mile from Mile High, luckily, I left town just before the "Riot" began. A neighbor called while I was on the road, saying he was in his basement seven blocks away and couldn't hear his TV! The Councilwoman recounted that one family could hear the profane lyrics of the music even though they live two-and-a-half miles from the Stadium.



This is déjà vu all over again from our City Park neighbors experience with the August 16, Chive Fest. As a result of this and noise complaints from park neighbors all over the City for the past several years, including especially, Stapleton Central Park, INC Parks and Recreation Committee did yeoman and yeowoman's work in putting together two Resolutions; one on the need to revise the Denver Noise Ordinance and one calling for City officials to explain how they intend to keep vulgar and obscene language from Admission Based Events (ABEs) from permeating our neighborhoods and disturbing the peace.

For those of you who did not read the Resolutions on the issues of Noise and Disturbance of The Peace from special events or attend the September 13 delegates meeting of INC to hear the debate about them, please allow me to recap and comment:

The issue of obtrusive noise is a citywide concern. Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation and its constituent RNOs have been involved in trying to get both the Department of Parks and Recreation and Environmental Health to make revisions to and provide rigorous enforcement of the Denver Noise Ordinance. The Noise Ordinance Resolution passed overwhelmingly by the INC Delegation in September and provides a framework for changing the unacceptable level of noise pollution which has become prevalent in our neighborhoods today.

Normally, the acceptable level of noise in residential areas is 55 dBA. When the Noise Ordinance was passed some years ago, an exception was made to allow noise from events to register 80 dBA at the edge of neighborhoods. A few disruptions a year would not be unreasonable to expect. Now that the number of events in Denver has mushroomed from a couple of hundred per year to almost 800 events per year, noise is no longer the exception, it is becoming the norm. Therefore, the Noise Ordinance needs to be revised to lower the acceptable level of sound that can be heard within neighborhoods.

Even more importantly, the current ordinance, only measures the decibels of sound at the higher A frequency levels. The C or lower frequency levels, are not part of what is measured and, as everyone knows, can be the most audible and sometimes even felt. This must be corrected. The people of Morrison were successful in getting the City of Denver to measure and limit the lower frequencies of noise coming from Red

Rocks Park. The people of Denver should expect no less!

The Department of Environmental Health is primarily charged with enforcement of violations of the Noise Ordinance. Most issues occur on weekends, when enforcement is lowest or non-existent. The police are often overwhelmed by complaints. Parks and Recreation has little staff and no Managers on Duty to deal with events. The responsibility for accurate measurement, authority to respond and definitions of how to respond are ambiguous. These policy issues must be addressed at the highest levels of the Hancock Administration and through City Council.

The second Resolution from INC passed by the Delegation in September regards limiting the content of what is being made audible in Denver's neighborhoods during Admission Based Events. Words and behavior which may be acceptable in a private setting may not always be acceptable when seen and heard publicly.

This problem was anticipated by INC when, in 2009 neighborhood representatives on the Admission Based Events Policy Task Force objected to the implementation of ABEs in our City parks. This inevitability was realized in the worst possible way recently at the City Park Chive Fest. As mentioned, apparently, this was also the case with Riot Fest as obscene lyrics were heard in the neighborhoods this past weekend. This should never happen again in the future from any venue, including our parks, and should be preempted before it occurs.

You may remember some years ago, neighbors of the SE Denver venue, Fiddler's Green were being overwhelmed with sound pollution. The venue made extraordinary efforts to successfully mitigate the problem. So it seems it is possible to create a venue where these types of events, even loud ones, can take place.

Instead of ABEs in our public parks, INC has been on the record for a number of years now asking the City to set the goal and make it a priority to create a centrally located Festival Park.

- INC and neighborhood representatives got it right when we predicted that noise, obscenity and unacceptable behavior would be the inevitable outcome of ABEs
- INC and neighborhood representatives got it right when we said our parks are not venues to be fenced off for profit at the expense of the enjoyment of all citizens and quality of life in our neighborhoods
- INC and neighborhood representatives got it right when predicted the City's forecast of \$500,000 per year from ABE's was a bunch of hoey
- INC got it right when we asked for cost-benefit analyses of ABEs but were never provided them
- INC got it right in calling for significant revisions to the Denver Noise Ordinance
- INC gets it right in insisting on examining how the City will control these problems of obscene language and behavior effecting our neighborhoods and children
- INC has got it right in calling for a Festival Park to provide a new cultural asset for the City and to accommodate the out of control volume and size of events that are affecting all of our neighborhoods.

Perhaps, there's just too much noise for our City officials to hear us!



Responses to ideas and opinions expressed in this column can be sent to execcomm@denverinc.org

Top: INC's banner

Left: Merce Lee, Public Safety Chair

Bottom: Attendees at the Fire Department exhibit

INC's 3rd Annual Public Safety Expo

INC's third annual Public Safety Expo was held on Saturday, September 13, at South High School.

Expo exhibitors included the Denver Bomb Squad (with their robot), Mobile Command Post, the Bicycle, Mounted, and Motorcycle Police Patrols, vintage police cars, new state of the art patrol cars, The Community Outreach team from the Sheriff's department; a Bicycle Village provided a hands on riding course complete with signage to teach kids safe and responsible cycling skills.

The Denver Police collaborated with the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) to present the Annual Safety Expo because they want Denver's neighborhoods to have a greater understanding and knowledge of each safety organization and the services they provide.

Dollar Dictionary Drive Outcome

INC has just sent dictionaries to the third-graders in Denver Public Schools for the 19th consecutive year. 7,500 happy students in 108 schools received the books over the last couple of weeks. Thanks to those of you who were able to go to your neighborhood school and help distribute the books to the students. You witnessed the excitement and joy of the young learners as they were given the books.

A note of thanks: "My U-Park third grade son came home with an INC delivered dictionary today and was so excited to have one! Thank you for continuing to volunteer and deliver these and all the other things you do."

On September 13 at the large monthly INC meeting at South High School Tom Boasberg, Superintendent of Denver Public Schools and Allegra "Happy" Haynes, President of the Board of Education, publicly praised Steve Nissen for the monumental work Steve has done to further the education of Denver's third graders for the past nearly 20 years through the INC Dollar Dictionary Drive. Both speakers said how much they appreciated Steve's work and how grateful they were for Steve's constant efforts to positively influence the education of the City's students.

We gratefully acknowledge the following RNOs who contributed to this year's efforts: Alamo Placita



unanimously

Financial Treasurer's Report

CDs: \$12,006.58,
Savings: \$12,816.03
Dictionary: \$949.25,
Checking: \$18.20
Balance: \$25,790.06 all accounts through end of 08/31/14

Motion: Approval of Treasurers report: made to approve by Cindy Johnstone, 2nd Katie Fisher, approved as submitted unanimously

Budget Report

Budget report was submitted electronically, was reviewed and is on track.

Dollar Dictionary Status

- Will need to find a new dollar dictionary chair to replace Blake
- Will need to look at how we with the Dollar

move forward

Dictionary project, may require a separate meeting to work through all of the details

- Need news release to go out to press, need to put something in newsletter asking for support from the delegation

Motion: To donate to the church where we labeled the dictionaries of \$300 made by Steve Nissan, 2nd by Katie Fisher – passed unanimously (Note: this was previously approved in an earlier meeting that accepted the budget for 2014)

Report on GDP Working Group Appointments

- Those appointed are; Adrian Brown, Don Tressler, Margie Valdez, Christine O'Conner, Larry Ambrose
- Estimate 6-7 months to work through the entire process

Report on the meeting with CONO

- Have about 180 RNOs
 - Get corporate support from businesses, also have Advisory Board with business members
 - They are getting grants to work on neighborhood leadership development within their RNOs
- Motion:** INC will hold in 2015 a conference for RNO Presidents and their officers or there designee and INC EC members made by Cindy

> continued on PG 3

Neighbors, Baker Historic Neighborhood, Cherry Creek North, Congress Park Neighbors, Cook Park, Crestmoor Park (Filing 2), Curtis Park, Downtown Denver Residents Org., Golden Triangle, Greater Park Hill Community, Green Valley Ranch CAB, Hampden South, Harkness Heights, Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point, Inspiration Point, Overland Neighborhood, Sloan's Neighborhood, University Neighbors, Virginia Village/Ellis Community, West Washington Park, and Winston Downs HOA.

On a down note, this year's fundraising fell short about \$3,500 so donations are still welcomed.

Exec. Comm. Recap

September 8, 2014, Daniels Building
Submitted by: Thad Jacobs, Secretary

Board Present: Larry Ambrose, Karen Taylor, David Stauffer, Thad Jacobs, Steve Nissen, Gayle Rodgers, Joel Noble, JJ Niemann, Merce Lee, Maggie Price, Cindy Johnstone, Katie Fisher, Ray Ehrenstein, Margie Valdez, Greg Kerwin

Quorum established. Call to order: 6:05pm

Motion: Approval of INC August Exec Committee Meeting Minutes: made to approve by Katie Fisher, 2nd by Steve Nissen—approved as submitted

Exec. Comm. Recap cont.

Johnstone, 2nd by Margie Valdez – passed 14 in favor and 1 opposed and no abstentions

RNO Accomplishments

Cindy will cover in November

Old Business

Election Forums

- CHUN has asked if they can be a co-sponsor, INC cannot authorize

- Should get involved in the spring with the Municipal Elections

INC Banners

- Will order several banners of various sizes will come in less than the approved budget of \$500

Communications

- Need to get all the art work and graphics, web pages etc. off of existing server
- Website, moving to new host Start Logic, which includes backups
 - Will be able to integrate blog with the new site, can tie to Mail Chimp application for email blasts, etc.
- Unlimited storage and email accounts

- Have a need for graphic design person as part of the committee, preferably someone with InDesign experience

Motion: To make JJ Niemann as the Communications Committee Chair made by Steve Nissan, 2nd by Ray Ehrenstein – passed unanimously

Parks & Recs Resolutions

- Maggie suggests we move forward with the noise ordinance resolutions
- Steve Nissan suggested we approach Director of Environmental Health to have someone measuring sound levels at weekend events

Motion: That we move forward with these resolutions to the delegation at the September meeting made by Cindy Johnston, 2nd by Gayle Rodgers – passed with one abstention

ZAP

- Working on ZAP Platform, divided
- September 22th next working committee will bring to the ZAP Committee and to the EC and then delegation after

Public Safety

- Public Safety Expo September 13th at South High School 10am – 2pm
- Looking to make it bigger next year, will schedule for Sports Authority Field

Underground Utility Meeting

- Margie, Joel, Steve, Ray and Larry to attend for INC

INC Delegate Meeting Recap

9/13/2014, South High School
Submitted by: Thad Jacobs, Secretary

Quorum established: 31 members present

Call to order: 9:05am

Welcome Remarks& Introductions: Larry opened

the meeting with welcome and introduces Dr. Kristin Waters, Principal of South High School to welcome the delegation and talk about South High School.

Motion: to approve the minutes of the August Delegate meeting made by Al Habercorn 2nd by George Mayl, passed as submitted

Financial Treasurer's Report

CDs: \$12,006.58

Savings: \$12,816.03

\$\$ Dictionary: \$949.25

Checking: \$18.20

Balance: \$25,790.06 all accounts through end of 08/31/14

By Law Amendment

E. Committees are defined as either Operational Support or Interest committees.

1. The purpose of the Operational Support Committees is to manage the activities that support INC. Those committees are: Audit, Budget, Membership and Communications.

2. The purpose of the Interest Committees is to convene and support Registered Neighborhood Organizations through education, collaboration and advocacy on specific topics and by working with relevant organizations and agencies. Those committees are: Education, Parks & Recreation, Public Safety, Transportation, and Zoning and Planning.

3. Committees should submit action plans with budgets for Board approval annually.

Motion: to accept the bylaw changes as stated above made by Benita Lahey, 2nd by Ray Ehrenstein, Passed unanimously; with a friendly amendment to add the word Public in front of Safety to reflect the correct committee name of Public Safety

Parks & Rec Committee Resolutions

Resolution #1: INC Resolution on Revising Neighborhood Noise Ordinance

• WHEREAS, the City of Denver Noise Ordinance, Section 36 sets the limit for sound in neighborhoods at 55 dB(A), and

• WHEREAS, Sec. 36-6(b) (17) gives an exemption to festivals and raises the limit for sound to 80 dB(A), and

• WHEREAS, under the current ordinance definitions, only dB readings at (A) levels are required which does not measure the different frequencies, and

• WHEREAS, low frequency sound waves dB(C) are long, can actually travel through buildings and be heard and often can be felt, and

• WHEREAS, the current ordinance was promulgated some years ago before the advent of the Admission Based Event policy and the significant increase from a few hundred to more than 800 events a year in Denver, including in Denver parks, and

• WHEREAS, at the time this ordinance was promulgated 80 dBs(A) was interpreted to be an acceptable level for sound in residential area when

there were few permitted events in parks, and

• WHEREAS, the 80 dB(A) sound level associated with these frequent events in parks has become the norm, has disrupted the quality of neighborhood life on a regular basis and has created an ongoing and intolerable condition, which the 55 dB level was intended to address, now therefore,

• BE IT RESOLVED, that INC calls upon the City of Denver to begin a collaborative, thorough, and thoughtful public process in order to revise the Noise Ordinance so that it is specified how sound pressure is measured, by whom, and when during an event, and to state the maximum level of sound pressure is 55 dB(A) & (C) in neighborhoods in order to maintain and improve the quality of life for Denver's residents.

Additional motion during discussion was made.

Motion: to table the vote on the resolution made by Seth Willey, 2nd by Nancy Francis (Vote: 4 for, 20 against) - motion failed

Motion: to accept the resolution the language in resolution #1 made by Nancy Francis, 2nd George Mayl (Vote: 25 for, 4 against, 2 abstain) - motion passed

Resolution #2: INC Resolution on Disturbance of the Public Peace in Parks

• WHEREAS, Inter Neighborhood Cooperation adopted the Platform for Denver Urban Parks in 2011, and

• WHEREAS, the Park Platform emphasizes protection of open greenspace and community-based park use policies, and

• WHEREAS, Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) is not to issue a festival park permit in violation of the Denver City Municipal Code, Sec. 39-12- Disturbance of the peace; and

• WHEREAS, under Sec. 39-12-Disturbance of the Peace, language permitted for festival permits which is unseemly, profane, vulgar, or obscene is not allowed and its usage in open public park space and would result in a summons, and

• WHEREAS, Denver Parks and Recreation permitting has issued permits for festival parks, in violation of Sec. 39-12 and the Department's own published rules and regulations regarding Disturbance/Noise, and is likely to do so in the future, and

• WHEREAS, A permit in violation of Sec. 39-12, was recently issued for the Chive Fest at which unseemly, profane, vulgar, obscene, language was evident in open public parks space and heard throughout nearby neighborhoods, now therefore,
• BE IT RESOLVED that until community based policies and procedures are in place to screen and to manage permitting of such events and ensure that they are consistent with standards explicit in the Denver City Municipal Code Sec. 39-12-Disturbance of the Peace, INC respectfully requests Denver Parks and Recreation place an immediate moratorium on all Admission Based Events permitting.

Motion: to accept the resolution the language in resolution #2 made by Susan Payne, 2nd by George Mayl (Vote: for 27, 5 opposed, 4 abstain)- motion passed.

Delegate Meeting cont.

New Business

- 9/23 City Council will meet on vacation/short term rental ordinance
- Denver Decides Candidate Forums (INC Newsletter and Website for details)
- Education Committee has established regular meeting scheduled for first Wed of month at 3890 York Street @ 6pm



Guest Speaker

DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg and DPS School Board Members Happy Haynes, Ann Rowe, and Arturo Jimenez

INC's September Meeting featured Tom Boasberg, Superintendent DPS

About DPS

Denver Public Schools is committed to meeting the educational needs of every student with great schools in every neighborhood. Our goal is to provide every child in Denver with rigorous, enriching educational opportunities from preschool through high school graduation. DPS is comprised of 185 schools, including traditional, magnet, charter and pathways schools, with a current total enrollment of 87,398 students. Of those, 57.5% of the school district's enrollment is Hispanic, 21.2% is Caucasian, and 14.1% is African American. Seventy-one percent of the district's students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Under the leadership of Superintendent Tom Boasberg and guided by the tenets of The Denver Plan, DPS has become the fastest-growing urban school district in the country in terms of enrollment, and is the fastest-growing large school district in Colorado in terms of academic growth. DPS is committed to establishing Denver as a national leader in student achievement, high school graduation, and college and career readiness.

Revised Denver Plan, Redistricting, and Bond & Mill Levy Updates Presentation

- Board Member Haynes addressed the delegation on the process DPS under took to look at the revisions to the Denver Plan
- Last update of the Denver plan was in 2009-2010 with 21 goals was too many to address well
- With the update looked at the top 4-5 goals to help drive student success with the revision on the Denver Plan
- Revised Denver Plan 2020 www.denverplan.dpsk12.org
- Board Member Rowe discussed the elements of the Denver plan 2020; 5 goals, and 5 areas of focus with one overarching goal of a great school in

every neighborhood

- More information can be found in the DPS presentations provided to INC on our website under Hot Topics

Next Meeting:

Next meeting –October 11th
Topic: Denver Decides Election Forum
Location: Denver Police District 3 Building

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.

Education Committee

Submitted by Meg Schomp, Co-Chair

The Education Committee now meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm, with our remaining 2014 meetings scheduled for 10/1, 11/5 & 12/3. Our next meeting is scheduled at 3890 York Street, a space generously donated by Inter City Health and arranged by Ed Committee member Anthony Thomas

It is hoped that our committee can schedule meetings throughout the various communities INC members represent, cultivating easier access to attending meetings while attempting to align topics to those particular neighborhoods where we meet. As we develop this concept, we are also talking to DPS about holding meetings at schools throughout the district in all quadrants of the district boundaries. This might also give us a chance to see schools we may not know of or the kind of help that INC can provide to RNOs or HOAs in these communities. Contact Karen or Meg with your ideas.

On September 13, the Education Committee co-hosted the monthly Delegate meeting with DPS Board Members Haynes (President), Jimenez and Rowe, and Superintendent Tom Boasberg presenting at this meeting held at South High School Auditorium. Principal Kristen Waters discussed the recent renovations both inside and out at South High School, in addition to their excellent programs, including a great Advanced Placement (AP) program.

DPS officials spent a great deal of time rolling out the recently updated and simplified Denver Plan. Anne Rowe was the primary presenter and discussed the process by which the board underwent reviewing the previously followed 20+ point plan, and the recently approved Denver Plan, reaching into 5 goals to be reached by 2020. She recognized former DPS Board member Jeannie Kaplan who was present in the audience as being influential in reviewing the goals set out in the original plan. The current goals include:

A Foundation for Success in School: 80% of DPS third grade students will be at or above grade level in reading and writing and lectura and escritura.

Ready for College and Career: the four year graduation rate for students who start with DPS in ninth grade will increase to 90%. DPS will double the number of students who graduate college and career-read from 1,100 to 2,200.

Support the Whole Child: ensuring that each school environment encourages students to pursue their passions and interests, supports physical and mental health, and ensures students continue to develop socially and emotionally.

Close the Opportunity Gap: the graduation rate for African American and Latino students will increase by 25 percentage points, to 89%. Third grade reading and writing proficiency will increase by 25 percentage points, to 75%.

Due to time restrictions and the time the presenters spent on this newly rolled-out Denver Plan by the Board, several topics were not discussed, as had been the Education Committee's primary intention. The committee and INC membership want to encourage interested members, delegates or community members who were present to forward any unanswered questions to our committee care of either Karen Taylor or Meg Schomp. We will make sure there is an opportunity in the future to open up discussion by members and DPS administration who serve as members on this Education Committee.

The following items were intended to be discussed, but were not due to time restrictions:

- What are the current plans for redistricting and what input DPS Board has heard before the upcoming vote scheduled for September? (see proposed redistricting map linked here: <http://www.boarddocs.com/co/dpsk12/board.nsf/public>.)

Our committee will include this on our agenda for the October meeting.

Questions developed by the Education Committee and items included, but were not given adequate time to be addressed and followed up are listed below, in addition to other questions submitted by the audience. It is hoped that through the ongoing efforts to connect with DPS administrators who are members of this committee, some of these questions will be answered, albeit not in as actively public a forum as our delegate meetings. Every effort will be made to allow for this type of open forum and to introduce other new DPS Board members to our delegates and their members concerns.

- 2012 Bond & Mill Levy Updates
- What role do you see DPS playing in furthering INC'S mission; and vice versa? How can we coordinate to educate our INC Delegates and the neighborhood/community members we represent about relevant education issues affecting our neighborhoods?

> continued on PG 6

Committee Corner cont.

- Do you believe DPS could commit to having some sort of community open house (Open Doors DPS) at each school in our neighborhoods, at least once a semester? The purpose would be to allow community members to visit the school and meet staff/teachers/administrators and watch things in action. This could be along the lines of an abbreviated Back to School night (day) geared toward neighbors in the community. This would also involve active and timely outreach to surrounding neighborhoods by both INC and DPS

From the Audience:

- Can you discuss the recent TCAP scores that have remained flat, despite the changes DPS has tried to initiate over close to the last decade of reforms?
- How can you explain how DPS can not only support the Strive charter school network when they're failing on all fronts; but also now commit to purchasing a building for this charter school network from taxpayer dollars to the tune of \$3.5 million. Why should we prop up a private operator with public money, and not expect them to be making more gains, rather than falling back.
- Can you update us on some of the most successful and beloved schools that have been going through transitions, such as George Washington, Manual, East, Kunsmler, Montbello?

The Education Committee is not only looking at some of these issues, but also wants to educate the membership about successes in their neighborhoods with schools and programs and how the community can help improve our public schools.

Contact Karen Taylor karentaylorphd@gmail.com or Meg Schomp mmschomp@gmail.com

Parks & Recreation Committee

Submitted by Diana Helper, PARC member

The INC PARC (Parks And Recreation Committee) met September 16, 2014 at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe St. Present were co-chairs Katie Fisher and Maggie Price, Louis Plachowski, Brad Cameron, ArlisRuter, Ronnie Crawford, Nancy Francis, Hank Bootz, Andy Sense, and Diana Helper. No one from DPR was able to attend.

Resolutions Passed

Katie reported that the two Resolutions, presented by PARC to the INC delegates on September 13, had passed. INC President Larry Ambrose will sign and send the Resolutions to Mayor Hancock and City Council membership. Katie will present them to PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) members at its October meeting. She gave a brief description of PRAB for those unfamiliar with it.

The Resolutions' requests for changes in noise ordinance measurement, and the process for permitting events in parks, were explained. It was agreed that a well-appointed Festival Park for large events is greatly needed, as is a plan or policy for competent event management. It was pointed out that parks are not alike and that each needs individual consideration. Citizens need to be

notified of proposed large events in the parks that there be a balance of extensive activity and quiet times. The City Charter stipulates that income from park events goes into the City's General Fund rather than to individual parks where events are held.

DPR Designation Project Progress

Brad stated that the DPR Designation project is under Councilwoman Susan Shepard and her committee. Phase 4 is underway. Brad spoke about parks at Stapleton (with a map), and at Lowry, which were planned years ago. Both communities have active park committees. Nancy had visited the Hentzell Park school site, and showed pictures taken there. Brad commented that construction of the Fox Street Building (part of the Hentzell Park land swap) is far from complete

Lily Pond at City Park

Louis spoke of the Lily Pond at City Park, which has been dry for some time. A plaque explains where the water is to come from (and return to). He learned that it is complicated to fix, after construction of the Museum annex disrupted the system. DPR is working on it.

Parks Budgets

The City Budget was mentioned. Andy asked if PARC is involved in urging that DPR receive more funding. There was discussion about that need, and PARC's involvement in prompting cost benefit analyses, pros and cons of private funding, parkway needs, etc.

Park Cleanup Projects

Diana reported on the recent work clearing brush and deep vegetation from the edge of Prairie Park, to open up a secluded space where homeless folks were camping. One DPR staff, three DU staff, and a dozen hardy neighbors worked diligently to make a good start. DPR staff will start working on the rest of this project this week. PARC offered ideas to raise a needed \$3,000 to pay the balance on the Prairie Park historic/informative sign. Diana welcomes all ideas (and \$).

Ronnie said the S. Platte project from Florida to Evans will start soon, and gave a brief overview of this long term Greenway project. It includes two pedestrian bridges from S. Santa Fe, to reach the Ruby Hill Park area.

The Equinox Sept. 22 will be celebrated at Grant Frontier Park.

Warrens-University Resident Concerns

Arlis reported Warrens-University residents are concerned about the two large buildings planned for the Colorado Center site, and seeming lack of open space for the added residential population. W-U has no parks, and faces even more density building south of E. Evans. Maggie and Katie spoke to the need for requiring more truly usable open space in large developments.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. On the agenda for the next meeting, 6 p.m. October 21 is Scott Gilmore regarding park trees. Katie requested a report from a "Loop" playground meeting, now

planned for Paco Sanchez Park.

Transportation Committee Meeting

By Geneva Hooten, Co-Chair Transportation Committee

The INC Transportation Committee met on September 11, 2014 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the



Joel Noble, Co-Chair Transportation Committee top-floor "party room" at 1201 Williams Street. Many thanks to Michael Henry for the use of this wonderful space!

Colfax Corridor Connections - Crissy Fanganello, Denver Director of Transportation

Crissy Fanganello provided an overview of the recently-announced preliminary locally-preferred alternative of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for the Colfax corridor between downtown Denver and Aurora. The project's purpose is to identify and provide a package of multi-modal transportation improvements in the East Colfax corridor that:

- Meets current and future person-trip demand
- Improves mobility, connectivity, safety, and accessibility
- Helps to mitigate congestion
- Encourages a shift of auto trips to alternative modes
- Interacts seamlessly, efficiently, and safely with other transportation corridors, systems, and modes
- Is consistent with economic development components of sustainability and livability

BRT, operating all-day and with exclusive lanes during peak hours, is the preliminary locally-



> continued on PG 7

Committee Corner cont.



Crissy Fanganello, Denver Director of Transportation

preferred alternative for this corridor as it meets the project goals and provides nearly all of the benefits of the streetcar option for significantly lower initial cost and slightly lower ongoing costs. The BRT would replace the existing 15L to provide 5-minute headways while doubling the ridership of the current bus service along Colfax. The low-floor multi-door-loading buses would be branded and stops would include more amenities like real-time passenger information, off-vehicle ticketing, and more.

The year-long analysis used the Denver Regional Council of Government's (DRCOG) new activity-based travel demand model to help estimate

transit ridership and the potential total corridor person-trip demand. This approach was consistent with Denver's Strategic Transportation Plan from 2008, which calls on Denver to design to improve the movement of people using all modes of transportation rather than solely focusing on single-occupant vehicle travel.

This project demonstrates that it is possible to increase person-trip capacity without increasing the roadway footprint. Achieving capacity improvements without acquiring additional right-of-way is also applicable to other corridors, especially the enhanced transit corridors introduced in Blueprint Denver and refined in the Strategic Transportation Plan. Crissy explained how combining enhanced transit with the areas where neighborhood plans direct density and a mix of land uses can create a powerful catalytic mechanism that unifies entire arterial corridors of diverse communities. Finally, she emphasized that a broad base of community support can be built by working with and cultivating relationships between transportation, economic development, and place-based advocates.

For more information about the Colfax Corridor Connections study and documents from each of the three screening phases so far, see Denver's Colfax Corridor Connections site.

Denver's TOD Strategic Plan - David Gaspars, Senior City Planner in CPD and Ryan Billings,

Associate City Planner in Public Works

David Gaspars and Ryan Billings presented an overview of Denver's new Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Strategic Plan called "Transit Oriented Denver", which organizes the recommendations from many Station Area Plans and creates a prioritized action plan for the realization of these key areas.

The TOD Strategic Plan is a foundational document to guide TOD investments and actions at rail stations and includes an implementation plan to guide the city's processes. Each rail station is categorized into one of three types:

- **Strategize** - Stations with low market potential and low development readiness (e.g. National Western Stock Show)
- **Catalyze** - Stations where the market is strong but development readiness is low or development potential is high but the market hasn't caught up (e.g. 38th and Blake).
- **Energize** - Stations where both the market and development readiness are strong (e.g. 10th and Osage).

To designate each station within the strategize, catalyze, or energize framework, the project team screened every station twice: once for



David Gaspars, City Planner in CPD

market readiness (to measure household growth, commercial investment, unimproved land value, and property transactions) and again to measure development readiness (such as parcelization, ownership, developable land, infrastructure investment, and infrastructure need).

Each station area was then analyzed using a walkshed analysis which takes a closer look at actual walkability in order to identify issues and opportunities for connecting the stations to the surrounding neighborhoods.

David and Ryan highlighted the types of transportation infrastructure needed with examples from several station areas in the "Catalyze" category -- those with good market conditions

for TOD, but needing specific infrastructure improvements to unlock each area's potential. David and Ryan discussed three Catalyze station areas at Alameda, Sheridan, and 41st and Fox.



For each Catalyze station, the city developed an action plan that included a complete list of all projects identified for the station (sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, drainage projects, etc.) in station area and neighborhood plans, infrastructure studies, and General Development Plans. Recommended projects from the individual plans were grouped into two categories: primary projects that would have impact on TOD potential and/or timing and secondary projects that would enhance the station area but not necessarily remove barriers to development. Primary projects are further classified into those that would have an immediate impact on TOD potential, and those that would be needed or triggered by development at a later time.

In addition to clear direction and station action plans, there are sixteen policy recommendations from the TOD Strategic Plan across six categories: Administration and Management, Community Planning and Development, Public Works, Finance, Office of Economic Development, and Parks. The following recommendations are already in progress:

- Establishing a TOD Action Team, in coordination with multiple departments
- Creating a TOD Steward Position
- Creating station area financing plans for "catalyze" stations (coordinating with North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative and the Department of Finance)

To read the entire Transit Oriented Denver plan, or an executive summary, see Denver's Transit Oriented Development Strategic Plan

> continued on PG 8

HELP WANTED

INC is looking for a graphic designer for our monthly newsletter and other needs. Must know InDesign, be able to volunteer 4 - 6 hours a month. Please contact: communicationscomm@denverinc.org

Committee Corner cont.

Overview of PUC Regulation of Transportation Including Regulation of Transportation Network Companies (such as Lyft and UberX) – Gabe Dusenbury, Authorities Analyst in the Transportation Section of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission

Gabe Dusenbury shared an overview of how the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regulates different types of transportation. With its regulations and oversight, the PUC's focus is on the following:

- Rulemaking



Gabe Dusenbury Analyst in CO PUC

- Application process
- Enforcement (safety and compliance reviews, spot checks)
- Investigation of Complaints

The State Legislature's newly-created category of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) is a fascinating look into the evolving debate as to how and when the government should impose regulations within the "sharing economy".

Gabe provided an overview of how the long-standing PUC-regulated categories that include taxi, limousine and other services compare with the new category for Transportation Network Companies. For the sake of brevity, a primary difference between taxis and TNCs is that taxis are a public utility with rate regulation and market entry control (a legal monopoly with regulated competition). TNCs, however, are not public utilities and are not limited to a certain number of drivers or specific government-regulated fares. Companies like Lyft and UberX, once licensed as TNCs, can decide how many vehicles they want to have operating in their system and can decide on their own fares.

The Transportation Committee had a lively open-ended discussion about what might happen for taxi companies and TNCs in the near future, touching on topics such as:

- Will drivers leave taxi companies to drive for a TNC?
- Will taxi companies reorganize into TNCs?

- How can the PUC regulate driver hours for safety if drivers are individually contracted by one or more TNCs?

- Might TNCs exclude vulnerable populations who don't have access to smart phones?
- Should TNC fares be regulated?

Are you interested in providing input to the upcoming permanent rulemaking for regulation of these new TNC services? The INC Transportation Committee will provide information as soon as Notice of Proposed Rulemaking setting the public input period and hearing details are announced

The PUC is always interested in getting a wide range of public input, including well as any concerns or complaints about the industries and companies they regulate, as they work to further the public interest. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the PUC with questions or concerns relating to taxis, limos, and TNCs. For PUC consumer assistance (for any regulated utility, not just transportation), call 303-894-2070, or email dora_puc_complaints@state.co.us. The Colorado PUC web site is www.dora.colorado.gov/puc.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The INC Transportation Committee's upcoming meetings for 2014 and 2015 will all be at 1201 Williams St., 19th Floor:

Thu. Nov. 13th 2014, 6-8 p.m.

Thu. Jan. 8th 2015, 6-8 p.m.

If you have suggestions for future topics for the INC Transportation Committee please send them to co-chairs Geneva Hooten and Joel Noble at transportation@denverinc.org

Zoning & Planning Committee

Submitted by Greg Kerwin, Co-Chair

The INC ZAP (Zoning and Planning Committee) met September 27, 2014 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the meeting room at 1201 Williams Street, 19th floor.

Discussion of Xcel's proposed changes to net metering for rooftop solar installations

Kirk Scheitler of Xcel Energy and James Luidl of Sierra Club presented summaries of opposing points of view on Xcel's proposal to have the PUC change the rules for net metering for rooftop solar installations. Among other things, the Xcel proposal would reduce the reimbursement to rooftop solar customer for electricity they place back into the grid from the current rate of 10.5 cents/kilowatt-hour to 4.6 cents.

The Sierra Club supports preserving the current net metering rules because they have promoted installation of rooftop solar panels and helped develop a rooftop solar industry in Colorado. The Sierra Club contends that Xcel receives benefits from such installations, and believes Xcel's proposed change would discourage others from installing rooftop solar panels. It is also concerned that the current proposal is creating uncertainty for Xcel customers who might otherwise consider a

rooftop solar installation. The Sierra Club also contends there are other benefits from rooftop solar power including no pollution. It recognizes that most customers still need access to a public utility grid and that there are also benefits to large scale solar power installations such as the one Xcel is building near Pueblo.

Xcel's position is that it presented its proposal to the PUC because it wants to be transparent with its customers and must treat its customers equally under PUC rules. Xcel says it supports rooftop solar as a choice for customers and wants to accommodate all sources of renewable energy on the grid. But Xcel contends that rooftop solar customers currently are not charged for the transmission and distribution costs of the electric grid even though they connect to the grid and benefit from it. Xcel points out that most rooftop solar customers need the grid for running small appliances and motors and on cloudy days and at



ZAP Meeting, September 27, 2014

night. In addition, they use the grid to transmit to other customers the excess power they generate.

Xcel pays an average of approximately 4.3 to 4.5 cents/kilowatt-hour for the electricity it generates or purchases. It charges customers an average of about 10.5 cents/kilowatt-hour for the electricity they use (which charges also include the cost of the grid and the services Xcel provides). Xcel is concerned that the cost of the electric grid is not being shared equally among all of its customers.

The Xcel and Sierra Club representatives also discussed how the renewable energy "RESA" fund created with Amendment 37 in 2004 is being used. Under that fund, all electric customers pay two percent of their bill into the fund. The fund was intended to promote implementation of renewable energy. The PUC oversees this fund.

The Sierra Club representative asked the ZAP committee to approve a resolution that would maintain the current net metering rules. There was some discussion among committee members about whether this INC committee or another

> continued on PG 9

Committee Corner cont.

committee should be considering this issue. The voting on the resolution was: 10 in favor, 3 opposed, and 9 abstaining. The resolution did not pass because it did not obtain a majority of the votes. Larry Ambrose indicated he will seek to bring additional information on this issue to the delegation at its November meeting.

The Colorado PUC will be holding additional meetings on this issue on October 1 and in November, and is likely to make a final decision by late 2014 or early 2015. People can watch the hearings through a webcast on the internet.



Kirk Scheitler of Excel Energy

Neighborhood zoning matter updates

The committee received short updates from three neighborhoods about pending zoning proposals.

Lowry/Buckley Annex: First, Chris O'Connor with Lowry United Neighborhoods described a pending text amendment for the Buckley Annex site that will set potential building heights and density before the zoning for part of that site. The developer and CPD did not present the proposed text amendment to neighborhood groups before presenting for Planning Board approval. Chris also explained that the developer has proposed high density CMX-5 zoning for the eastern part of the site near Quebec. She explained concerns with the City's use of the text amendment and zoning overlay process, and with the developer's reliance on a GDP that was opposed by many neighbors, treating it as though it is an adopted neighborhood area plan. She explained that the developer's zoning is not consistent with the plan developed while the Air Force still owned the Lowry site.

South Sloan's Lake/St. Anthony's site: Second, Larry Ambrose explained similar concerns with a proposed text amendment and zoning overlay for the redevelopment of the South Sloan's Lake/St. Anthony's site. This amendment was first presented to neighbors in an email from Councilwoman Shepherd on September 22, and is scheduled to be reviewed by the Planning Board on October 15. That amendment's zoning overlay district will allow tall buildings and density along

West 17th Avenue next to the Park, rather than close to Colfax and the core area, and is not consistent with the adopted area plans. Here too, the developer is relying on a GDP approved by the Planning Board in January 2014 over neighbor opposition. Under the old zoning code, a GDP came after zoning, not before. So here it appears the developer was using the GDP as a form of back-door zoning. Thus, the developer is presenting a zoning change that is not consistent with the adopted small area plan.

Letter of Concern to CPD: Mr. Ambrose proposed that the he committee send a letter of concern to the head of CPD, Brad Buchanan, noting the lack of time being allowed for public input on the Lowry/Buckley Annex and South Sloan's Lake/St. Anthony's text amendment/overlay district zoning changes.. The committee approved this request. In addition, several RNO representatives agreed to send comments to the Planning Board and CPD expressing concern about the process the City is using here.

Globeville/Elyria update: Tom Anthony presented an update on the planning work for the Globeville/Elyria neighborhood and the stock show grounds. He noted the progress in the area with a RiverNorth plan adopted in 2003 and the planning around light-rail stops at 38th and Blake and 31st and Fox. He also noted that RTD addressed neighborhood concerns when it selected the location at 48th and Brighton Blvd. for a new light-rail stop. He described ongoing negotiations concerning air filtration around the new underground highway location.

He said neighbors are frustrated with the lack of a completed neighborhood plan while planning is



Tom Anthony of Elyria-Swansee and Globeville neighborhoods

moving forward quickly for the National Western Stock Show site, using a city-paid consultant. Residents need a grocery store in the area—many people must drive a long way or take the Route 48 bus to get groceries. He noted that most of the neighborhood is still zoned industrial and that there are no plans for a new school. There are



Larry Ambrose, President, INC

neighborhood concerns about a plan to use part of Globeville as the outlet for storm water from nearby areas, and about how traffic will be managed when CDOT eliminates the York, Josephine, and Vasquez Blvd. exits on I-70 and puts all traffic on Brighton Blvd. Many Globeville residents perceive this as the City not anticipating and allowing for population growth in their neighborhood.

Marge Gilbert's Passing

Michael Henry noted that Marge Gilbert (an active committee participant) died last week, at age 96, and he circulated a sympathy card for her family.

City Council's "Shared Economy" Initiative:

George Mayl presented a report on a recent meeting chaired by City Councilwoman Susman concerning the "shared economy" initiative. That Council working group is advocating legalizing short-term rentals in Denver such as those facilitated by AirBNB and VRBO. Currently Denver does not allow short-term rentals for less than 30 days in residential neighborhoods, but that rule is not being effectively enforced by City zoning inspectors, and owners tell short-term renters to say they are renting for 30 days. Mr. Mayl explained neighborhood concerns with noise and lax City enforcement. He compared this to having a Motel 6 in a residential area next door to single family homes. Among other things, these uses can harm property values and annoy nearby residents. The Council allowed a long statement from AirBNB task force exhibitors, but only one minute from neighborhood representatives. It appears the Council wants to legalize short-term rentals all over Denver and not allow neighborhoods to opt-out. This position appears inconsistent with Councilwoman Susman's statement to the ZAP committee in June 2014 that she would establish a citizen's advisory group on this issue.

The ZAP Committee approved sending a letter of concern to Councilwoman Susman about this issue, and about her failure to set up the citizen's advisory committee she promised. The Committee also will

> continued on PG 10



George Mayl discussing "Shared Economy"

consider contacting representatives of the hotel industry, who are also opposed to increased short-term rental uses. Gertie Grant will also enlist assistance from Denver lawyer, Sherri Way, who has worked on these issues.

Mr. Mayl will chair a ZAP subcommittee on this issue and requests that INC delegates and others relay comments on the issue to him at: comayl@aol.com

Others who will work on this subcommittee are: Gertie Grant, Bernadette Kelly, Cindy Sestrige, Don Tressler, Margie Valdez, and Charlotte Winzenburg.

Updating 2006 INC Denver Neighborhood Handbook:

Margie Valdez noted that the INC Denver Neighborhood Handbook contains helpful information but needs updating. She appointed a working group to assist with this process over the next year: Ray Ehrenstein, Michael Henry, Charles Nadler, and Chris O'Connor. Maggie Price will be an advisor on computer related issues. Margie will work with the committee on revising the Handbook.

Update On Housing Issues

Margie Valdez noted a request from Rick Padilla, who is working on Denver housing issues and requested a meeting on October 6 with INC representatives and a consultant assisting the City.

Underground Electric Lines

Larry Ambrose noted the information presented by

Xcel at a recent meeting about the fund for creating underground electric distribution lines. He expressed concern that the fund may not have enough money to address important projects, noting concern in Park Hill with the recent placement of high voltage lines above existing electric lines on 25th Avenue. He noted that the City has rejected neighborhood input on this issue, yet new high voltage electric lines may be needed to accommodate some of the increased density in the City.

Ray Ehrenstein noted recent concerns in Ruby Hill with placement of Xcel electric towers over Ruby Hill Park.

INC Planning and Zoning Platform

Margie Valdez noted that the INC subcommittee has completed work on a proposed Platform for Denver Planning and Zoning, which was distributed this past week to ZAP members. She explained the subcommittee decided to work on a separate platform to address excise, license, cabaret, and marijuana issues. She and others on the subcommittee explained that the Platform is not perfect and reflects some compromises, but the subcommittee believes the Platform provides important information to the City about the planning and zoning process.

The ZAP Committee approved the Platform with one minor wording change. The Platform will be presented to the INC delegation at its November 2014 meeting.

Miscellaneous:

Margie thanked Bibi Alexander for coordinating committee refreshments and Suzanne Gilbert for agreeing to chair the refreshments committee.

She reminded members of an affordable housing forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters, scheduled for November 18 from 5:30 to 7 pm at Montview Presbyterian Church.

She noted concerns with the City of Glendale's action to allow alcohol to be served until 4:00 am, and the need to address this issue soon.

Michael Henry noted that there will be an INC election forum on October 11 at the District 3 Police Station at 1625 S. University.

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