

September 2017

**Neighborhoods Work Better
When They Work Together**

The newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood

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Denver INC Sponsors Public Forum

Elements of Lawsuits Pertaining to Platte to Park Hill Storm Water Diversion & the I-70 Expansion

DENVER - Denver's Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation is sponsoring an open forum about the elements of lawsuits pertaining to Platte to Park Hill storm water diversion ("The Ditch") and the I-70 expansion and re-route project. At present there are four lawsuits pending from various citizen organizations. This educational forum will focus on the heart of these lawsuits.

Date/time: Saturday September 9 8:30AM-11:30AM.

Location: Manual High School, 1700 E 28th Ave.

Current panelists include:

Bill DeGroot Retired Manager, Floodplain Management Program, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
Albert Melcher, MS, Captain, Civil; Engineer Corps
Dennis Royer, former director of Public Works for Boston and engineer at Denver Public Works
John VanSciver, Civil Engineer and Patty Ortiz, Civil Engineer Representation from CDOT and the City of Denver to be announced
Open to the public. No cost to attend. Coffee & light refreshments served.



Proposed changes from 2016 rendering

Mark Your Calendars-INC Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 9

INC will feature a panel related to legal issues surrounding I-70 changes near Globeville and "The Ditch" drainage project proposed through City Park Golf Course. (P2P/Platte to Park Hill).

Location: Manual High School, 1700 E 28th Ave, Denver – Free parking onsite

Saturday October 14

Get educated about November ballot initiatives and DPS school board candidates.

Location: Rita Bass Trauma Center Auditorium at Denver Health 190 W. Sixth Ave, Denver - Free parking onsite

Saturday November 11

Come learn about how to get involved in shaping your city. We'll learn about Denver advisory boards and commissions: what they are, what is open currently and how to apply.

Location: Willis Case Golf Club, 4999 Vrain St, Denver – Free parking onsite

December

There is no monthly member meeting in December.

Please check www.denverinc.org/Calendar for meeting locations.

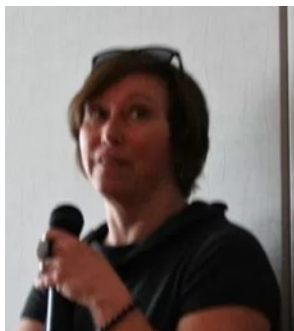
Subscriptions are free. Subscription requests and changes of address should be e-mailed to newsletter@denverinc.org

To submit articles and photos please send submissions by e-mail to DenverIncNews@aol.com by the 25th of the month to guarantee inclusion.

RNOs are welcome to reprint the articles in their own newsletters. Please cite INC as the source

Unless otherwise noted.

New INC Board Members



Welcome new board members! At the August monthly meeting of delegates, Jo Barrios from Uptown on the Hill was elected as INC Secretary to fill the term for Bob Inmann, who needed to leave to manage personal issues. Loretta Koehler from Baker Historic neighborhood was elected as delegate-at-large to fill the term vacated by Steve Nissen when he was elected as INC Treasurer at March elections.

***How to automatically know
when INC posts new articles
to our website
(www.denverinc.org)?***

Website

E-mail

At the bottom of all website posted articles, you will see a *Leave a Reply* comments area with requirements for a name and email (though your email address will not appear in the reply). Under that are checkbox options you can choose to notify you about follow-up responses to your reply AND/OR notify you of new article posts by email.

INC DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2017

Location: Brookdale University Park

Call to order by JJ Nieman President.

Delegate quorum established (27) at 9:10am.

MINUTES

July minutes were approved - 22 in favor, 0 oppose, and 5 abstentions

INC BUSINESS-Committee Reports

ZAP Committee – Margie Valdez

Margie proposed a motion related to the city's P-3 office. The motion stated:

"Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) strongly urges the proposal to create an office for public-private partnerships within Denver City Government that will screen, vet and shepherd P-3 or public-private partnerships related to major city projects be delayed until such time as the specifics of the proposal have been released or shared and adequate time is included for the proposal to be vetted with both City Council members and the public-at-large. Further, INC requests City Council to refuse to support the proposal known as P-3 until more informed community discussion and transparency can occur."

The motion was seconded by George Mayl.

Margie went through concerns:

Proprietary information and Deliberative concerns

Not subject to CORA

Negotiations would be done by city employees versus city council

Only one other city has this (DC)

The office is being considered for the Western Complex and the Performing Arts Center. The discussion ensued about reservations of city council, whether a floor motion is valid (it is). Motion is not for supporting P3 or not, but to delay until more information is available. There was discussion about the lack of transparency and amount of money involved.

AI called to question. The vote was 33 in favor, 1 oppose, and 1 abstention.

Transportation Committee- Joel Noble

Joel provided a report of the latest meeting on 13 July 2017. Discussion included Denver Moves, which is a plan on how to move people around within downtown. There was also discussion on the GO Bond. There are approximately \$400M in transportation related projects. Sidewalks were discussed as a specific example, and Joel confirmed there are pots of money for bike lane and sidewalks. Last, Joel discussed the split of Denver Public Works and the moving of the Denver Department of Transportation. This was praised as a good decision since it will give the office more visibility with the Mayor. Finalization of the split will take about two years.

Parks Committee- Maggie Price

Maggie discussed the Overland Park music festival. The Parks Committee was not in favor of paid events at parks. (The PARC platform adopted by the delegation is opposed to submission based events in public parks.) The City Park Golf Course issue will go to court – the argument being the use of the course in the manner that is proposed is prohibited by charter. It was confirmed that there are termination provisions in the city contract.

Business Updates

JJ stated that there will be a GO bond discussion at next meeting, including a discussion of a text amendment.

There was a brief discussion on the details for next month's delegate meeting / forum.

JJ provided a reminder that the INC survey is coming out and encouraged everyone to participate.

INC DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

JJ reminded everyone that Denver Decides is coming up. Please check INC website for times and events. There was some discussion that Denver Channel 8 is only available on Comcast and that many people may not have access. The discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

There was a discussion on the Public Safety Enforcement Priorities Act. JJ was curious as to how many delegates were in favor. There was an informal show of hands (no official motion). A majority of delegates raised their hands, but there is no official INC stance or vote on this issue.

SPECIAL PROGRAM-Led by Jo Barrios

The delegates were split up into small groups for roundtable discussions moderated by members of the INC Executive Committee. Discussions included: issues neighborhoods are facing, what INC can do to help, and what delegates' expectations are of INC. Each small group discussion was led by a member of the INC Executive Committee (EC). After the discussions, the EC member briefed out the high level topics that were discussed:

Loretta Koehler's Group:

- Concerned with quality schools in the neighborhood, transportation, development (major issues) and housing affordability
- Residents are feeling alienated, not listened to, and powerless
- Need to get the liquor and pot shops to work better with the neighborhoods
- INC can help by:
 - ◇ Providing training on ordinances and how RNO's are impacted
 - ◇ How to go be a good citizen pamphlet
 - ◇ EC reps going to RNOs to meet and talk

Hank Bootz Group:

- Parks committee helped Hank's RNO get off the ground
- INC veterans could go out to RNOs to help them get started
- Getting young people involved is a challenge. Possible ways is to reach out to other organizations and meet at night
- Main issues are high density housing and marijuana vendors being mixed in with neighborhoods

- Some RNOs have good communications, but some need help with social media. Flyers also seem to work well.

Joel Noble's Group:

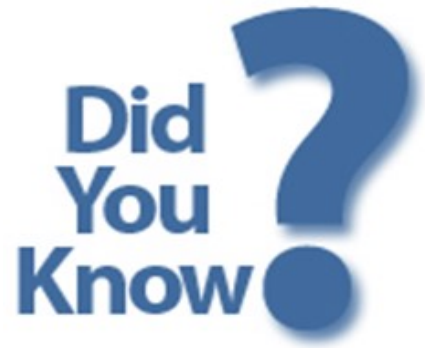
- High turnover and getting people to attend are issues for RNOs
- Other issues include how to get younger people involved, how to get to know people who live in multi-unit buildings, and raising money
- Training for being an RNO would be very valuable (how does it work, what standing do you have with city, difference between other organizations, etc.) as well as training on specific topics
- Something that would be helpful is "Just in Time" training – it would be about issues that RNOs need to know now. Training would include point people who know about the issue.
- An INC Speaker's Bureau would also be helpful.

Maggie Price's Group:

- Main concerns are homelessness and liquor and marijuana licenses
- There is a need for more INC publicity and how INC can work with neighborhoods
- To attract new and young members, we have to reach out to renters and provide them means to come to us. It would also be helpful to provide information so they know their renters' rights.
- Another suggestion is to get high schools involved with RNOs.

George Mayl's Group:

- Reminder that any INC RNO can use survey monkey for free.
- Compile best practices and common issues on INC website
- Suggest doing Front Porch Fridays where RNOs walk door to door and engage neighbors
- Can we provide a link on Next Door to INC?
- Suggest having INC provide website support to other RNOs in order to reach out to younger demographics



INC DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

More detailed notes from the groups will be compiled and used to set INC's agenda for future delegate meetings. More to come on this discussion at future meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Beth from Highlands –

Home Plate event at North High School on 31 August from 5 – 7pm, includes a barbecue for parents and faculty.

Loretta from Baker –

Meetings on August 16th at 7pm at the Cop Shop in Alameda Marketplace for a development on Broadway. Discussion is about a zoning change from three stories to five stories.

There is a CHUN wine tasting on September 13th at 13th and Williams. Please go to CHUN website for more details.

Maggie from Congress Park –

Discussion on DPS performance on August 16 at 7pm at REACH school.

Meeting adjourned at 1131

Who can vote at INC meetings?

INC hosts monthly meetings on the second Saturday of every month. Any paid RNO member organization representative shall be recognized as a "Voting Delegate".

Per Bylaws: Each Member Organization (RNO level) shall have no more than two (2) voting delegates, who shall be designated on the annual membership application. Each attending delegate shall have only one (1) vote, regardless of how many member RNO's a delegate represents.

Rotating Delegate Option

We know you are busy so, RNO members can also designate alternating/rotating voting delegates to attend INC's meetings. This means that if your "regular" delegate cannot attend all meetings, your RNO can send a substitute of choice to represent your neighborhood. The "in writing prior to the start of a meeting" includes email notices or when you sign in upon arrival. We hope this makes it easier for your RNO to be represented more often at our meetings.

About INC

Established in 1975, Denver INC (Inter Neighborhood Cooperation) is a voluntary, non-profit coalition of representatives from Denver's registered neighborhood organizations (RNO's), city agencies and others that gather to promote responsible city change and growth for Denver. Membership represents over two-thirds of Denver households. We focus on citizen education/advocacy and fair-balance presentations on issues impacting Denver residents. For more information www.denverinc.org

INC ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES – AUGUST 26, 2017

INC Chair J. J. Niemann convened the meeting of the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Zoning and Planning Committee. The following topics were discussed:

Abe Barge, a Principal City Planner with the Denver Community Planning and Development Department, informed the committee about a **proposed Zoning Code Text Amendment and Zoning Map Amendments for the 38th and Blake-RiverNorth Overlay Zone District**. These will help to implement the year-old 38th and Blake (transit) Station Area Plan. There will be a public open house in late September for these items before they go to the Planning Board and City Council. The Council hearing will tentatively be in early January 2018. The main purposes are:

- To allow taller buildings to support the transit station
- To promote higher design quality for new buildings
- To establish the Platte River as an amenity
- To incentivize affordable housing
- To capture the value of increased development potential to provide community benefits such as affordable housing and/or artist studios

He explained a complicated system to allow greater heights by paying substantially greater affordable housing linkage fees. One committee member suggested that developers should be encouraged to provide reduced-price bus or transit tickets for low-income residents. Evan Dreyer, Deputy Chief of Staff in the Mayor's Office, explained the development of the package of 7 separate **ballot issues for November 7 regarding general obligation bonds**. The last vote on general obligation (GO) bonds was in 2007. There were 5 stakeholder committees, with several neighborhood representatives, that refined and prioritized a list of almost \$4 billion in capital projects needed by the city. The final bond list approved by the Mayor and City Council to present to the voters is \$937 million, not including interest. The separate items are:

- 2A – roads and bridges
- 2B – improvements to venues for arts, history and nature
- 2C – support for City hospitals and urgent care centers
- 2D – build new police stations and update fire stations
- 2E – renovate and modernize city libraries
- 2F – improve parks and recreation centers
- 2G – improve public buildings.

Much information and the entire list of projects can be found at www.ourdenver2017.com. The Committee voted by a vote of 17 in favor, 4 opposed and 2 abstaining to recommend the following to the INC Delegation: **Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation should endorse all 7 of the General Obligation Bond ballot issues in the November 2017 election. The projects are distributed equitably by types of projects and neighborhoods of Denver and have had much public involvement.** Drew Dutcher, president of the Elyria-Swansea Neighborhood Association, described to the committee a **proposed “framework agreement” for the National Western Center**, which is scheduled to go to City Council on September 18. The agreement would approve an “authority” to govern the National Western Center for 50 years. The Committee voted to send the following letter to the Mayor, City Council and director of the National Western Center: The Zoning and Planning Committee of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation met on August 26, 2017 and briefly discussed the proposed “framework agreement” that will govern the National Western Center for the next 50 years and which is expected to be filed with City Council on September 7, 2017. Please note that we had no access to the document to review, because the very lengthy agreement has not been made available to the public and was negotiated and written behind closed doors.

Our committee voted by a vote of 24 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstaining to encourage all of you to postpone the date for final consideration of this agreement for at least a month. This postponement would allow for more citizen awareness and discussion of the contents of this very significant agreement that will affect the city for such a long time and which will apparently remove the National Western Center from involvement by our elected City Council members. We also request that City Council agree to conduct a public hearing on the agreement. We believe that when approval of a complicated contract or other agreement is rushed so quickly, public confidence is reduced, as witness the continuing distrust of the Platte-to-Park Hill project or the recent health-care bills in Congress. Please understand that our committee has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the agreement, but we are only expressing that the National Western Center, the nearby neighborhoods and the citizens of Denver will benefit by an approval process for the agreement that is not as rushed and is more open to the public.

Heather Noyes, the president of the Berkeley-Regis Neighborhood Association, informed the committee about the **progress of the “slot home” task force**, representing neighborhoods. Many new buildings are being built in several zone districts and neighborhoods with the slot-home design, with North Tennyson Street being heavily impacted. One of the main proposals is to require that each residential unit oriented to the street must have an entrance on the street façade. There will be a public meeting to discuss the task force's progress on September 7 at 5:30pm at 1780 Pennsylvania Street.



INC's 2018 Annual Neighborhood Awards Dinner

The tentative date for the annual dinner is January 31 and it will be held at the Doubletree Hotel again in 2018. In addition to the tradition of honoring those who make Denver neighborhoods a better place to be, we are planning a silent auction to benefit a to-be-determined scholarship program.

As always, we urge you to be thinking of deserving people to be nominated for the various awards we make. We'll advise how to submit beginning in October.

Awards Considered

PERSON OF THE YEAR (Virginia Oredson Award): The Virginia Oredson Award is given to a person who:
Has encouraged Denver neighborhoods or citizens to work together in a common effort to solve community problems.
Has established a record of selfless community service and has encouraged and motivated others to volunteer their services to engage in community improvement.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Bill Gross Award): The Bill Gross Award is given to a person who:
Has a strong record of working with neighborhoods to better public safety in the community.
Has made Denver a safer place in which to live.

OUTSTANDING INC DELEGATE (Walt Kembel Award): The Walt Kembel Award is given to a person or group who:
Is an INC delegate or a member of a member RNO.
Has contributed to INC during the past year over and above normal expectations to develop and promote the organization, or has moved INC forward or in new directions in creative or unexpected ways.

Neighborhood Stars: Neighborhood Stars are nominated for that award by the Board of an INC member RNO. A Neighborhood Star is awarded to a person who has:
A person who has made a difference in their neighborhood
Worked individually or with a group to make "Denver a Better Place to Live."
Worked individually or with a group over the past year on a cause or a project that has improved the appearance or the quality of life in their neighborhood.

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We're on the web:
www.denverINC.org

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