INC Meeting of Delegates and Neighborhood Leaders

When: Saturday, January 11, 2014
Where: Denver Water will be hosting our meeting this month. It will be held in the Cheesman room at the Three Stone Buildings. Those attending the meeting will need to check in with the guard. The guard shack and entrance is at 1600 West 12th Avenue. Free parking is available.

Agenda:
8:30am - Networking
9:00am - Business Meeting
10:15am- Special guest speaker, Rob Davis, City Forester, Office of the City Forester. Rob will speak on the health of the City’s tree canopy, right of way tree planting and maintenance, tree diversity and the Emerald Ash Borer. Bring your questions and join us for this very interesting presentation. Also, if you would like to contribute to the silent auction at the INC Annual Awards Dinner, please bring a bottle of wine to be included in a wine basket.

Can You Help Us With Silent Auction Items?

By Kenneth Worley

Silent auction items are needed for the 2014 INC Awards Dinner and it’s your chance to showcase your neighborhood. This year we are asking you to find restaurants, services, and retail boutiques that make your RNO special. Ask them if they would be interested in providing a silent auction item or even making a donation to INC. We have a lot of great and unique businesses that deserve to be known beyond their district. Now is your chance to spread the word about some of your favorite local haunts and help raise money for INC at the same time. So get out and meet some of your local business owners and let’s make this year’s silent auction represent the diversity of the Denver Metropolitan region. Forms for silent auction items are available. Email Gayle Rodgers at myhsna@gmail.com and request them. The deadline for turning in silent auction items is January 20th. Please call or email Blake DiMeeo or Gayle Rodgers.
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 Transportation Committee
By Joel Noble, Committee Chair

Happy New Year! The Inter-Neighborhood Co-operation Transportation Committee will be continuing its schedule in 2014, meeting every other month on the second Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at 1201 Williams Street, 19th Floor. Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 9th.

We hope your neighborhood can send a representative to the committee as we discuss a range of transportation, transit, and streets topics, build connections with the agencies and organizations involved, and ensure that neighborhood input is included in plans at all levels!

Attendees do not need to be neighborhood INC delegates -- all are welcome. Even if your neighborhood organization is not a member of INC, you are welcome to participate. Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested in joining the committee. I would be happy to add them to our growing e-mail list.

Thursday January 9th, 6 p.m.
We have three topics for our meeting:

Redesign of Civic Center Station -- Kate Iverson, Manager of Transit-Oriented Development at RTD, will be presenting early design concepts for Civic Center Station at Broadway/ Lincoln and Colfax Avenue. The current station structure is nearing the end of its useful life, and is experiencing problems from water infiltration to the wearing out of the springs which isolate the indoor bus ramp floor from the parking structure below. The new design will use State of Good Repair funds to both rehabilitate the station and create more efficient bus circulation that supports the new Free MetroRide circulator, the Free MallRide on 16th Street, and the many buses that serve the station. This early design concept also creates the opportunity for additional development along Colfax between Broadway and Lincoln that will be one subject of a station master planning effort to kick-off in 2014.

Brighton Boulevard Corridor -- Karen Good, Project Manager II in Denver’s Public Works department, will present an update on the design for the Brighton Boulevard Corridor. Examining the Brighton corridor from 29th Street to the City limits north of I-70, the study sets the vision for public multi-modal right-of-way improvements, helping to establish it as a gateway to Denver. This project recently completed public workshops and technical analysis to develop recommended cross-sections in four unique character areas, designed to accommodate all modes of travel, dedicate spaces for tree lawns, and allow for a phased approach to implementation that minimizes cost and maximizes opportunities for implementation to occur on a property-by-property or block-by-block basis as opportunities allow. The phased implementation where initial investments are built upon in future phases is a very interesting part of this project. The project is part of the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative.

Denver Union Station/Cherry Creek/Glendale Corridor Feasibility Study -- Rich McClintock, Executive Director of Transportation Solutions will present on a recent study to identify transit demand between Denver Union Station, Cherry Creek and Glendale, identify service options and service levels that best meet the corridor needs, and recommend service options that connect these activity centers efficiently and effectively. The study is an excellent example of private and public entities working together to study and influence transit service design in the context of existing and expected travel demand in areas with increasing density.

2014 Meeting Schedule
The INC Transportation Committee’s meeting schedule for the remainder of the year will be (all at 1201 Williams St., 19th Floor):
Thu. Mar. 13th, 6 p.m.  Thu. May 8th, 6 p.m.  Thu. July 10th, 6 p.m.  Thu. Sept. 11th, 6 p.m.  Thu. Nov. 13th, 6 p.m.

Call for Topic Suggestions
Do you have a topic you’d like the INC Transportation Committee to consider or to find a speaker to discuss with us? Please let me know! transportation@denverINC.org

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2013
Submitted by Karen Taylor

In attendance: Jane Lorimer, Steve Nissen, Katie Fisher, Blake DeMeeo, Randle Loeb, Larry Ambrose, Karen Taylor, and Michael Henry

November Minutes were approved by Randle and Seconded by Jane Lorimer and accepted by acclamation.

Steve Nissen brought up whether INC should donate to other RNO organizations. Jane said there have been five requests from neighborhood associations. The discussion centered around whether INC is a funding organization. Larry believes that a policy is needed in this regard and will work on a draft for consideration by the Board. Katie Fisher made a motion not to donate to any neighborhood organizations this year and motion carried.

A motion was made by Jane Lorimer that INC purchase a $100.00 table at the annual dinner for the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships. The motion was seconded by Blake and approved by all.

Jane reported the membership renewals will all be mailed by December 15. Non-member RNO solicitations will be mailed by the end of 2013 or sooner. Each renewal/solicitation will include a personalized letter and appropriate application form. Our new “rack card” will be provided with all solicitations.

Jane announced her retirement from her now four-year role as interim membership chair to be effective at end of current Board term, which occurs when the new Board is elected in March 2014. She will train the person appointed to head up membership. An “ad” ran in the December newsletter and will be repeated in next couple of newsletters. There was discussion about what the wording on the award plaques as the awards were redefined this year for clarification of recipient deeds. Should the name of the honoree and recipient both appear on the awards? Katie made a motion that they should appear on this transition year and Randle seconded. The motion approved by acclamation. The award winners will be voted on during the next board meeting on January 6th.

Parks committee requested $300.00 in next years’ budget.

Zoning Committee recap. INC has sent a letter to Rocky Piro regarding open space in General Development Plans. The Hancock Administration has promulgated text amendments, which include codifying a reduced amount of open space in all new large developments. INC will continue to fight against this ill-advised public policy.

Education Committee – Karen will ask Benita to email Larry re: time on January’s agenda for DPS updates and new board member introductions.

A suggestion of hosting Dr. Bruce Mendelson a substance abuse expert as an INC program feature was made by Randle. He will be considered, as well as remembered as a possible speaker for the neighborhood conference.

Randle reminded everyone of the service on Dec. 18th to remember the homeless who have passed away this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50

Congratulations
Randle Loeb!

CHUN ANNUAL MEETING on January 9 honored one of our Delegates-at-Large. Randle Loeb won a Good Neighbor Award as Outstanding Volunteer.
From The President

Denver’s Neighborhood Voice in the Wilderness

Cynicism runs deep in American politics these days. It wouldn’t be so bad that politicians mislead, misjudge, misconstrue and misstep, but, the problem is, they run our government! Although, most of our elected City government representatives, have come to office through the highest calling of civic service, many seem to fall prey to a dominant political culture, whereby citizens are patronized rather than respected. Somehow we are often made to feel like the teenager asking to borrow the car on Saturday night, rather than the taxpayers who put them in office.

Assuming that term limits were supposed to reduce the probability that bad elected representatives would continue on in office, they have had the opposite effect. In many cases, they have assured that mediocre representation will be perpetuated through a guarantee of 12 years of incumbent election funding. Investigative journalism at the local, state and national level which informs most voters, has gone the way of the trolly cars. At the local level where citizens have the best chance of effecting outcomes and change in government, so much money is needed for Council and Mayor races that lobbyists and developers have joined forces to run their own candidates who answer first to them.

City Council committees hear from City agency experts and lobbyists and make decisions without the benefit of public comment. “Courtesy Zoning”, whereby City Council follows an unspoken rule that approves site specific zoning matters according to the District Councilperson’s wishes, has morphed into “Courtesy Parks” and actually, “Courtesy Anything”.

City Attorneys mold interpretations of the law to satisfy the Mayor’s whims. City Council, the legislative branch of municipal government has no legal counsel of its own and has blindly followed the legal opinions of the Mayor’s appointee. Only since the Mayor and Council became “term limited” has the legislative branch of City government so eagerly followed the Mayor’s wishes. Historically, Councils have often hired their own outside legal counsel. Denver now, at least in theory, has only two branches of government—Executive and Judicial. The legislative branch has abandoned its oversight role as the legitimate third branch of our government. One big, happy family rules the city.

Trees are falling in the forest. We hear them fall. Be it resolved that we must work to stop this madness in 2014.

The purpose of INC shall be to:

A.) Bring together the independent neighborhood organizations of Denver in a coalition to represent the interests of neighborhoods and to collectively address issues of common interest, especially those which may have citywide impact;

B.) Increase autonomy, diversity, and power for neighborhoods, and to offer assistance when aid is requested and applicable;

C.) Provide information to neighborhoods concerning organizing, registering with the city, and dealing effectively with city agencies;

D.) Adhere to the principles of democracy and openness, and encourage member neighborhoods to do likewise;

E.) Nominate neighborhood representatives to serve on public commissions, boards, and task forces; and

F.) Take an active role in working with city government and others in shaping Denver’s future.
INC Seeks Board Members for 2014

INC is seeking members to run for its Board of Directors for the 2014-15 term (one year). To be eligible, you must be a delegate from your member RNO. The election will take place at the Delegation meeting on March 8th. Make sure your RNO renews its INC membership so that you can vote at the March meeting. Terms are for one year with a two-year term limit: March 2014-March 2015. All nine positions on the Board of Directors are up for election. Those offices are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Delegates-at-Large.

Why Become A Board Member with INC?

As a resident of Denver, you have a big stake in the development, integrity and future of your City and your respective neighborhoods. INC’s mission is to advocate for Denver citizens by bringing together, informing and empowering Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing City issues. INC seeks Board members who are passionate about Denver’s future and who want to help INC build our area neighborhood organizations to “be all they can be”.

By serving on INC’s Board you will also:

- Deepen your understanding of the community, its residents and their needs
- Gain a better understanding of the laws and regulations related to community development, zoning and open space preservation
- Have a better grasp of what the City faces in terms of finances and budgets
- Help INC create tools to build better neighborhoods
- Help shape the rules and regulations that impact public safety, zoning, property values

Candidate Process:

Only Delegates from INC Member Organizations, whose dues are paid by the time of the election (March 8), are eligible to fill Board of Directors positions. All candidates must be formally nominated at the time of the election; therefore, candidates are encouraged to provide their names and desired positions to the INC President as well as be prepared to have someone nominate you from the floor at the time of the elections. This will allow us to prepare a ballot in advance. Additional nominations can be added.

Are you passionate about your community and want an opportunity to shape the future of your city? We encourage you to apply to serve on the INC Board. If you are interested, please reach out to Larry Ambrose at: president@denverinc.org

Membership Chair Needed

INC seeks an individual or group to take over the membership duties for 2014. The current membership chair will train you! Duties include: keeping a spreadsheet of members and non members, sharing email address updates with the Communications team, sending renewal notices each December (INC covers costs). Skills needed: Computer literate, access to computer, Excel or other spreadsheet literacy.

Please contact president@denverinc.org if interested.

It’s Time To Renew Your INC Membership!

A mailing was sent out about this in December! It is important to fill out the application form each year. Some individuals have complained that we have the wrong people listed on the delegate list at our monthly meetings. We use what you put on the application form so make sure it is accurate. Turn it in with your check THIS MONTH. If you need an application form go to http://www.denverinc.org/assets/2013_Membership_Form_RNO.pdf

Dollar Dictionary Drive Update

The 2014 Dollar Dictionary Drive (DDD) fundraising efforts are in full swing! We are seeking to grow our dedicated group of supporters. Those interested in being a part of the Dollar Dictionary Committee should contact Blake DiMeo at blakedimeo@yahoo.com with “DDD 2014” in the Subject Line.

What would you do as a Committee member, you ask? Our committee is formed of individuals that look for opportunities to increase and encourage support for the Dollar Dictionary Drive. This entails such activities as researching local festivals and fairs for “non-profit vendor” opportunities and working such events or labeling and packing the books we purchase for third-graders. There are countless fun events all year long in support of the Dollar Dictionary Drive and we would love to hear your suggestions for more of them! Come support INC and its’ Dollar Dictionary Drive at INC’s Annual Awards Dinner on January 30th at the Wellshire Event Center. There are even more current and ongoing opportunities to support INC and DDD. Contact us today and find out how to join the fun!

For the past 18 years, INC’s Dollar Dictionary Drive has succeeded in reaching our goal of providing a free dictionary and thesaurus to each third-grade student in every Denver Public Elementary School. More than 250,000 have been distributed. INC believes this important educational gift to our youth helps make a stronger community—neighborhoods and schools working together for improved literacy.

CONTACT: Blake DiMeo blakedimeo@yahoo.com and Joanne Kuemmerlin joanne_kuemmerlin@hotmail.com

---

By Penelope Zeller

Mrs. Burch organized and managed the creation of the North City Park Welcome New Neighbor Committee to welcome all new residents and churches to the Skyland Neighborhood. Odessa knew no strangers. All were welcome. Under her leadership from early 21st century, helpers assembled baskets of goodies and items that would help the new neighbors during their first days of unpacking. Over the decade more than 200 baskets were delivered by ladies “in hats”. Odessa would delight in dressing up and hand delivering the welcome baskets with her helpers.

In late 2011, Mrs. Burch announced to the NCPCA meeting that she was retiring. This brought resounding laughter in the hall, for everyone knew that Odessa’s idea of ‘retirement’ only meant she would slow down just a bit. True to the neighbors’ belief, Odessa remained busy and active with community, church and family until Thanksgiving 2013.

See more at: http://bit.ly/1zekdF
Neighboring Ash Borer Infestation Shows Importance of Denver Digs Trees Program

Deadline for Tree Applications: Feb. 15

Over the past 29 years, the Denver Digs Trees program has provided more than 46,000 affordable and free trees to Denver residents, helping to enhance quality of life in our city. Trees beautify our neighborhoods, enhance property values, lower utility costs, improve air and water quality, and much more!

This spring we are combining our annual spring street tree distribution with our fall yard shade tree program, offering Denver residents the opportunity to purchase low cost trees for their yard and/or in the public right-of-way.

Trees will be $10 in our 25 target neighborhoods* (neighborhoods with the least tree canopy coverage) and $35 throughout the rest of the city. The trees that we sell routinely sell for $100 or more at the nurseries, so regardless of your neighborhood, its a great deal.


Applications are due February 15th, and if you’re approved for trees, they will be available for pick-up on Saturday April 19.

http://theparkpeople.org/Programs/Denver-DigsTrees/ApplyforTrees.aspx

Recently, arborists and forestry experts have expressed concern about Emerald Ash Borer, an insect that has devastated ash tree populations in mid-western cities and was recently discovered in Boulder in September. With 15 percent of Denver’s tree cover consisting of ash trees – some 330,000 trees, the detection of this insect in Colorado raises concerns about the health of the city’s urban forest.

Chad Reischl
Program Manager: Denver Digs Trees
303-722-6262

Attend our INC Delegate Meeting this month to learn more about this issue.

Cleaning Help For Seniors

The Seniors’ Resource Center has been granted Older American Act dollars through DCROG to implement a “free of charge” Chore Service Program!

What Does The Program Offer?
It offers “free of charge” assistance with deep cleaning of any home or apartment for anyone who is 60 years and older living in Adams, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Gilpin, and Jefferson counties. No means testing or income requirements to get this free service for the older adults living in your communities.

What can they do for clients?
• Organization and clean out of house or apartment areas / preparing house for inspection
• Packing and unpacking of household items for moving
• Deep cleaning of bathrooms / kitchens / floors/ cabinets / etc.
• First floor window washing / inside windows on any floor
• Cleaning closets / storage areas
• Trash clean up and removal to available receptacle.
• Cleaning porches / decks / patios.
• Seasonal yard clean up
• Donations accepted for program

Please call Chore Service Hotline to schedule an appointment 303-235-6952 or email Loretta Trujillo at ltrujillo@SRCAging.org.

They are looking forward to working with our community!

Snow Buddy Program Needs Volunteers

The Snow Buddy Program is a partnership between the City and County of Denver and Volunteers of America. The program provides assistance to seniors in the community who are unable to complete the difficult task of snow removal. Healthy volunteers who are able to assist with the winter snow shoveling are partnered with seniors. More information is available about the Snow Buddy Program by visiting www.voacolorado.org or by contacting 720-264-3379 or snowbuddies@voacolorado

Photos From 2013

Joel Noble, INC Transportation Committee Chair

INC lost a good friend this year in Mary Meyers

INC Fund Raiser at People’s Fair

INC at Safety Expo at Broadway Cop Shop

INC at fundraising event
INC MEMBERS
The list below represents INC’s membership. Membership is categorized as either Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNO) or Associates and membership offers various levels of membership.

INC MEMBERS

Registered Neighborhood Organization Members (98)

RNO Patron Silver
Crestmoor Park 2nd Filing

RNO Patron Bronze
Taxi Community (Swanseas)
West Washington Park Neighborhood Assn.

RNO Patron
Ball Park N.A.
Country Club Historic District
Downtown Denver Residents Org.
Friends & Neighbors of Washington Park
Golden Triangle Museum District
Hamden South N.A.
Mayfair Neighbors
Neighbors & Friends for Cheesman Park
South West Improvement Council/SWIC
Stapleton Master Community Assn.
University Park Community Council
Upper Downtown Dev. Organization

RNO Standard

ABC Streets Association
Alamo Placita N.A.
Baker Historic N.A.
Belcaro Park HOA
Bellevue Hale N.A.
Berkeley N.A.
Berkeley Regis United Neighbors
Bonnie Brae N.A.
Capitol Hill United Neighbors/CHUN
Cherry Creek East Assn.
Cherry Creek North BID
Cherry Creek North N.A.
Cherry Hills Vista Community Assn.
Civic Association of Clayton
Clayton United Neighborhoods
Colfax on the Hill Inc.
College View Neighborhood
Congress Park Neighbors Inc
Cook Park N.A.
Cornerstone Townhome HOA
Cory-Merrill N.A.
Crommer Park Hilltop Civic Assn.
Crestmoor Park Home Owners 1st Filing
Cultural Arts Residential Org./CARO
Curtis Park Neighbors
East Cheesman N.A.
East Montclair N.A.
East Washington Park N.A.
Federal Blvd. Corridor Improvement Partnership
Five Points Business District

Globeville Civic Assn. #1
Golden Triangle N.A.
Grandview Neighborhood Assn
Greater Park Hill Community Inc.
Green Valley Ranch Citizens Advisory Board
Greens at Pinehurst HOA
Hamden Heights Civic Assn.
Harkness Heights
Highland United Neighbors
Hilltop Heritage Assn. LLC
Historic Montclair Community Assn
Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA
Inspiration Point N.A.
Ivy Street Neighbors Assn.
Jefferson Park United Neighbors/JPUN
Lighthouse at the Breakers HOA
LoDo Neighborhood Assn.
Lowry Community Master Assn.
Lowry United Neighborhoods
Montbello 20/20
Northwest Neighborhoods Coalition
Old San Rafael N.A.
Overland Park N.A.
Park Forest HOA
Platt Park People’s Assn.
River north RNO
Rosedale Harvard Gulch N.S.
Ruby Hill Neighborhood Org./RHINO
Second Cherry Creek Townhouse Corp
Sloan’s Lake Citizens Group
Sloan’s Lake N.A.
South City Park Neighborhood
South Gaylord N.A.
South Hilltop N.A.
Southmoor Park East HOA
Stapleton United Neighborhoods
Stokes Place/Green Bowers
Sunnyside United Neighbors
Swallow Hill N.A.
UCAN of Metro Denver
The Unsinkables
University Neighborhoods
Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn.
Warrens Univ. Comm. Council
Wellsfiiirth East HOA
West Colfax Assn. of Neighbors
West Highlands N.A.
Westwood Residents Assn.
Whispering Pines West HOA
Whittier N.A.
Winston Downs N.A.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (49)

Patron Gold Associates

Denver Police Protection Assn.
Visit Denver
Patron Silver Associates
Colorado Convention Center
Denver Water
National Western Stock Show
Pink House Blooms
Patron Bronze Associates
Gertie Grant
Patron Associates
Church of Scientology
Comcast
Denver Health
Denver Mayor’s Office
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Bernie Jones, PhD
Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann
Councilwoman Deborah Ortega

Associate Organizations

Broadway Cop Shop
Broadway Partnership/MLDC
Brownstein Hyatt Farber & Schreck
Denver International Airport/DIA
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Denver Public Schools
Dept. of Environmental Health
Groundwork Denver
Urban Land Conservancy
Washington Park Profile
West Colfax BID
Xcel Energy Inc

Associate Individuals

Bibi Alexander
Trina Brockwell
Chris Citron
Dean Clark
Dennis Gallagher
Bonnie Gayhart
Stephen Griffin, PhD
Rose Mary Griffiths
Harriet Hogue
Debra Johnson
Councilwoman Robin Kniech
Sherri Liebhauser
Doug Linkhart
Councilman Paul D. Lopez
David Oredson
Pam Oredson
Councilwoman Jeanne Robb
Councilwoman Susan Shepherd
Sandra D. Shreve
Council President, Mary Beth Susman
Undershift Gary Wilson
Penelope Zeller

INC MEMBERSHIP
The list below represents INC’s membership. Membership is categorized as either Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNO) or Associates and membership offers various levels of membership.