

**Next Meeting
Saturday
November 10
2001**

**Denver Water
Administration
Building**

**Hosted by
Denver Water
(see map on page 6)**

AGENDA

**8:45
Coffee & Chat**

**9:00
Around the City**

**10:00
Committee Reports**

**10:30
Break**

**10:45
Speaker:
James Mejia
Manager of Parks and
Recreation**

**Noon
Adjourn**

**The Last INC
Meeting of the Year
Will Be
Saturday,
December 8.
Mark it on Your
Calendar Now**

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
P.O. Box 181009
Denver, CO 80218

ISS #6 DENVER CO NOV 10 2001
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Denver, CO
Permit No. 2875

Craig Eley
3800 S. Peach Way
Denver, CO 80229

INC Officers and Executive Committee

Fred Corn
Chairman
(w) 303-433-8577
fredcorn@gateway.net

Wayne Jochem
Vice Chairman
Special Projects Committee Chair
(h) 303-756-9904

Eddie Britt
Secretary
Public Safety Committee Chair
(h) 303-433-8484
webritt@prodigy.net

Joyce Goulet
Treasurer
(w) 303-298-0401
joyce.goulet@gte.net

Steve Nissen
Delegate-at-Large
Dollar Dictionary Committee Co-Chair
(h) 303-733-8524

Cathee Fisher
Dollar Dictionary Committee Co-Chair
(h) 303-333-3141
cathee@earthlink.net

Jeanne Robb
Delegate-at-Large
Parks Committee Chair
(h) 303-744-7310

Al Habercorn
Delegate-at-Large
303-778-8087
ahabercorn@qwest.net

Elizabeth Hamilton
Delegate-at-Large
303-290-1916
ejhamilton@uswest.net

Paul Ryan
Delegate-at-Large
303-733-0566
ryan.pj@buckconsultants.com

Jef Pirkey
Transportation Committee Chair

Mike Henry
Zoning Committee Chair
(h) 303-377-6609

Dr. Carter Ballinger
Health Committee Chair
(h) 303-321-4952

Lew Gaiter, Jr., J.D.
Membership Committee Chair
(w) 303-333-7933

Craig Eley
Denver Neighborhood Connection Editor
(h) 303-758-9499
(w) 303-785-2808
craig@eley.net

**Manager of Parks
Speaks at
November 10 INC
Meeting**

**By Jeanne Robb
INC Delegate-at-Large &
Parks Committee Chair**

since then and his goals as manager in the next year and a half. We'll have a brief update on parks bond projects as well as on the Game Plan, parks master plan for the coming decades (see below for more info on the Game Plan).

But the main topic of the presentation is to be Park Maintenance. We want to know about budgeting for park maintenance, how much has the budget increased in relation to our increase in park land, and how budget dollars are distributed among the park maintenance districts. Hopefully, we will learn if and how neighborhoods can work with park maintenance. Joining Mejia in this presentation will be Abel Shaw, Deputy Manager of Parks, Susan Frye and Dave Acosta, Assistant Directors of Parks. So take a stroll to your neighborhood park on one of these beautiful fall days. Remember what it looked like last spring and over the dog days of summer. Bring your comments and questions on the 10th.

The Game Plan

Like the Land Use and Transportation Plan, the Game Plan was mandated by Comp Plan 2000 and is scheduled to be ready next spring. You may remember that Susan Baird presented the seeds of the Game Plan at an INC meeting last spring. Over the summer, 600 people attended nine open houses and reacted to "the city in a park" vision of the plan. I attended the open house in Washington Park. Each participant was given play money and got to spend it on the concepts they most wanted. The "Green Neighborhoods" concept of bringing parks into our neighborhoods – more street trees, wider tree lawns, bike lanes, connections, smaller and closer parks, and community recreation – received the most monetary deposits for a total of \$11,234. Preserving our mountain parks and connecting them with a new prairie preserve (more bikes) had the next highest deposit of \$10,080. The other three building blocks of the plan were "Changing Time, Changing Uses," including disc golf to archery, dog parks, and conservation; "Downtown: The Civic Heart," and "The Platte River Spine."

Denver Digs Trees

Speaking of a "city in a park," at the October INC meeting, Gertie Grant distributed Street Tree Request forms. Denver Digs Trees is offering shade trees, 8-12" tall for pick up at an area park in April of 2002. The cost of the trees is only

(Continued on page 5)



**November
2001**

The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

**Denver Neighborhood
Connection**

INC Zoning & Planning Committee Issues Position Statement for INC Vote at November Meeting

The Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Zoning and Planning Committee developed the following proposed position statement at its October meeting. The INC delegates should study the following statement and be prepared to vote on it at the next INC Delegation meeting on November 10, 2001:

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, which has been extensively involved in the preparation of both the 2000 Denver Comprehensive Plan and the draft 2001-2002 Land Use and Transportation Plan, makes the following comments about the Land Use and Transportation Plan (LUTP).

1) INC greatly appreciates the fact that the citizens of Denver are being challenged to plan prospectively for the inevitable large growth in the next 20 years in Denver in residents, jobs, and traffic, instead of reacting in a piecemeal way to developers' proposals and growth in adjoining metropolitan jurisdictions.

2) INC supports the efforts of the LUTP to link land use planning and transportation planning, which are usually done separately.

3) INC, which for more than 15 years has been requesting the updating and simplifying of Denver's 45-year-old, 610-page Zoning Code, is pleased that this urgent need is being addressed by the LUTP.

4) INC strongly supports the LUTP's desire to preserve the character of stable residential neighborhoods and to focus most new growth to areas where such growth can appropriately be accommodated.

5) INC supports the central concept of the LUTP to reduce automobile usage and congestion.

CONCERNS

INC has the following concerns about the draft LUTP and requests the Community Planning and Development Agency, the consultants, the Planning

Board and City Council to address them before final approval:

1) The LUTP needs to be more easily accessible citizens in the following ways:

a) The maps should be more easily readable, with more clarity about the location of proposed areas of change and more easily readable color coding;

b) The LUTP should be integrated into one document instead of several separate parts;

c) The LUTP should contain a glossary of its multiple acronyms;

d) The appendices must be made available to the Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee and others for review before final approval. As of October 20, 2001, the Advisory Committee has still not seen the appendices;

e) The LUTP is difficult to download for many citizens who have access to computers and difficult to find for many who do not; and

f) Much of the document is repetitive and should be shortened and edited for easier reading and understanding.

2) Strategies 1-A and 1-B of Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000 (page 57) set the framework for the Land Use and Transportation Plan by indicating that the LUTP should "consider future needs for housing, commerce and industry, parks, recreation and open space, transportation, community facilities and other identified land use needs.... ensure that the LUTP reinforces the city's character by... encouraging preservation of historic buildings, districts and landscapes and maintaining the integrity of ... parks, parkways and open-space system." The draft LUTP, however, does not address the "future needs for... commerce and industry, parks, recreation and open space... community facilities" and gives little attention to "preservation of historic buildings, districts and landscapes and maintaining the integrity of ... parks, parkways and open-space system." INC understands that the LUTP is almost entirely focused on land use and transportation, but believes that these other issues need attention.

3) The new Parks Plan (Game Plan) and the new Bikeway Plan should be considered together with the LUTP to assure consistency. As an example, the pos-

(Continued on page 3)

Dollar Dictionary Drive Celebrates 6th Year

*By Cathee Fisher
INC Dollar Dictionary Co-Chair*

The Dollar Dictionary Drive celebrated the launch of its sixth year with a special program and dictionary distribution to the third grade students at Colfax Elementary School on October 3.

Denver Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Jerry Wartgow, and school board member Sue Edwards joined in the celebration along with U.S. Department of Education representative Helen Littlejohn and numerous INC and Sloan's Lake neighborhood representatives.

The first recipients of their own dictionary and thesaurus from this program are now in eighth grade. A student representative from each of the five classes that have received this gift from the community as third-graders joined the celebration to give each of this year's third-graders his or her own dictionary and thesaurus.

INC created the Dollar Dictionary Drive in 1996 to provide a dictionary and thesaurus to every third grade student in Denver Public Schools (DPS). Since 1996 47,000 third grade students attending DPS have received this valuable resource tool to use in the classroom and at home. Additionally, in 2000 a set of thirty of each book was given to each of the 250 third grade classrooms in DPS.

When the program started, every five dollars donated purchased five dictionaries. With an increase in prices, today five dollars will only purchase books for 4 students. This is still a great value when providing a life-long tool for each third-grader's education and future success.

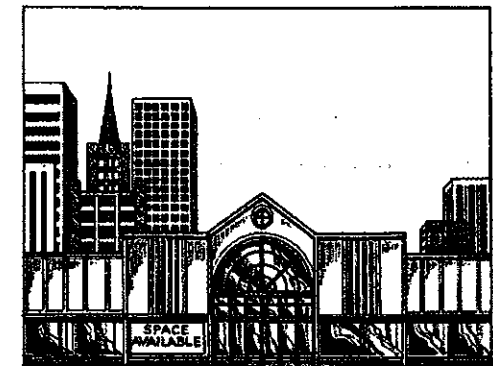
Donations have come from US Bank, neighborhood organizations and individuals, but the 2001 program is short of its fund-raising goal. All money donated goes toward the purchase of dictionaries and is tax deductible. Contributions can be sent to Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, Dollar Dictionary Drive, P.O. Box 181009, Denver, CO 80218.

Around the City From October 13, 2001 INC Meeting

East Montclair NA – EMNA's first neighborhood yard sale was a great success. A total of \$500 was raised, with \$50 donated to Ashley Elementary Library and \$100 to the Dollar Dictionary Drive.

Denver Digs Trees – Request forms for street trees are available. Most trees will be free. The request deadline is January and early requests are more likely to get free trees and those varieties of trees in short supply. Trees will be available in April.

Denver Public Schools – Great news – the drop-out rate for DPS students is down significantly and the graduation rate is up. More students staying in school longer equals a better educated populace.



Baker – Looking forward to a Jazz Festival on Broadway in 2003.

Its neighborhood plan is nearing completion; the neighbors are now developing design guidelines. New businesses continue to open on Broadway.

University Park Community Council – Nearly 100 attended the Fall UPCC meeting and gave a rousing vote of initial support for the traffic mitigation plan developed for UP by the DU/Neighborhood task force. This plan still has far to go as it is subject to the city's new Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Plan (NTMP), which is to be part of the Land Use & Transportation Plan. The NTMP process would include a mail-in ballot voting process with required percentages of returned ballots and votes for the project. UP is also dealing with T-REX and traffic, planning, and zoning issues.

Know Your Neighbors, Save Your Health

By Jana Miller

Reprinted from Sunnyside News, the newsletter of Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc.

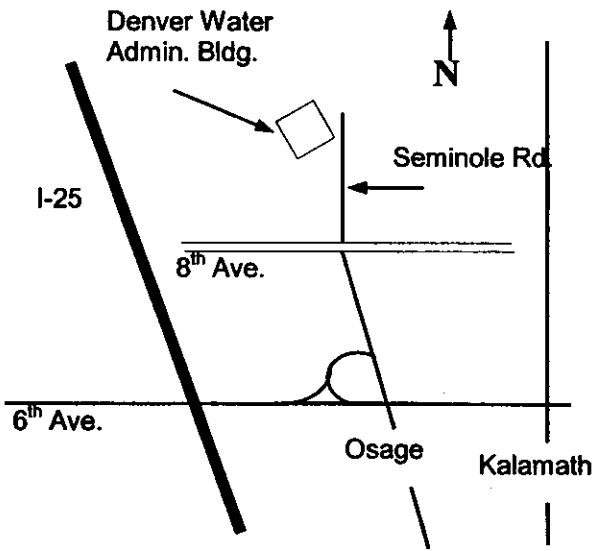
According to the web site RealAge.com, one way to stay healthy is to be a good neighbor. From the web-site:

"A few simple acts of kindness may be the best way to reduce stress levels in your neighborhood and improve your health. Studies show that neighborhood tensions can introduce chronic stress into your life, and chronic stress has been shown to promote arterial aging and hamper immune system function. However, positive interactions with your neighbors can create beneficial feelings of community and connection."

Here in Sunnyside, we can think of many good ways to reduce stress and feel better. Smile and say "hi" to your neighbors; pick up trash when it blows into your yard and into the right of way; offer to help with fall yard cleanup, and volunteer on a Sunnyside committee and help keep Sunnyside special.

Map to November 10 INC Meeting

On week-ends, the only entrance to the Denver Water Administration Building is from 6th Avenue.



INC Member Neighborhoods

Alamo Placita NA
Athmar Park NA
Baker Historic Neighborhood
Bellvue Hale NA
Berkeley NA
Capitol Hill United Neighbors
Cherry Point HOA
Clayton NA
Cole NA
Colfax Business ID
Colfax on the Hill
College View NA
Cook Park NA
Cory/Merrill NA
Country Club Historic Neighborhood
Crestmoor Park HI
Curtis Park Neighbors
Denargo Market NC
Downtown Denver Residents Association
East Montclair NA
East Village NA
George Washington HOA
Greater Park Hill Community
Hampden South NA
Harkness Heights NA
Harman NA
Highland United Neighbors
Hilltop Heritage Assoc.
Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point NA
Indian Creek NA
Inspiration Point NA
Ivy Street NA
Lower Downtown District, Inc.
Lynwood 7&8 HOA

Mayfair Park NA
North City Park Civic Assoc.
Overland NA
Ruby Hill NA
St. Charles NG
Sloan Lake CG
South Gaylord NA
South Jackson St. NA
Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc.
University Park CC
Virginia Vale CA
Virginia Village/Ellis CA
Washington Park East NA
Wellshire NA
West Highland NA
West University NA
West Washington Park NA

Supporting Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Councilwoman Kathleen MacKenzie
Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth
Denver Digs trees
Denver Water
League of Women Voters of Denver
Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce
Progress & Preservation Together

Associate Members

Steve Brown
Cathee Fisher
Bonna Gayhart
Gertie Grant
Marcia Johnson

INC Zoning & Planning Committee Issues Position Statement

(Continued from page 2)

sible need for new park land in Areas of Change should be addressed to meet the park needs of the anticipated growth in population.

4) Commitment to implementation of the LUTP and the method of implementation are of great concern to all neighborhoods. The draft LUTP should be improved to specify dates and responsible agencies for all major activities. In addition, the city must provide sufficient budget and staff to accomplish meaningful implementation.

5) INC welcomes the LUTP's encouragement of small area planning and overlay districts to preserve or establish the special character of specific neighborhoods or areas. How this is to be implemented is of great concern, however. Adequate funding must be provided so that neighborhoods do not have to pay large amounts of money either for planning and legal consultants or large filing fees for proposed zoning changes. In addition, there must be a clear and fair set of standards as to which areas are given the first attention for new small area plans, including:

- The degree of threat to the desired character of a neighborhood or the opportunity to create new character;
- The degree of preparation and planning already done by specific areas;
- Whether a new neighborhood plan is already in process;
- The discrepancy between existing land use and current zoning; and
- The need for redevelopment in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The process for small area planning as described in the LUTP is complicated and unclear. A complete "sample plan" should be published for citizens to use as a guide.

6) Once the LUTP has been adopted, there must continue to be meaningful citizen involvement in all stages of its implementation. In particular, INC recommends a citizen advisory committee to work with the consultant and city staff to update and streamline the zoning code.

7) There is very little attention in the LUTP regarding how to encourage affordable housing across the city.

8) There is very little attention in the LUTP to the process mentioned in Comprehensive Plan 2000 for the location of new community facilities.

9) Benchmarks need to be more clearly included in the LUTP so that success or failure can be measured.

10) The LUTP should recommend that new zoning districts be established for a) parks and parkways and b) educational campuses.

11) Stronger emphasis in the LUTP needs to be given to sustainability and environmental protection (consideration of air pollution, noise pollution, light pollution, water pollution and flood plain issues). In addition, stronger consideration needs to be given to protection of the wonderful visual attributes of the city, such as the view plains and tree canopies and reduction of visual clutter from billboards and other signage.

12) Greater emphasis should be given to the importance of buffering and transitioning between areas that are not compatible with each other.

13) There has not been sufficient consideration by the public or the Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee regarding speed limits on various types of streets and traffic calming.

14) There has not been sufficient consideration either by the public or the Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee regarding design standards.

15) The LUTP should recognize and articulate that some of Denver's fine neighborhoods are being damaged by the building of large out-of-character new developments and, therefore, that speed is necessary to mitigate this damage. One tool for such protection would be to establish a better definition of "open space" required on residential lots.

16) The LUTP needs more clarity about how anticipated growth is to be allocated to different areas of the city.

(Continued on page 4)

INC Zoning & Planning Committee Issues Position Statement

(Continued from page 3)

17) The LUTP is extremely vague as to how the boundaries of Transit Oriented Development areas and Areas of Change are set. Neighborhoods and citizens do not have much confidence in "fuzzy maps."

18) Too little public consideration or consideration by the Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee has been given to the specific recommendations in the draft plan for changing zoning code requirements, such as a reduction in the parking requirements for the B-4 district. Such recommendations should be removed from the draft plan until further consideration is given. Such recommendations may be appropriate to specific areas, but not necessarily citywide.

19) Too little public consideration or consideration by the Advisory Committee has been given to the process for Neighborhood Traffic Management decision making. The proposed voting process may drain too much funding and time away from actual implementation.

In closing, INC wishes the above comments to be considered before final approval of the Land Use and Transportation Plan.

Denver Neighborhood Connection article submission deadline is the 20th of each month

Articles must be submitted by e-mail to Fred Corn at fredcorn@gateway.net

News from neighborhood newsletters will be reprinted in *Denver Neighborhood Connection* as space permits. Send your newsletters to the editor, Craig Eley, 3800 S. Peach Way, Denver, CO 80237 craig@eley.net

New Landscaping Standards to be Proposed to City Council

A new set of standards for the care of landscaping (vegetation) in our city will be recommended to City Council this winter. Researched and developed by a work group of technical experts from the community and city enforcement staff, the recommended changes have several beneficial aspects, which will:

- promote a wider range of landscape types and more beautiful neighborhoods by requiring landscapes to show evidence of care and cultivation;
- enable sustainable landscapes that conserve water and other resources;
- disallow landscapes that have fire hazards, disease-carrying rodents, noxious weeds, obstructions to sightlines at intersection and sidewalks, rubbish and/or garbage;
- prohibit turf lawn grasses and/or non-noxious weeds over 6 inches in height or length; and
- provide for more effective, efficient and equitable enforcement.

This work grows out of Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000, which calls for more sustainable landscape policies (Environmental Sustainability, 2C). The ordinance will go to Council for action this winter. The committee looks forward to having the recommendations adopted and in place before next spring's landscape season.

For more information, call Alana Smart, aide to Councilwoman Susan Barnes-Gelt, 720-865-9381.

INC Web Page

www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc

"Won't You Be My Neighbor?" - - The Sex Offender Next Door

By Diane Wolta

On August 7, 2001 the Zoning Board of Adjustment heard four cases simultaneously regarding sex offenders living in R-1 zoned districts. These homes were all served with cease and desist orders to discontinue use of these homes as a "community correction facility." The Board's decision found that the homes did fit the definition of a community correction facility, therefore the cease and desist orders were valid, and upheld these orders.

Was this a "win?" Will they be moving out soon (and to where)? Is this the end of sex offenders living in group-type homes in our neighborhoods? Not by a long shot. The non-profit that set up these homes has others in the city and will most likely appeal the Board's decision to District Court. This which would allow these residents to remain in the homes until the court renders a decision, and/or they will reduce the number of residents to two per home, which will comply with Denver law.

This is not a NIMBY (not in my back yard) issue -- it's a not in ANY back yard issue. One of the homes in this hearing backed up (with no alley) to a home in which the owner has done licensed day care for 20+ years! Another was close to a school bus stop! Locating sex offenders, with their extremely high recidivism rates, in neighborhoods is akin to putting these offenders in a "candy store." Allowing these residences in any neighborhood area will allow the offenders close proximity to easily available children situations, such as: schools (there was one three blocks away from one home), houses of worship (there was one across the street from the day care home), playgrounds, libraries, etc.

Your help is needed. We are working with a state legislator to create a bill to specify a minimum distance that sex offenders will need to keep their residences from residential areas. There is a state task

force working on tracking the addresses of offenders when they leave jail and making that information easily available to citizens. There is state task force working on increasing sentencing for sex offenses. Denver will need to look at its ordinances to see what needs to be modified to keep our neighborhoods safe. Everyone in your neighborhood with an interest in this issue is invited to participate. Please call Paula Hook at (303) 371-6204 to get involved.

Denver Parks Making Progress

(Continued from page 1)

\$20, but a limited number will be free, based of the postmark of your application, thanks to the 1998 Denver Parks and Recreation bond funds. The tree must be planted in the tree lawn along the street. Denver Digs Trees is a program of The Park People, a non-profit organization that has funded public trees and park projects in Denver for thirty years. The annual tree-planting is an effort to perpetuate the legacy of tree-arched streets left by early settlers.



Denver Park and Parkway System: A Legacy of Design

Speaking of the legacy of parks left to us by early Denver settlers, don't miss this exhibit in the Vida Ellison Gallery, Level 7, at the Central Denver Public Library. The photos, both old and new, of our wonderful parks are a delight as is the view of Civic Center Park from the windows of this gallery. It's fun to compare the drawings from the competition for the design of Civic Center in the early 1900's to the view nearly 100 years later. The exhibit has been extended until December 31.