

## January 8 INC Meeting to Consider Changes in Neighborhood Registration Ordinance

The January 8, 2005 INC Delegates' Meeting will be held at 9 a.m. (not the usual 8:45 a.m.) at the Green Valley Ranch Recreation Center, 4890 Argonne Way (49th & Andes) - see directions on back page.

Guest speakers will address issues surrounding the Infrastructure Task Force and the Strategic Transportation

Model. Also, because City Council will soon be considering amendments to the Neighborhood Registration and Notification Ordinance (which has been in effect since 1979), the delegation will vote on whether to take a position on the amendments. City Council's Blueprint Denver Committee will consider these proposals on January 12. A summary of the proposed changes follows:

- Neighborhoods are encouraged to cultivate neighborhood membership and participation that reflects the ethnic and socio-economic composition of the neighborhood they represent;
- A list of those attending an organization's annual meeting shall be kept, and at least 12 members must be in attendance;
- The Community Planning and Development Department shall have the responsibility to maintain and update in a timely manner the map and list of registered neighborhood organizations on the City's official website, DenverGov.org., instead of distributing hard copies of the list;
- The Denver Department of Environmental Health shall notify nearby neighborhood organizations of requests for noise variances;
- Any registered neighborhood organization which does not meet, or ceases to meet, the requirements of the ordinance or which does not re-register as required by the ordinance shall be no longer considered a registered neighborhood organization and shall cease to be listed.

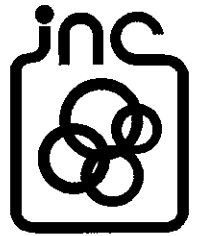
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### INC Annual Presidents' Dinner

January 26, 2005  
Colorado Convention Center

The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



January 2005

www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc

Denver Neighborhood Connection

## INC Member Neighborhoods (Patrons in Bold)

Alamo Placita NA  
 Athmar Park NA  
 Baker Historical NA  
 Bellevue-Hale NA  
 Berkeley NA  
 Bonnie Brae NA  
 Bow Mar Heights Improvement Assoc.  
 Broadway Partnership  
**Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods**  
 Cherry Creek East Association  
 Cherry Creek North NA  
 Cherry Point HOA

Citizens for the Preservation of Cherry Creek North  
 Citizens for a Residential Quebec  
 City Park West NA  
 Civic Assoc. of Clayton  
 Colfax BID  
 Colfax on the Hill  
 College View NA  
 Cook Park NA  
**Cory-Merrill NA**  
 Cranmer Park - Hilltop NA  
 Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 1  
**Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 2**  
 Curtis Park Neighbors  
 Denargo Market NC  
**Downtown Denver Residents Organization**  
 East Montclair NA  
 Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc.  
 Godsman Community NA  
**Golden Triangle Arts District**  
 Golden Triangle NA  
**Greater Park Hill Community**  
 Green Valley Ranch HOA  
 Hampden Heights CA  
 Hampden South NA  
 Harkness Heights NA  
 Harman NA  
 Hilltop Heritage  
**Historic Montclair CA**  
 Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA  
 Inspiration Point NA  
 Ivy Street NA  
 LoDo District, Inc.  
 Lowry Neighbors  
 Lynwood 7&8 NA  
 Marston Shores HOA  
**Mayfair Neighbors**  
 Mayfair Park NA  
 Metro Denver Local Development Corporation  
 North City Park CA  
 Northern Corridor Coalition  
 Old South Pearl Street  
 Park Forest HOA  
 Platt Park People's NA  
 Progress & Preservation Together  
 Ruby Hill NA  
 Sloan Lake NA

Sloan's Lake Citizen's Group  
 South Gaylord NA  
 South City Park NA  
 South Hilltop NA  
 South Jackson NO  
 Southern Hills NA  
**Southmoor Park East HOA**  
 SouthWest Improvement Council  
 Stapleton United Neighbors  
 Stokes Place/Green Bowers  
**Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc.**  
**University Park Community Council**  
 University Park Neighbors  
 The Unsinkables  
**Upper Downtown Development Org.**  
 Uptown on the Hill  
**Virginia Vale CA**  
 Virginia Village/Ellis CA  
 West Highland NA  
 Washington Park East NA  
 West University CA  
 West Washington Park NA  
 Westwood NA  
 Whittier NA

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 Kammy Alford  
 Carter Ballinger, M.D.  
 Alice Borodkin, State Rep. District 9  
 Joe Bronesky  
**Councilwoman Carol Boigon**  
**Councilman Rick Garcia**  
**Councilwoman Marcia Johnson**  
**Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann**  
**Councilman Doug Linkhart**  
**Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth**  
**Councilwoman Jeanne Robb**  
**Denver Fire Department**  
**Denver Health**  
**Denver Water**  
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**Xcel Energy**  
 Front Range Economic Strategy Center  
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**Gertie Grant**  
**Harriet Hogue**  
 Historic Denver, Inc.  
 Beth McCann  
 Morrison Road Business Association  
 Neighborhood Resource Center of Colo.  
 One Sky, One World  
**Stapleton Forest City**



### Denver Neighborhood Connection

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[athmarpark@ecentral.com](mailto:athmarpark@ecentral.com).

INC Delegates' Meetings are held on  
 the second Saturday of each month at  
 8:45 a.m.

The INC Board meets on the second  
 Monday of each month at 6 p.m. on the  
 top floor of 1201 Williams Street,  
 Denver, CO. All members are  
 welcome.

The INC web page can be found at  
[www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc)

# **Free Speech, the Right of Petition, and the Big Chill**

**By Charles Howard  
Secretary/Editor  
West University Community  
Association**

*Editor's note: The following is an article reprinted from FOCUS, the monthly newsletter of the West University Community Association (WUCA). More information on this subject can be found in a related article by attorney Lori Potter in the December, 2004 Denver Neighborhood Connection. The article has been slightly edited for length.*

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) is an enormous resource for Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs). An important, in-depth presentation at INC's Zoning and Planning (ZAP) committee meeting on October 23 revealed an enlightening view of "Getting Sued for Speaking Out."

And we do speak out...on all sorts of matters that affect our membership area. Matters that relate to zoning, zoning variance appeals, traffic and parking issues, liquor license applications, safety, property damage, nuisance abatement, and other issues. We deal with individuals, businesses, institutions, and especially governmental bodies that look to the RNOs by ordinance to advise or consent on those issues.

## **Putting on the Big Chill**

Being sued for speaking out on neighborhood issues is not on our mind when we as an association or as individuals are speaking on behalf of the association or as individual citizens.

A recent event that brought to the forefront such a possibility as being sued for "speaking out" took place by threats from a business developer because of an RNO (WUCA) speaking out, and an individual from University Park who it was feared would speak

out to City Council.

## **SLAPPED in Our Voicebox**

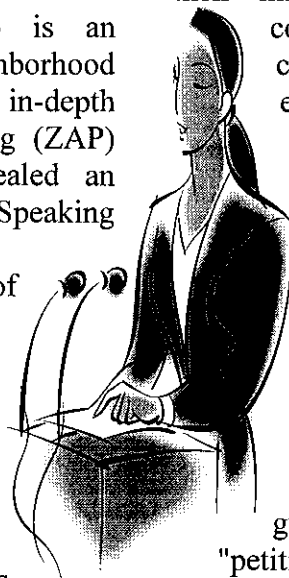
Addressing the INC audience was George W. Pring, a Professor of Law at the University of Denver, and an internationally recognized expert on the defense of such threats. He is the co-author with Professor Penelope Canan of a 1996 book entitled "SLAPPs--Getting Sued for Speaking Out," published by Temple University Press.

In 1984 they initiated the Political Litigation Project at D.U., carrying out the first nationwide study of "Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" in government, or "SLAPPs," a name they coined. "We found that SLAPPs can and do eliminate or warp public political participation," Pring stated. "Our study confirms that these suits are a legal threat for concerned Americans who speak their minds on issues of importance to their communities, state, or nation -- to every citizen who takes a stand on a public concern; everyone who has ever been tempted to 'fight city hall'; everyone who has ever worked in a political campaign; everyone who has ever felt like speaking up on a neighborhood issue; everyone who has ever stepped on powerful toes..."

The key to defending against a SLAPP suit is the fact that courts throughout the country have recognized that these suits are an overt threat to the First Amendment rights of our nation's Constitution that guarantees the right of free speech and to "petition government for the redress of grievances."

One of the precedents established in Colorado, cited in Pring's book, involved a developer who was opposed by a woman exercising her First Amendment rights and was sued for circulating a petition to repeal her city's approval of a development. The developer charged that "the citizen's act of petitioning" her city government had violated the developer's "constitutional rights" to develop the land and constituted "restraint" of his business.

*Continued on page 7*



# Diversity In Neighborhood Associations

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Millennium Generation" of today's students -- "wired and materialistic." He recommended talking with students personally about things that matter both to neighborhoods and to students such as safety concerns and respect. Students spend a lot of time at coffeehouses, so that might be a good place to meet with them. Neighbors have learned that going next door to say hello to their student-renters usually is the best way to establish communication and rapport.

Karen Cuthbertson stated that in her neighborhood a realtor informs the RNO when a house has sold, and the board members visit the new residents. Every board member visits a house where a zoning appeal has been posted, and visits the near neighbors, too. There are annual neighborhood projects, a picnic, and meetings which emphasize that you are invited to come and say what you want the neighborhood to work on.

## Comments and Questions:

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson said that RNOs are primarily either issue-driven or personality driven. In some cases, these are combined. There is surely a need in many neighborhoods for attention to diversity and inclusiveness (within the eleven Council Districts there are a total of 270 RNOs).

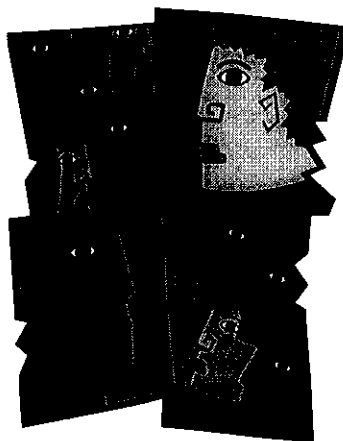
Billie Bramhall, an INC delegate from the Golden Triangle and a past member of the Community Planning and Development Department, talked about the diversity of old vs. new residents, public housing concerns, and the existence of stable minority neighborhoods.

Harriett Hogue of the Department of Parks and Recreations, and formerly a City planner, remembered helping to write the first RNO ordinance, when there

were just 70 RNOs. She stressed involving children and thus reaching parents, with crafts, day care, school groups. She pointed out that different cultures define "respect" in different ways and that it is important to understand what is meaningful to each.

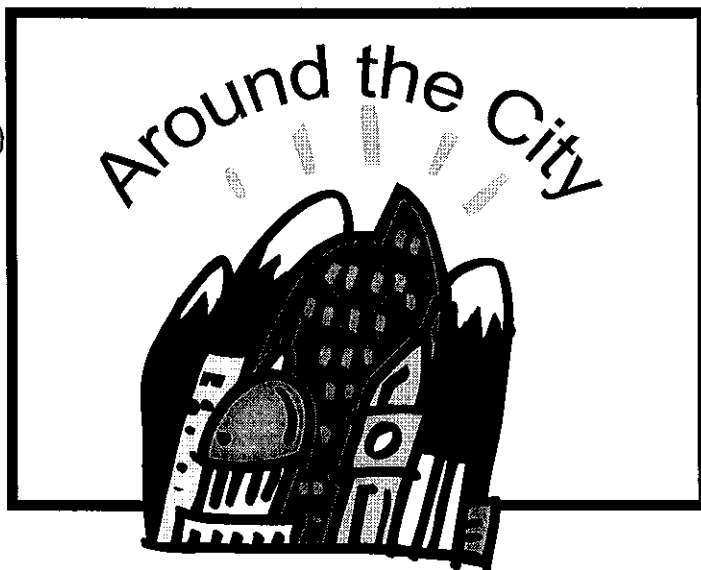
Other comments included the opinion that we are actually all "the same." And conversely that we are all "individuals" and really not the same. That everyone who comes to America should be so glad to be here that they happily learn English and fit in. And conversely that everyone brings a rich heritage to us which should be respected. That RNOs need to address a certain distrust of government by some groups. That apathy is a problem that confronts every RNO in the City. That music is a universal language which can bring people together with a community program - perhaps in a park in summer, and projects such as making luminarias at Christmas. That getting new younger members is important in every RNO. That another element of diversity may be "class," something to study further.

At noon Michael Henry explained that time was up for this meeting, but that there is clearly a need for a sub-committee to be formed for future study. A number of people signed up after the meeting. Please notify Michael Henry at 303-377-6609 if you wish to join this group. This program was an excellent beginning on a very important topic. Many thanks to Michael Henry and all the panelists for their much-appreciated participation.



## Address Corrections And Subscriptions

Those wishing to be added to INC's  
subscription list, or  
present recipients who wish to  
change e-mail or other addresses,  
should contact  
Karen Cuthbertson  
at  
[athmarpark@ecentral.com](mailto:athmarpark@ecentral.com)



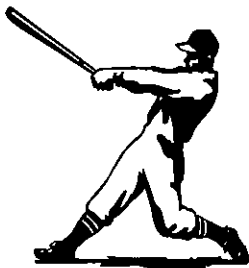
**From the December 11, 2004**

### **INC Delegates' Meeting**

**Athmar Park** -- At Alameda and Tejon, development at the old Faye Meyer's site is almost complete, and Kipp Sunshine Peak Academy construction will begin soon.

**Baker** -- New restaurant/bar may go in at 1st and Broadway, which would put three liquor licenses on one side of the same block. The neighborhood's holiday party was December 14 at Job's Daughters' Meeting Hall, 2nd and Acoma.

**Ballpark Neighborhood** -- With a number of dance-cabaret and tavern licenses, how to control crowds after 2 a.m. as they exit clubs and taverns is a concern. So are homelessness issues and Triangle park. New loft and condo developers are urged to represent the historic district warehouse architecture adequately.



**Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods** -- Will be hiring a new executive director and electing a new board in January. Also, CHUN and the Greater Capitol Hill Events Center, which owns and manages the Tears-McFarlane Mansion at 1290 Williams, are considering a merger, which will likely occur in early 2005.

**Cherry Creek East** -- Held its first ever Alley and Garage Clean-out Day in October.

**College View** -- Has interest in the initiative to improve or re-vamp Neighborhood Inspection Services. Graffiti is still an issue, as is cruising, and the group continues to address zoning matters.

**Cook Park** -- Zoning has been an ongoing issues for six years regarding 1518 S. Jasmine St., originally a 23 foot deep hole, now 12 feet deep; the City says it should be no more than 9 feet deep.

**Godsman** -- Police are still working on the drug problems at 1100 S. Raritan. Good job. Car thefts are up. Elections were held; many younger people are joining. The association's next meeting is January 6, 7-8:30 p.m. at Godsman Elementary School, 2120 W. Arkansas Ave.

**Golden Triangle** -- Is working on the Mayor's Justice Center Task Force.

**Hampden South Homeowners** -- Traffic diversion is going well at I-25 and Hampden. The Marriott Hotel is now a Sheraton. Construction is underway for a 292 unit residence and business complex. Businesses opening soon in the area are Vanilla Bean, City Wide Bank, Qdoba Restaurant (open), Arby's, and Whole Foods at Tiffany Plaza - a large project.

**Inspiration Point** -- As a good faith effort, the group has collected over \$2800 to show the City that it wants to save the Rollendet Campgrounds as open space. It is believed that the City has agreed to buy it.

**University Park** -- Continues to keep a careful eye on zoning variances and new construction projects. Mayor Hickenlooper will speak at UP School in early January in honor of the school's and community's work promoting safe pedestrian access to the school. Bylaws are being updated. The Holiday Sing was a great success.

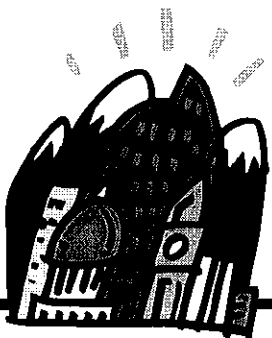
**Washington Park East** -- Is working with other neighborhoods to swap ideas and share resources to produce a) crime initiatives, b) clean-up projects, c) historic initiatives, d) raising neighborhood association profile, etc. It will continue and enhance this effort during 2005.

**Denver Parks & Recreation** -- Don't let winter cold be an excuse to work off the holiday calories. Contact your local recreation center for information on exercise

*Continued on page 5*

## Around the City

Continued from page 4



and fitness programs for all ages and abilities, including special needs. Denver City Council has approved minor fee increases as of January 1, 2005. Also, rec centers will be available for special event rental (such as kids' birthdays, small socials) during regular hours. This includes gym, pool, activity and multi-purpose rooms. If there are concerns about any rec center or if you'd like a Parks/Rec speaker at your association meeting, please contact Harriet R. Hogue at 720-913-0694.

**The Park People's** Denver Digs Trees program is underway. Street tree application forms are available (deadline January 21). Call 303-722-6262 for information.

**Solid Waste Management** -- Waste Wise, year-end mailing is on the way. Expanded recycling program will begin in June 2005. Christmas Tree recycling will begin January 3, 2005.

## Minutes of December 11 INC Delegates' Meeting

*By Diana Helper  
INC Secretary*

Nearly 60 people attended the December 11 INC Delegates' Meeting at the new Denver Police District 3 building on South University Boulevard near I-25. INC President Elizabeth Hamilton opened the meeting with a welcome, and her announcement that she was married over the Thanksgiving weekend to Paul Mitchell received enthusiastic applause.

During an extensive "Around the City" segment, 43

delegates and City representatives reported on successes and concerns of neighborhoods throughout Denver. Sharing these reports is a valuable part of each INC meeting. The comments of delegates who chose to write on our clipboard appear on page 4.

A letter to the City requesting that the Neighborhood Inspection Services (NIS) meeting on December 16 include plans for a continuing study with citizen representation regarding NIS, was circulated by Keith Howard for signatures. A petition supporting the City's proposed noise ordinance regulations was circulated by Lisa Dobson for signatures. Both documents had the approval of the INC Board.

There was then a break for refreshments and an opportunity to speak individually with delegates and City personnel about matters of particular interest, and to pick up informational material provided by neighborhoods and City agencies. Refreshments, holiday decorations, and little wrapped gifts for everyone (thanks to Beth Trudgeon and Mary Walsh) were provided by Virginia Village and Cook Park RNOs.

The program topic was "How Can Neighborhood Organizations Encourage Diversity in Membership and Participation?" A panel, put together by INC Zoning and Planning Committee Chair Michael Henry, included Judy Martinez, Art Branscomb, Bob Homiak, Susan Maxfield, Neil Krauss, and Karen Cuthbertson. Each panelist spoke for five minutes, and then all replied to a wide variety of comments and questions from the audience. It was clear that there are many methods, challenges, and needs for encouraging diversity and inclusiveness. An INC task force is being formed for further study. Details of the day's program are in a separate article, which is on page 9.

### **Dollar Dictionary Begins 10<sup>th</sup> Year**

INC's tenth Dollar Dictionary Drive will kick off at the Presidents' Dinner on January 26, 2005. The Coins for Kids program last year was great fun and it will be continued at the dinner. So bring those extra pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to drop into the our Dictionary Dinosaur buckets!

# INC Awards Nomination Form

Each year, INC sponsors three awards which are given during the annual Presidents' Dinner in the fall. Review the criteria for each award and, if you know someone who qualifies, use this form to nominate that person for one of the awards. **Nominations are due by January 8, 2005**, and should be mailed to INC at P.O. Box 181009, Denver, 80218 or e-mailed to INC Chair Elizabeth Hamilton at elizabeth.hamilton@ci.denver.co.us.

## The Virginia Oredson Award

- Criteria:
1. The nominee should have encouraged Denver neighborhoods to work together in a common effort to solve community problems and in particular has supported INC.
  2. The nominee should have established a record of selfless community service in a number of different causes.
  3. The nominee should have encouraged and motivated others to volunteer their services to engage in community improvement efforts.

## The Bill Gross Award

- Criteria:
1. The nominee should work in the public safety sector in the City and County of Denver.
  2. The nominee should have a strong record of working with neighborhoods to better public safety in the community.
  3. The nominee should have made Denver a safer place in which to live.

## The Walt Kembel Award

- Criteria:
1. The winner must be an INC delegate or member.
  2. The award winner should have contributed to INC during the past year over and above normal expectations to develop and promote the organization or
  3. The winner should have moved INC forward or in new directions in creative or unexpected ways.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Award nominated for (circle one)**

**Virginia Oredson Award**

**Bill Gross Award**

**Walt Kembel Award**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Night Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person's Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Night Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a statement indicating why your nominee should win the award**

# Minutes of December 13 INC Board Meeting

*By Diana Helper  
INC Secretary*

The December 13 INC Board meeting began at 6:05 p.m. Present were Elizabeth Hamilton, Dave Webster, Diana Helper, Diane Wolta, Anthony Thomas, Karen Cuthbertson, Ken Beaudrie, Mike Henry, Cathee Fisher, Steve Nissen, and Vicki Gritters. Minutes of the November 8 meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report was approved as amended.

Discussions included the need for nominations for the INC awards to be presented at the Presidents' Dinner on January 26, 2005, and future INC delegate monthly meeting sites and programs. Other topics included updates on the Neighborhood Handbook, INC attendance at the City's meeting regarding Neighborhood Inspection Services (NIS), and updating the INC website. Karen will look into the website concern.

INC bylaws will be reviewed for possible updating by a sub-committee including Diane Wolta, Ken Beaudrie, Vicki Gritters, Karen Cuthbertson, Michael Henry and Cathee Fisher. Dave Webster will check on INC registration with the state. Elizabeth Hamilton will register INC with the City.

The Presidents' Dinner is set for January 26 at the Convention Center. Denver Convention and Visitor's Bureau is the sponsor. Peter Park will speak. Karen Cuthbertson will print nametags. The wording of invitations was discussed. Elizabeth Hamilton will arrange to have them printed.

The Dollar Dictionary Drive is gearing up for its 10th year. The Board voted unanimously to continue this project. Cathee Fisher and Steve Nissen have revised the brochure.

Michael Henry reported on the Zoning and Planning Committee. The Board will ask delegates on January 8 to vote for INC's support of the proposed changes in the Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO)

ordinance, which will be discussed at the City Council Blueprint Denver Committee on January 12. The text will be sent to RNOs (see page 1 for a synopsis of the proposal). Following the Diversity and Inclusiveness panel at INC's December 11 meeting, a number of delegates joined the task force Michael Henry suggested to pursue this topic. The Board agreed to this effort, and Dave Webster will also be on the task force. Also, Michael Henry reported that Public Works has adopted new regulations regarding public rights-of-way. The Board authorized Diana Helper, as INC Secretary, to send a letter to Public Works and Peter Park requesting that RNOs have an opportunity to read the text and comment.

INC's archives must be moved from the Temple Events Center. Several Board members will check through the files and then contact Denver Public Library, which has offered to maintain the files in its Western History archives and will pick them up from the place we have found to house them while checking them over.



In January the Board will discuss the INC data base, at Vicki Gritters' request. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

## ***The Big Chill***

**Continued from page 3**

She and other citizens who had circulated petitions were terrified at the potential dollar impact on their lives. The American Civil Liberties Union came into the matter, calling it a "tactic aimed at silencing legitimate citizen participation in local government" proceedings. The judge agreed, and the developer dropped the lawsuit, but did the citizens really win? They were intimidated regarding future action in other cases.

Pring encouraged us not to be intimidated, to stand up for our First Amendment rights, to show developers who might threaten us or our RNOs that this will not work to their advantage.



# **Zoning & Planning Committee Meeting Notes**

*By Diana Helper  
ZAP Committee Member*

The INC Zoning and Planning (ZAP) committee met November 13, 2004, with 35 in attendance. Announcements included Civic Center Plan follow-up on December 2, Planning Board (PB) Annual Report showing a better tie between PB and work programs, PB Workshop December 4, and a look at George Pring's book "SLAPPs- Getting Sued for Speaking Out" which Charles Howard has bought for the West University Community Association (WUCA) library.

Paul Ryan and Bruce O'Donnell spoke about the five rezoning applications customized by waivers and conditions in the proposed General Development Plan (GDP) for Gates East redevelopment. The public hearing at City Council is December 13. The 900 S. Broadway building (1912) is considered for preservation. City Council states that activity on the Gates East site must not interfere with transportation issues, so the City can solve traffic problems. Once rezoned, traffic and transition studies are required. Environmental Impact Studies relate to transportation design and traffic mitigation.

Rob Duncanson, Engineering Manager for Public Works Engineering Services, talked about alleys and street vacation requests. Notification is sent to the appropriate City Council person and neighborhood planner. Local neighbors are notified, and then there is a public posting. Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) do not receive written notice until after the Planning Office and other City agencies have already submitted their comments. RNOs must consider this need for notification and Community Planning and Development Department coordination. Vacations can be useful or detrimental. INC will later write a letter to Public Works Director on this subject.

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson spoke of proposed new restrictions or moratoriums on fast-food restaurants (drive-throughs). There should be a public process

regarding appropriate distance from residences.

Councilwoman Jeanne Robb talked about proposed changes to Neighborhood Registration and Notification, with regulations to represent the real make-up of a neighborhood. There are 270 RNOs in Denver, some of which do not have meetings and may consist of only a few members. The City should require at least an annual meeting with 12 members. If oral testimony is to be given, it should be shown that this represents the majority of the neighborhood residents.

ZAP Committee members reviewed and approved two letters to send to City officials. One was to the Planning Board and Peter Park regarding public notice and comment at Planning Board meetings. The public needs to know when response is or is not allowed at PB. Mayor Hickenlooper is quoted as encouraging public participation. Kiersten Faulker, staff planner to the PB, stated that PB will discuss public comment. Public testimony requires notification of the PB Hearing. Public comment is less formal. City Council passed Mixed-Use zoning which states that no public hearing is needed at PB. Fred Corn said that the PB will address this issue. He said we should expect PB to hear views.

The second letter, to be sent to Public Works Director Bill Vidal, regards the Strategic Transportation Plan. INC believes this must involve citizens, and address multi-modal, safety, environment, quality of life neighborhood concerns, as well as timely solutions to urgent problems, implementation, and enforcement. These two letters were circulated for ZAP member signatures.

Kiersten Faulkner explained that a GDP is needed when it meets the triggers of Residential, Commercial or Transit Mixed-Use zoning, aggregate open space, changes in streets, drainage/water systems, or is T-MU-30. The applicant must describe intent, meeting requirements, get approval, and meet standards. It is tied to zoning, but infrastructure is a matter for Public Works, and Parks and Recreation consideration is needed. The site plan can be configured later with public input. Rules and regulations are being established. Mixed-Use zoning requires less public input than Planned Unit Development (PUD).

The next ZAP meeting will be January 22 at 9:30 a.m. at 1201 Williams St. in the 19th floor party room. Any neighborhood representatives interested in ZAP issues are welcome.

# Importance of Diversity In Neighborhood Associations Discussed

*By Diana Helper  
INC Secretary*

"How Can Neighborhood Organizations Encourage Diversity in Membership and Participation?" This was the question for discussion by panel members and by delegates of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation at the December 2004 INC meeting.

Michael Henry, INC Zoning and Planning Committee chairman, assembled a panel of six speakers, each of whom presented a five-minute talk. Following these presentations the panelists responded to questions and comments by members of the audience. The panelists were:

Judy Martinez of the Colorado Foundation for Families and Children,

Art Branscomb, a founder of INC and of the Park Hill Community Association,

Bob Homiak, Present Chairman of the Greater Park Hill Community,

Susan Maxfield, Diversity Manager for the City and County of Denver,

Neil Krauss, Vice-Chancellor and Neighborhood Liaison for University of Denver, and

Karen Cuthbertson, President of Athmar Park Neighborhood Organization and member-at-large on the INC Board.

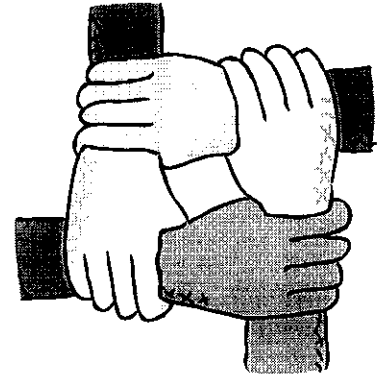
The panel's presentations:

Judy Martinez spoke of the need for representation of an entire community, increasing membership and sustaining it in the Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO). On-line statistics are available for demographic information about neighborhoods.

Suggestions include mapping the neighborhood,

interviewing and getting to know people who do not attend RNO meetings, asking neighbors to bring a friend to meetings, having a sign-in sheet and following up on attendees, have gatherings other than formal meetings at times and in places convenient to those you hope to encourage to attend and learn of individuals' skills and interests. People want to make a difference, and need to feel that through the RNO they are making one.

Art Branscomb gave an interesting overview of the history of the Park Hill Community organization, begun in the early days of that neighborhood's integration. He was instrumental in forming Park Hill Action, which enforced zoning, encouraged block parties, sought and maintained good input from the black families moving to Park Hill, and generally made this an "interesting place" to live. He asked if any INC delegates present believed that their neighborhoods today have black/white integration concerns, or if integration seems smooth and unremarkable? No delegates responded with any awareness of concern.



Bob Homiak stated that Park Hill's website postings are to be made in English and Spanish. The RNO works with local schools, has outreach to local places of worship (with representatives on the RNO board), and works with the Northeast Park Hill Coalition. Property use is a continuing focus, with attention to the neighbors in the immediate area of the particular case.

Susan Maxfield urged that each RNO know the diversity it encompasses. She suggested that one of the best ways to get acquainted with neighbors who have not been active (and those who are) is to meet over food and drink. Potluck suppers, cooking together, coffee, and other informal times are good ways to get together. Once friendships are begun, working together on common neighborhood concerns can follow more easily.

Neil Krauss spoke of his work with neighborhoods

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# Diversity In Neighborhood Associations

Continued from page 9

Millennium Generation" of today's students -- "wired and materialistic." He recommended talking with students personally about things that matter both to neighborhoods and to students such as safety concerns and respect. Students spend a lot of time at coffeehouses, so that might be a good place to meet with them. Neighbors have learned that going next door to say hello to their student-renters usually is the best way to establish communication and rapport.

Karen Cuthbertson stated that in her neighborhood a realtor informs the RNO when a house has sold, and the board members visit the new residents. Every board member visits a house where a zoning appeal has been posted, and visits the near neighbors, too. There are annual neighborhood projects, a picnic, and meetings which emphasize that you are invited to come and say what YOU want the neighborhood to work on.

## Comments and Questions:

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson said that RNOs are primarily either issue-driven or personality driven. In some cases, these are combined. There is surely a need in many neighborhoods for attention to diversity and inclusiveness (within the eleven Council Districts there are a total of 270 RNOs).

Billie Bramhall, an INC delegate from the Golden Triangle and a past member of the Community Planning and Development Department, talked about the diversity of old vs. new residents, public housing concerns, and the existence of stable minority neighborhoods.

Harriett Hogue of the Department of Parks and Recreations, and formerly a City planner, remembered helping to write the first RNO ordinance, when there

were just 70 RNOs. She stressed involving children and thus reaching parents, with crafts, day care, school groups. She pointed out that different cultures define "respect" in different ways, it is important to understand what is meaningful to each.

Other comments included the opinion that we are actually all "the same." And conversely that we are all "individuals" and really not the same. That everyone who comes to America should be so glad to be here that they happily learn English and fit in. And conversely that everyone brings a rich heritage to us which should be respected. That RNOs need to address a certain distrust of government by some groups. That apathy is a problem that confronts every RNO in the City. That music is a universal language which can bring people together with a community program - perhaps in a park in summer, and projects such as making luminarias at Christmas. That getting new younger members is important in every RNO. That another element of diversity may be "class," something to study further.

At noon Michael Henry explained that time was up for this meeting, but that there is clearly a need for a sub-committee to be formed for future study. A number of people signed up after the meeting. Please notify Michael Henry at 303-3776609 if you wish to join this group. This program was an excellent beginning on a very important topic. Many thanks to Michael Henry and all the panelists for their much-appreciated participation.

## Address Corrections And Subscriptions

**Those wishing to be added to INC's  
subscription list, or  
present recipients who wish to  
change e-mail or other addresses,  
should contact  
Karen Cuthbertson  
at  
athmarpark@ecentral.com**

## Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) 2005 Membership Application

INC is a consortium of Denver neighborhood representatives who believe that neighborhood organizations deserve a greater role in participating in city government, as well as a shared vision that individual neighborhoods are stronger when they work together and learn from one another.

**Please visit [www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc) for more information and a copy of this application.**

**NOTE: Only delegates of Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) may vote on INC issues. Dues must be paid by March 12, 2005 for delegates to vote in the March election.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ My organization would like to join as a(n):

- ☐ Member (voting RNO: \$35)
- ☐ Member Patron (voting RNO plus contribution: \$75. Patron names appear in **Bold** in our newsletter.)
- ☐ Associate (non-voting individual or group: \$20)
- ☐ Associate Patron (non-voting individual/group plus contribution: \$75. Patron names in **Bold** in our newsletter.)

Organization name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization boundaries (if applicable):

North: \_\_\_\_\_ South: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_ West: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Each organization may list TWO voting delegates, whose names MUST be entered below. The President of the organization is NOT automatically a delegate.**

Organization President: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Check here if President is also a delegate

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

INC Delegate #1: \_\_\_\_\_ **NOTE: If President is a delegate, then he or she is delegate #1. Proceed to Delegate #2**

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

INC Delegate #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose your dues with this form and bring to an INC meeting or mail to:  
Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, P.O. Box 181009, Denver, CO 80218**

**Next Meeting**  
**Saturday**  
**January 8**  
**2005**

**Green Valley Ranch  
Recreation Center**

**4890 Argonne Way  
(49th & Andes)**

Directions: I-70 to Pena Blvd. or  
Tower Rd., north to 48th, then  
east on 48th. One block east of  
Tower Rd., turn north on Andes.

The building in one block in front  
of you, just northeast of King  
Soopers.

**Sponsored by**  
**Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc.**

**AGENDA**

**9:00**

**Coffee and Chat**

**9:15**

**Around the City**

**9:30**

**Committee Reports**

**10:00**

**Amendments to  
Neighborhood Registration  
Ordinance**

**11:00**

**Infrastructure Task  
Force & Transportation  
Model**

**Noon**

**Adjourn**

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

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