June 12 INC Meeting Features FasTracks Presentation

The June 12, 2004 INC Delegates’ Meeting will begin at 8:45 a.m. at the Rude Park Recreation Center, 2855 W. Holden Place (see map to right). Along with the regular INC business and Around the City, a presentation will be made about transportation issues, including FasTracks, the light rail expansion proposal.

INC Helps Make Blue Rally a Success

On Saturday, May 15, hundreds of neighbors participated in the Blue Rally, which was held in conjunction with National Peace Officers Memorial Day. The event featured an appearance by the Denver police helicopter, musical and magical entertainment, displays by both the police and fire departments, and plenty of food and soft drinks.

This was a grass-roots event designed to show support for our local police officers. The K-Mart at Evans and Federal was gracious enough to allow the use of its parking lot for the event, and the weather cooperated beautifully.

INC was instrumental in publicizing and helping with this event. When our volunteer for the hot dog detail quit, INC member Craig Eley stepped into the breach and recruited some of his cohorts from the Optimist Club of Monaco South. They were reliable, cheerful, and thoroughly professional as they bought, grilled and served over 800 hot dogs in a 4 hour span.

This was the first in what is hoped will be an annual Blue Rally, to be held in various quadrants of the city.

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Raise Money for Your Neighborhood While Serving Humanity

Serve beer at the INC Beer Booth at the People’s Fair, June 5 & 6.
See article on page 3 for details.
The INC Board held its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on May 10, 2004. Present were Elizabeth Hamilton, Dave Webster, Diana Helper, Diane Wolta, Michael Henry, Cathee Fisher, Steve Nissen, Karen Cuthbertson, Lisa Dodson, and Ken Beaudrie.

Discussion included future meeting places and speakers; balancing INC’s service to city neighborhoods, to the city itself, and the elements that are integral parts of INC’s mission; the need to increase membership, and methods of doing this. Mike Henry provided board members with names of Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) in their areas which have not joined INC, asking that we call our assigned RNO presidents to encourage INC membership.

A Denver resident has requested INC delegate representation at a meeting regarding plans for future Cinco de Mayo celebrations. Parts of this event entail considerable city resources, which impact many neighborhoods, and the Board agreed to INC participation. It was pointed out that it is common for a situation in one neighborhood to

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Ken Beaudrie asked if the Denver Neighborhood Connection might consider carrying advertising. The Dollar Dictionary Drive still welcomes and needs funds.

Mike Henry brought up these topics: attending the Board of Adjustment Summit, homeless shelters, environmental protection, support for FasTracks, and the lighting ordinance. These may be subjects for the Zoning and Planning Committee and for future INC meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

INC Supports Proposed Lighting Ordinance

Editor's Note: The following letter was recently sent as INC's response to more than a year of work by the Denver Community Planning and Development Department, which has drafted a proposed ordinance to regulate outdoor artificial lighting. The Planning Board will likely be reviewing this subject in June.

May 10, 2004

TO: Members of Denver Planning Board
    Members of Denver City Council

RE: Proposed Lighting Ordinance

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, a city-wide network of registered neighborhood organizations, voted at its meeting on December 13, 2003, to generally support the proposed ordinance to improve the definition and regulation of outdoor artificial lighting. The ordinance has been under study and discussion for more than a year by the Community Planning and Development Department and a citizen task force and has been reviewed by the Zoning and Planning Committee of INC on a number of occasions.

INC believes that better regulation of outdoor lighting will improve the aesthetics, safety and quality of life in Denver neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Hamilton
Chair
Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

Minutes of May 10 Board Meeting

Continued from page 2

occur in others, and experience gained and shared is part of INC's mission.

Special thanks were extended to Craig Eley and the Monaco South Optimist Club for stepping in to give major assistance toward the success of the Blue Rally honoring police officers on May 15.

An INC Budget is being worked on. Fundraising needs can be identified according to projected expenses.
Around the City

From May 8, 2004 INC Meeting

By Diana Helper
INC Secretary

Baker -- Cop Shop coming along, could use more volunteers. "Baker's Bargains," its neighborhood yard sale, is June 12. The starting point is the intersection of Archer and Broadway. It was suggested that "Punt the Creek" might be a good as Dollar Dictionary fund-raiser. If there is interest, please contact Al Habercom.

Citizens for A Residential Quebec -- The city is preparing to widen Quebec south of Alameda from four to seven lanes. At the main entrance to Fairmount Cemetery, Quebec will be a very unsafe crossing for pedestrians and bikers accessing Fairmount and the Highline Canal.

Denver Parks and Recreation -- Summer Rec Center brochures are available and also on line at Denver gov.org/parksandrecreation. Those with questions, concerns, or requests for engaging a speaker for meetings, contact Harriet R. Hogue, 720-913-0694.

Greater Park Hill -- June 19 will be its Garden Tour, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. For information call 303-388-0918.

Hampden South -- The demolition of Hampden Lodge at I-25 is in progress. It will be replaced with a 292 unit apartment complex with a shopping mall. The estimated cost is $55 million, and the project is associated with the I-25 light rail system. Demolition and reconstruction of Tiffany Plaza at Hampden and Tamarac Street is underway. The new section will have a Whole Foods grocery, and upscale retail will be coming. This is a nice face lift. Construction of City Wide Bank, at the southeast corner of Monaco and Hampden, is in progress. The Marriott Hotel at the east corner of Hampden and I-25 may be closed this fall, but there are no details yet. Construction is in progress on the south section of the Hampden bridge over I-25. No problems with traffic have occurred thus far.

Harkness Heights -- There is opposition to the proposed Wal-Mart Super Market at the Elich site on West 38th Ave. A Wal-Mart design review Meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2004.

Mayfair -- The neighborhood is actively involved with the East Colfax Redevelopment and the University Hospital Redevelopment. The organization has revamped its neighborhood newsletter and is expanding its fundraising efforts.

Public Works/Solid Waste Management -- Neighborhood/Citywide cleanups are scheduled for May 22.

University Park -- The neighborhood had an excellent program on Colorado landscaping and is working on a neighborhood tree inventory. It encourages RNOs to contact councilpersons in support of the Pedestrian Master Plan. There are some redevelopment projects proposed or under review. The annual Independence Day Parade and Band will be on July 3 at 10 a.m. at Observatory Park.

West University Community Association -- There has been a new development in a zoning variance denial case (regarding boarder permits), which is that one of the four occupants in this R-1 area house has filed for a "Room and Board" permit at the same address, although ordered by zoning appeals to vacate "in 30 days." Once more the neighborhood plows ahead with continuing concern at this attempt to circumvent the Board of Adjustment's decision. A letter to the Environmental Protection Agency has been circulated in area associations concerning the Shattuck superfund site. It appears that those charged with the cleanup are reneging on cleanup of the entire site as agreed. Stay tuned.
Deadly Disease May Lurk in Your Birdbath

By Patti Bindner

Reprinted from the Highland United Neighbors, Inc. newsletter.

With warm weather will come mosquitoes, and with the mosquitoes will come West Nile Virus (WNV). Mosquitoes may bite a bird that is infected with the virus and pick up the virus, which will multiply in the mosquito's body and travel to their salivary glands. From here the virus is injected into you when the mosquito first bites you. If the virus multiplies in your body you may become ill with one of the clinical forms of West Nile Virus (West Nile Fever, West Nile Meningitis, or West Nile Encephalitis).

West Nile Virus first entered Colorado in 2002, when we had 14 human cases. In 2003 the conditions were ideal for mosquito breeding and the spread of the virus. We had over 2900 humans that were tested and found positive for WNV. There were many more humans that were infected but were not tested. The West Nile virus is here to stay and will continue to show up in humans. Here are some ways to protect yourself from mosquito bites:

- Limit outdoor activities around dusk and dawn when mosquitoes that carry WNV are most likely to feed.
- If you are outdoors when mosquitoes are active, wear lightweight long pants and long-sleeved shirts, or wear mosquito-netting suits over your clothing.
- Use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET. Follow the directions on the label. Products with less than 15% DEET are recommended for children, and products with more than 50% DEET will not protect adults any better or any longer than products with up to 50% DEET.
- When an infant is brought outdoors, cover the baby's carrier or play pen with mosquito netting or fabric netting. Do not use mosquito repellant on infants.
- Replace missing windows or screens and repair any holes in screens that may allow mosquitoes to get in. Also make sure the screens fit tightly so mosquitoes cannot enter.

One kind of mosquito which carries WNV likes to breed in smaller containers of water. These mosquitoes may be found breeding in your yard, on your patio or on your balcony. If any small amount of water is left standing for more than four days, mosquitoes may breed. Here are some simple steps you can take:

- Remove or empty items that could collect water, such as saucers under flowerpots, old tires, buckets, empty cans, or food and beverage containers.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of recycling containers that are left outdoors, so that water can drain out.
- Clean clogged roof gutters; remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of rainwater.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths.
- Aerate ornamental ponds or stock them with fish.
- Keep swimming pools clean and properly chlorinated; remove standing water from pool covers.
- Remove water from boat covers, or store small boats upside down, or in the garage.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.
- Check around faucets, swamp coolers, and air conditioner units and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days.
- Check flat roofs for standing water. Drain these areas or treat them with a larvicide.
- If you use a rain barrel to collect water from your roof, make sure you have a tight fitting lid or tight fitting mosquito netting to keep the mosquitoes out (they must also fit tightly around the down spout) or use a larvicide in the barrel to kill any mosquitoes that may be breeding there.
Minutes of May 8 INC Delegates’ Meeting

By Diana Helper INC Secretary

INC delegates and friends were privileged to have Public Works Manager Bill Vidal as guest speaker on May 8. The meeting was held at and hosted by Denver Metro Visitors Bureau. Vidal, a self-proclaimed “extroverted engineer,” spoke of the expected continuing growth of this “hub” city. Concerns include traffic and parking management, how to support Blueprint Denver, and how to maintain the city infrastructure and make it safer. No one present guessed the subject of the greatest number of calls to Public Works -- alley paving. About 1100 of Denver's 4,998 alleyways are unpaved, with 20 or 30 being paved this summer. The second most frequent subject was guessed -- potholes.

Vidal indicated that a primary task for Public Works is the formation of plans, rather than relying on reaction-to-crisis. Working cooperatively with RTD is important, as is getting City Council’s support for more strategic planning projects. Regarding the proposal for a continued paired couplet (Broadway and Lincoln) through the Gates/Cherokee re-development, Vidal said that an Environmental Impact Statement needs to be completed before a decision can be made, and development review (Transit Mixed Use zoning is requested) should result in a balanced decision among Public Works, Community Planning and Development, and the Mayor.

Also on the program was an informative Visitors and Convention Bureau video, presented by Bill Mitchell, Director of Public Affairs. The Denver Bureau is the sixth-oldest in the US, and one of the top ten. The new Convention center building will be dedicated December 12, creating 5,000 permanent jobs as well as much greater opportunities for conventions.

The meeting opened with an interesting hour of reports from INC delegates and "Around the City."

These covered many topics related to zoning, development, traffic, and neighborhood activities. On behalf of the Zoning and Planning Committee, Chairman Michael Henry urged each Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) to write to the Board of Adjustment seeking improvement of notification procedures to RNOs.

Chemical from Gates Site Subject of June 10 Community Meeting

By Vaishalee Mishra

You’ve probably heard that a developer named Cherokee has bought the old Gates Rubber Factory, but you might not have heard that a chemical called TCE has moved off the factory site into parts of West Washington Park. Come to a community meeting and learn more about the affects of TCE and hear from residents about how we can ensure a good clean up.

We have invited Councilwoman Kathleen MacKenzie, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Cherokee to hear residents’ concerns and help brainstorm solutions.

The meeting is being held by the Campaign for Responsible Development, a coalition of concerned citizens, environmental organizations, women’s groups, labor and community groups.

When: Thursday, June 10 at 6 p.m.

Where: Washington Park Chapel, located at 1001 South Pearl Street.

For more information, please call Vaishalee Mishra at 303-477-6111 ext. 15.
Minutes of April 24
INC Zoning & Planning Committee

By Diana Helper
Committee Member

Steve Charbonneau, Director of Community Mediation Concepts, talked about the Development Review Process being reformed and streamlined by a Community Development and Planning Department (CPD) team. He estimated that the team will identify “what needs doing” by late June. He hopes to have a presentation for INC’s Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP) by mid-summer. Six months of orientation and training for the process may begin in the fall. Citizens need to understand their roles in Development Review. ZAP Chairman Mike Henry asked that this be addressed at the CPD’s November 6 Neighborhood Conference. Charbonneau said that CPD Manager Peter Park is taking a careful look at where we are headed, and criteria for development review. Planners will do more planning and get neighborhood plans completed or updated. Development Review may be tracked on the Internet in the future.

Regarding mediation in general, Charbonneau related that about 30% of the referrals are from City Council, 30-40% from police, and the rest from neighbors, city agencies, and others. The main concerns are with developers, restaurants, bars, and churches. He stressed that mediation does not supersede city process and regulations. Excise and License will now put agreements with neighbors (regarding granting liquor licenses) as enforceable conditions of granting the license.

Nuisance Abatement Officer Donna Starr-Gimeno reported that the amendments INC endorsed have been submitted and she hopes for a City Council hearing in June. She described how and why it takes over a year to resolve nuisance abatement cases. Files are active and need attention for months, while new cases are coming in (600 cases in a six month period). Abatement case notification goes to City Council, or a citizen can call and ask to receive notices. Work with Neighborhood Inspection Services can save some cases from going to Board of Adjustment (BOA) hearings.

Cherry Creek North residents wish to get expanded development guidelines. Chairman Henry pointed out that such guidelines should serve neighborhoods citywide.

Notification to Registered Neighborhood Organizations of BOA hearings was reported as spotty. Some come late, some not at all, some neighborhoods are getting a lot of notices, others fewer than usual.

Nicole Hernandez of Historic Denver (HD) announced that May is HD month. She said buildings can receive historic designation without the request of their owners. HD can talk with non-owners about such possibilities.

West University Community Association (WUCA) discovered that a resident of a rental house can apply to the city for a “boarder” permit as a “home occupation.” This permits incrementally more and more unrelated persons to live in a house zoned for only three unrelated residents. The process has required review, notification, and hearing, but this does not seem to be followed. WUCA is trying to be sure proper procedures are maintained.

Caution was urged in the matter of the Cherokee site (Gates property, west side) TCE contamination clean-up and study. So far, life-threatening situations have not been shown to exist. An important concern is that the Gates (east side) site has not done any study nor can Cherokee include that property in its study. Gates’ rezoning application should perhaps include such information.

Denver Neighborhood Connection Article Deadline
is the 18th of each month.
Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation  
P.O. Box 181009  
Denver, CO 80218

Next Meeting  
Saturday  
June 12  
2004

Rude Park Recreation Center  
2855 W. Holden Place  
(see map on page 1)

AGENDA
8:45  
Coffee and Chat
9:00  
Around the City
9:30  
Committee Reports
10:00  
Transportation Presentation and discussion
Noon  
Adjourn

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