INC Meeting of Delegates and Neighborhood Leaders
When: Saturday, November 9
Where: Willis Case Golf Clubhouse
4999 Vrain St, Denver, CO 80212. Enter the golf course from 51st & Tennyson Street

Agenda:
8:30am - Networking
9:00am - Business Meeting
10:15am - Special guest speaker, Katy Strascina, Special Projects Manager in the Office of the Mayor. Katy heads up Special Events And Planning (SEAP), which is a coordinated effort on the part of Mayor Hancock’s Administration to assess the impact of an increasing number of special events citywide and develop policies.

Members Encouraged To Submit INC Award Nominations
All Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation members are encouraged to submit nominations for the awards to be presented at the annual INC Awards dinner, which will be held on January 30, 2014.

For approximately 20 years, INC has given awards to individual neighbors, groups and institutions for their various accomplishments in building a culture in Denver where, even though almost all recipients are unpaid volunteers in the work that they do for neighborhoods, their commitment to their neighborhoods in various ways has made remarkable differences in their communities.

Nominations must be submitted no later than Monday December 30, 2013. To nominate someone, go to our INC website where you can easily fill out a nomination form. Criteria are given for each award. Here is the link to the correct web page: http://www.denverinc.org/2014-awards/

The following are the Award Categories:
• INC Neighborhood Person of the Year
• Community Policing Award
• Outstanding INC Delegate Award
• Dollar Dictionary Drive Award
• Youth Neighborhood Leader Award
• Neighborhood Stars

Annual Award Dinner
January 30, 2014 will be the date of our annual Awards Dinner. Please mark it on your calendar. It is our big celebration of the year where we come together to honor individuals in the community who make contributions to our neighborhoods.

If you would like to help plan the event, please get in touch with the Dinner Co-Chairs: Blake DiMeo or Gayle Rodgers. Their contact info is at the end of this newsletter. We are looking for help with our invitation list, contacting corporate and silent auction sponsors, invitations, awards and registration.

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For up-to-the-minute news, please visit INC’S website: www.denverinc.org
Committee Corner

INC has many special interest committees who meet to address areas of specific importance to the Denver community. The following reports were submitted for recent activities. Please see www.denverINC.org for committee postings and the calendar of meetings.

INC Parks and Recreation Committee
By Diana Helper, PARC member
The INC PARC (Parks and Recreation Committee) met October 15 at 6 p.m. at 2020 S. Monroe St. Present were co-chairs Maggie Price and Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Marlene Johnson, Diana Helper, Ronnie Crawford, John Davenport, Kathleen Wells, Brad Cameron, Renee Lewis, David Hill, Ray Ehrenstein, James Sample, Myles Tangalin, Cindy Johnstone, Larry Ambrose, and guest speaker Michael Bouchard, Sr. Landscape Architect for DPR (Denver Parks and Recreation).

Katie reported PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) items including consideration of the Denver Zoo Gasification Process, which was presented to PARC in August. This is a positive move and Katie asked if PARC wished to support it with a formal vote. Maggie moved that INC PARC gives favorable support to the Gasification Process at the Denver Zoo, seconded by Ray, and passed unanimously. This action will go to INC general meeting Nov. 9.

Katie also reported that PRAB's Mary Ewing has resigned.

At PRAB creation of Platte Park Natural Area in Globeville was discussed. PARC will invite a local representative and a City Council member to speak and answer questions about this project. PARC believes all natural areas should be so designated by DPR before any plans are implemented. The DPR designation process is moving along; all involved want to get it accomplished. Five INC members are on the committee and will urge it forward.

Michael Bouchard spoke on the Denver “RiverVision” project’s Overland and Grant Frontier Park renovation plans. Grant Frontier is to be a “Destination” park. PARC members asked about cost to DPR budget, balancing the needs of other Denver Parks (Prairie Park was mentioned), costs of maintenance, parking, access, safety and lighting concerns, build-up of surrounding areas (height, views, gentrification). One of the Mayor’s priorities for this extensive Platte project is economic growth. Michael will visit PARC again. PARC asked for information on the Weir Gulch and the I-25/Alameda areas of the project.

Larry presented a “Proposed Resolution on GDP Open Space Requirements.” General Development Plans (GDPs) are needed for development of 10 acres or more, and deal with height, infrastructure and open space. GDP precedes zoning. Larry asks that INC request the Denver Planning Board require 10% of Total (Gross) GDP areas (including primary and secondary areas) for all GDPs be devoted to publicly accessible open space as is currently required in the new Zoning Code, and not approve GDPs deficient in open space that would have the effect of diminishing the average per person amount of open space available to residents. After discussion, Cindy moved and Maggie seconded that PARC support this statement. Unanimous vote of approval by PARC. This also will go to INC general meeting, with an explanatory introduction to be written by Kathleen.

Renee reported that Judge Stern wants to discuss the question of administrative or legislative authority in the Hentzell Park case. Please see http://friendsofdenverparks.org for all the latest information. A gala fundraiser will be October 26 at the Crystal Rose on E. Hampden Ave. All are invited. (See website).

Myles distributed copies of Denver Regional Council of Government’s MetroVision 2040 Parks and Open Space Overview survey to fill out and return, with your opinion of parks and open space system strengths, weaknesses, and ideas to establish an integrated, linked, permanent system to make open space accessible to everyone. Visit www.drcog.org/mv2040 for more info. The online survey is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y7KVC2.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Next meeting November 19.

INC ZAP Committee
October 26, 2013
By Michael Henry, Committee Chair
Steve Ferris, the Director of the Development Services Division (DS) (steven.ferris@denvergov.org) of the Denver Department of Community Planning and Development (CPD), appointed by the Mayor 6 months ago, spoke with the committee about the purview of DS (established in 2009). DS includes plan reviews, building inspections and neighborhood inspection services (NIS). He also introduced Tim Kristofek (Chief Inspector of NIS) and Janice Alexander, a manager in CPD. The main intended purpose of DS was to streamline development processes. Of the approximately 180 CPD employees, approximately 120 work within the various sections of DS.

Tim Kristofek (Arnold.Kristofek@denvergov.org – 720-865-3180) explained that NIS enforces against violations of the 2010 zoning code and also the former zoning code where it is still applicable, as well as “a lot of other things for other departments,” such as overgrown weeds and violations in public rights-of-way. He said that NIS has already done 16,000 more inspections so far in 2013 than in all of 2012. He explained that the city’s neglected and derelict building ordinance (not part of the zoning code) was revised in 2009, at which time there were 200 neglected and derelict buildings, to require remediation plans from owners. He indicated that now there are approximately 129 such buildings and that CPD and City Council may discuss “phase 2,” which would develop a funding stream to remediate neglected and derelict buildings if owners are unable or refuse to do so. Committee members stressed that RNOs should be informed about any discussions about “phase 2.” In response to comments from some committee members about possible “over-reaching,” by at least one NIS inspector, he said that he is willing to look into any complaints about inspectors. He also said that the Denver Sheriff Department can help elderly residents to correct property violations if they cannot afford it.

Jessica Ugarte of Historic Denver (jugarte@historicdenver.org – 303-534-5288, ext. 3), the director of Discover Denver, the citywide historic survey, and Savannah Jameson of the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) staff informed the committee about the implementation of Discover Denver. Field surveys were begun in September 2013, trying to find historic and architectural resources in 3 pilot areas (Harvey Park, Berkeley-Regis-Harkness Heights and streetcar commercial areas such as South Pearl and South Gaylord Streets). The product of the surveys of the 3 pilot areas will be available online in the spring of 2014. Then further areas will be surveyed and posted. Help from community and neighborhood volunteers is needed. The survey will be informational only. One goal is to bring communities together to understand their neighborhoods. Most other large cities have citywide historic surveys. More information, including a 1-minute video, can be found at www.discoverdenverco.org. The slogan on the website is “Discover Denver. Know it. Love it. One building at a time.” Contact Jessica if your neighborhood would like to have a presentation.

Barbara Stocklin-Steely, director of the Landmark Preservation Commission, described the LPC’s plan to update the design guidelines which regulate the review and approval of any proposed additions or replacement structures for any LPC-designated landmark structures or structures within landmark districts. Currently, there are 51 historic districts in Denver. Some of the guidelines are 20 years old and need updating. Goals are to make the new guidelines, which need to be completed in June 2014,
more flexible, user-friendly, with graphics that will illustrate what types of additions will likely be approved and with “character-defining” items for each district. The LPC does not have resources to develop separate guidelines for each district. There will be a presentation to the LPC on November 19 and at least 2 public meetings, including one in December 2013. There will soon be more information at www.denvergov.org/preservation.

Bennie Milliner, executive director of Denver’s Road Home (bennie.milliner@denvergov.org - 720.944-2508) spoke about DRH’s winter emergency shelter plans for the homeless. He said that a 1-month shelter for approximately 50 men was established on October 15 at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center and that there will be a rotation among recreation centers around the city through May unless a more permanent site can be located, which he is hopeful about. Neighborhood representatives on Denver’s Homeless Commission continue to insist the neighbors and neighborhood groups need to receive early information and opportunity to discuss any temporary or permanent facilities to serve the homeless as well as general information about the needs of homeless Denverites. Bennie said that transportation to and from emergency shelter facilities will be a part of the program for the upcoming season. Denver Rescue Mission will professionally manage each facility, for example.

Brad Cameron of Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) briefly described an effort by the Public Works Department to adopt regulations for the administration of a parking permit program, including several elements such as “restriction of the parking of motor vehicles in residential areas.” This was posted on the Public Works website and published in the Denver Business Journal, but was not sent to Registered Neighborhood Organizations. Bennie said that transportation to and from emergency shelter facilities will be a part of the program for the upcoming season. Denver Rescue Mission will professionally manage each facility, for example.

7 Ways to Keep Your Home and Neighborhood Safe

By Gayle Rodgers

1.) Get to know your neighbors. Share phone numbers, emails, etc. Report suspicious activity. Crime goes down in neighborhoods where people know their neighbors. Crooks hate loud dogs and nosy neighbors.

2.) Don’t make it easy for a thief. Lock your windows and doors! This includes side garage doors. One of our neighbors had his car stolen. They entered through an unlocked side garage door during the middle of the night. Another neighbor had a bike stolen because of a garage door being open. Close your garage door!

3.) When out of town stop your paper delivery or have a neighbor pick it up. Newspapers piled on the driveway advertise that you are not home.

4.) When out of town have someone remove flyers from the front door.

5.) If it snows while you’re out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house.

6.) Avoid announcing you are going on vacation on social media sites.

Executive Committee Recap

INC EC meeting minutes October 12, 2014

September Minutes were approved by Katie Fisher and seconded by Cindy Johnston. It was unanimously recommended that Larry Ambrose write a letter to send from INC to a farewell gathering in appreciation of Catherine Sandy, a great leader of Overland Neighborhood Association, who is moving to Florida.

September 2013 Treasurers Report was approved.

Award Dinner Committee has a resolution for Board approval, changing the name of the awards to a more generic name still honoring the awards namesake. For example, Outstanding INC Delegate, honoring Walt Kembel, instead of the Walt Kembel Award.

Michael Henry will write a letter for neighborhoods to nominate candidates for the awards. Randle Loeb will script a press release for the neighborhoods. The board approved the resolution. Preliminary information will go out in the November newsletter ‘Save the Date.’ Cindy Johnstone will order the awards. Larry Ambrose will update the mailing list for the dinner. Silent auction subcommittee is in place and making headway.

Education Committee – discussion about election forums. Committee should look at the possibility of a one-day forum in a centralized location instead of several forums all over town. Develop a more balanced approach and assignment of duties. We will continue to work with the League of Women Voters.

Communication Committee – Gayle Rodgers thanked Michael Henry for proof reading the newsletter. Joel Noble and Steve Nissen would like to do it, too. Michael Broussard will be at the Parks and Rec Committee meeting tomorrow in Globeville. They will be looking at a resolution to enforce the parks zoning code around GDP.

Transportation Committee – Meeting in November is on the 14th. Topics will include: RTD, steward value cards, Cherry Creek parking, and Transit options in Cherry Creek.
Resolution In Honor of Catherine Sandy

Whereas, Catherine Sandy was a leader alongside the late Deb Sanchez in the thirty plus year battle with large corporations and even the EPA to finally clean up and haul away the radioactive wastes left behind by Shattuck’s abrogation of their responsibility to remediate the only such polluted site within any city in the U.S.A., and

Whereas, Senator Ken Salazar and Congressman Wayne Allard crossed party lines to speak to and recognized Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Sandy at a ceremony celebrating the completion of the clean up, and

Whereas Mayor Wellington Webb also spoke in praise of Catherine Sandy along with representatives from the EPA and the remediation contractors, with many of the neighborhood activists present, and

Whereas, Catherine Sandy was front and center and is our keeper of the history of this momentous undertaking along with the late preacher, civic leader and most visible leader Deb Sanchez, and

Whereas, Catherine Sandy never faltered in the fight and educated herself beyond all neighbors in the intricate science of pollution and toxic waste, and

Whereas her demands forced the EPA to rethink and eventually have a concrete monolith atop the radioactive site broken up and removed, along with the dangerous materials sealed beneath, and

Whereas Catherine has tirelessly served the Overland Neighborhood Association and the Denver neighborhood movement,

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of Inter-neighborhood Cooperation does honor and profusely thank Catherine Sandy for her long time exemplary work and accomplishments.

On this day, October 24, 2013,

Larry Ambrose, President, INC
Proposed Resolution on GDP Open Space Requirements

To ensure a high quality of life for current and future residents, it is urgent that the City and County of Denver acquire additional parkland and provide adequate publicly accessible open space in new developments. This is because our population is increasing; we have a very low percentage of city land devoted to parkland and inadequate open space within developments places additional demands upon Denver’s parks system.

For example, at present, the City and County of Denver has approximately 5,900 acres of parkland and open space within the city limits. Of the 43 U.S. cities of comparable density, with 9.8 acres per 1000 residents, Denver ranks 29th in the number of acres per 1,000 residents. With regard to area of parkland as a percentage of city land area, at 6%, Denver ranks 26th. Six percent compares poorly to 38.2% for Fremont, California, 19.7% for San Diego, California and 18.7% for Albuquerque, New Mexico, the top three cities of comparable density in the list. The top quarter of comparable cities has more than double the percentage of city land devoted to parkland than has Denver. (Trust for Public Land, City Park Facts, 2012).

The threat to quality of life to Denver’s residents posed by inadequate parkland and publicly accessible open space will only increase in light of population growth and new development. U.S. Census Bureau data show that for the fourth time in the past five years, Denver has led the state in population growth, with a 2.42 percent population increase between 2011 and 2012 alone (denverurbanism.com/2013/03/census-estimates). As a result, it is critical that our public policies support an enthusiastic expansion of the proportion of land within the City and County of Denver devoted to parkland and publicly accessible open space.

It was with this in mind and to clarify ambiguities that existed in the old Zoning Code that in 2010 the new Denver Zoning Code clearly set minimum standards as part of the General Development Plan approval process. Therefore, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) does now resolve that:

WHEREAS the Denver Zoning Code Ordinance Section 12.4.12.5 Minimum Open Space requirements for a GDP reads:

All applications for a General Development Plan shall comply with the following open space standards:

A. Minimum Amount Required
   1. A minimum of 10% of the total GDP area (including the Primary Area plus any Secondary Areas) shall be included in the GDP as open space

B. Design Criteria
   1. The required open space shall be provided in one (1) or more areas.

   2. The required open space shall remain publicly accessible and usable.

   3. The required open space shall result in one or more of the following public benefits:
      a. Enhanced connections to transit facilities, plazas, or streets
      b. Enhanced pedestrian environments and/or
      c. Enhances or creates public spaces.

WHEREAS, a determination has been made by Denver Community Planning and Development that the publicly accessible open space is net and not gross, which allows the deduction of right-of-ways and results in lower required open space, and

WHEREAS, the requirements for publicly accessible open space in General Development Plans is intended to be a minimum amount and that as a public policy goal, more open space rather than less is desirable, and

WHEREAS, the “determination” that a lower amount of publicly accessible open space than that required by the Zoning Code ordinance will set a dangerous and unacceptable precedent in regard to the impact of any new large development in all Denver neighborhoods,

NOW THEREFORE, does the Parks & Recreation Committee, the Zoning and Planning Committee and the Delegation of INC declare that the Denver Planning Board require that 10% of Total (Gross) General Development Plan Areas, (including primary and secondary areas) for all General Development Plans be devoted to publicly accessible open space as is clearly required in the new Zoning Code, and

FURTHERMORE, it is the position of INC that the Denver Planning Board should not approve any General Development Plans deficient in open space that would have the effect of diminishing the average per person amount of parks and publicly accessible open space available to Denver residents.
Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation vs. Inter-Neighborhood Competition

In other parts of the world, traditions rooted in conflict have evolved into friendly and healthy neighborhood competitions. In Florence, Italy, it’s banner tossing. In Siena, Italy each neighborhood has a horse and a jockey racing around the cobblestone town square with frenzied residents loyal cheering even more enthusiastically than Denver Bronco fans. In Hamamatsu, Japan, each neighborhood builds giant, hand painted, rice paper and bamboo kites that tower 30 to 40 feet. Teams of 100 men from each area fight to be the last aloft after 8 days of chanting and beer drinking.

My theory is that in more mature countries with hundreds more years of history, social order, with stable and traditional lifestyles which already include buildings in the human scale and plentiful open space, there is actually time to have some fun. People in Europe don’t have to worry about what’s in their backyards. Whatever it is, has been there for centuries. They can devote their time to pursuits like Bocci, kites, horse racing for fun, real hobbies and inter-neighborhood competition.

Every once in a while someone will thank me for getting involved, recognizing important issues, showing leadership and tackling problems so close to home. More often than not, however, doing what we do as “neighborhood activists” is considered suspect or even a waste of time. National and state political action is honored. Our major political parties, although often viewed with cynicism, are institutions into which most citizens invest their political energy. How much effect do outcomes do all the party faithful actually have on national and state policies? If only we could enlist the ongoing involvement of our fellow political activists in matters of local affairs, what an effect it would have.

The neighborhood movement and Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation is the alternative to involvement of political parties in local affairs. This is, ironically, in many ways a good thing as the distinctions between liberal and conservative are often irrelevant. And it has led to neighborhoods coming together in order to more effectively advocate on matters of mutual concern.

It will be nice though, when the day comes that our local government officials have developed a political culture which is equally sensitive to neighborhood concerns as to commercial and development interests. I’d like to think that neighborhood activists are working toward that day when the local social order is so enlightened as to allow citizens to actually be a meaningful part of the decision making process. Then we can relax knowing that our neighborhoods are secure from all the surprising “incursions” with which we must deal today. Then we will have time to have even more fun developing friendly competition between neighborhoods. Neighborhood flag toss anyone?

The Bottom Line – Energy Workshop

Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 6 - 8pm, Denver Extension Office, 888 E Iliff Ave, Denver

Join Colorado State University Extension and the Denver Energy Challenge at a fall workshop where we’ll help you make good energy decisions for your bottom line! Attendees will learn:

- Tips and strategies to save energy and money at home
- The latest on solar leasing and solar gardens
- How to use our new financial calculators to determine if your home energy efficiency or renewable energy projects are cost-effective
- How to take advantage of free energy advising and financial resources to see your projects through

Each attendee can also receive an energy bill analysis from our energy specialist! The workshop is FREE but pre-registration is required and space is limited! Contact Sharal Foss at (970) 491-6281 or sharal.foss@colostate.edu to register. Visit http://www.ext.colostate.edu/energy/consumer.html for more information.

Save The Date!

INC Awards Dinner
Thursday, January 30
Wellshire Event Center
3333 S Colorado Blvd.
In the evening

If you would like to help with the event, please contact the Dinner Co-Chairs: Blake DiMeco or Gayle Rodgers. Their contact info is at the end of this newsletter.

From The President
October Delegate Meeting Photo Gallery

October Delegate Meeting

10/12/13 District 3 Denver Police Station
Call to order: 9:00am
Welcome Remarks:
Larry welcomed the delegation and guests to the INC election Forum, which was the full scope of the meeting today.

INC Business:
No new INC business was discussed during this meeting

Committee Overviews and Updates:

Parks & Rec – Katie and Larry gave update on the Hampden Heights North Park lawsuit and appeal

Dollar Dictionary – Steve gave overview of the program, over 160K books handed out to 3rd graders of the 18 years of the program. Gave English/Spanish dictionary this year, already planning for next years.

Education – Karen thanked Channel 8 and The League of Women Voters for helping with the elections forums and their partnership with INC on this year’s election forums.

Zoning – Michael talked about how the ZAP committee often meets with City officials and participates in various changes to City code. He mentioned several of the items that the ZAP committee had worked on; Historic Survey, City Forestry on the Ash Tree disease, Emergency shelters for the homeless and recent trainings on the Marijuana regulations. Mentions that an INC Zoning Platform is in the works. Newsletter/Communications – Gayle talked about the Annual Awards Dinner, 1/30/14 at the Wellshire Event Center. Invitations will be forthcoming, please be thinking about silent auction items from your RNO. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Gayle.

Transportation and Public Safety – no updates

Elections Forums:
Moderator for all forum discussions was Beverly Weaver

At-Large Denver Public School Board (1 to be elected on November 5)
- Barbara O’Brien
- Michael Kiley
- Joan Poston

Marijuana Taxation (State: Proposition AA, Denver City/County: Referendum Question 2A)
Michael Elliot (In Favor arguments)
Sean McAllister (Against Arguments)

Amendment 66 (School Finance Act)
Wade Buchanan (In Favor arguments)
Laura Boggs (Against Arguments)

** Replays of all elections forums and debates can be found on www.DenverDecides.org

Next Meeting 11/9/13, 8:30am Willis Case Golf Course Club House (enter the golf course from 51st & Tennyson Street) Adjourned: 12:30pm