Meeting of Delegates and Neighborhood Leaders

When:  Saturday, April 12, 2014
Where:  2505 18th Street, Denver
Mile High United Way Building
Free Parking is on the side and in the back
8:30am  Networking with your fellow RNO members, coffee, continental breakfas
t 9:00am  Business Meeting
10:00am  Bradley Buchanan, the new Community Planning & Development Exec. Director.
  Topic:  Denver’s vision and CPD working with communities

There will be plenty of time for Q & A.

All INC meetings are open to the public. Please feel welcome to bring your neighbors and friends.

Directions from the SOUTH. Take I-25 to 20th Street. Turn left. 20th becomes Central street.
Turn right on 18th St. Directions from the NORTH are the same except you turn right onto 20th St.

Click here for map link.

Buy Tix To Win A ‘14 Mustang, Support DDD

By Blake DiMeo, Dollar Dictionary Drive Chair

That’s right, folks! The Dollar Dictionary Drive is a lucky participant in Concerts for Kids Third Annual “A Million For What Matters” Fundraiser. 100% of the ticket money we sell goes to the Dollar Dictionary Drive.

Here’s how it works: To the right is the Austin Young Band. GUESS the TOTAL WEIGHT of the band members AND their instruments shown in this picture. The person who guesses closest to the accurate weight will Win A 2014 Ford Mustang!

Each $10 ticket you buy earns you a “GUESS.” You may purchase as many tickets as you would like, each ticket representing one guess, you get as many guesses you can enter.

Tickets will be sold until Noon April 30, 2014. The winner will be contacted within 72 hours of May 1, 2014, by Concerts for Kids. The 2014 White Ford Mustang will be given to the winner at the Denver Day of Rock in Downtown Denver on May 24th, 2014.

Contact Blake TODAY if you would like to purchase tickets and/or if you are interested in offering this opportunity to purchase tickets to your own personal network(s), the more the merrier!!!
Blake DiMeo email blakedimeo@yahoo.com - phone 720 876 7721 - fax 1 866 826 4341

INC Exec Committee Meeting  Monday, April 7, 2014  1201 Williams St, 19th Floor  6:00 – 8:30 pm
INC Delegate Meeting  Saturday, April 12, 2014  2505 18th St, Mile High United Way Bldg,  8:30 – 11:00 am
INC Parks & Rec Committee Meeting  Tuesday, April 15, 2014  Heritage Club, 2020 S Monroe St  6 – 8 pm
INC Zoning and Planning Committee Meeting  Saturday, April 26, 2014  1201 Williams St, 19th Floor  9:30 to 11:30 am
INC Transportation Meeting  Next meeting will be in on Thursday, May 8th  1201 Williams St, 19th Floor  6:00 pm

For up-to-the-minute news, please visit INC’S website: www.denverinc.org
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
The Transportation Committee met on March 13th at 6:00 p.m. at 1201 Williams Street, with approximately 35 people in attendance.

Before our invited speakers began, we welcomed Geneva Hooten, a Capitol Hill resident and delegate to CHUN, who has agreed to serve as Co-chair on the INC Transportation Committee. You can reach Co-Chairs Geneva and Joel at transportation@denverinc.org.

Crissy Fanganello, Director of Transportation for the City and County of Denver, spoke with us about transportation in Denver – both where we are and where we’re going as a city. She last joined us in 2012 with an impressive big-picture presentation on the future of transportation in our growing city. Crissy previously served as Director of Policy, Planning and Sustainability for five years, and has been at the City for a total of eight years. She is a Denver native who grew up in Park Hill and has seen many changes in Denver over the years.

In previous years Crissy’s role would have been as City Traffic Engineer, but the role has been expanded to reflect the City’s direction to consider multimodal transportation systems. Crissy has been in her role as the Director of Transportation for eight weeks, and is in a “listening phase” – meeting with staff, community, and city council, to determine priorities and areas for work.

She says that asking ourselves how we want to grow as a city and make best use of our transportation system is the biggest question at hand. Denver is at a “tipping point” in terms of embracing what it means to be a big city, including how we will move people around in the future. We want to maintain the neighborhood context and feel as we grow. We need to have transportation systems and choices that people want to use, that give us options that are comfortable and pleasant to pick from, trip-by-trip, encouraging all of us choose among good walking, biking, driving and transit choices for our various trips throughout the week. We’re not there yet – our sidewalks are incomplete, and our bus stops are often puddles by the side of the road, as examples she offered of the things that hold people back from choosing to walk and take transit.

To make many of the needed improvements to prepare Denver for a more multimodal future, we’ll need to be discussing tradeoffs. For instance, in neighborhood discussions about a problematic road that everyone complained was unsafe for bicycles and pedestrians and needed to be improved, the city proposed a design that would improve walking and biking. However, despite widespread support for the road improvements, one resident was concerned that when driving they would no longer be able to go 40 miles an hour. Striking a balance between safety, mobility, accessibility, and other tradeoffs will be the focus of transportation discussions moving forward. As Denver looks to move more people safely via more modes, the conversations won’t just be with and among City staff, but together with the community.

Another type of tradeoff conversation will come with improving transit on key corridors, including Colfax, where prioritizing the use of the street between transit, general travel lanes, and parking, possibly by time-of-day, will be central to the discussion.

The Q&A session after Crissy’s remarks was extensive, with really good topics raised by the audience, touching on the just-starting Speer/Leetsdale Mobility Study as a high priority from the Strategic Transportation Plan, transportation options that help with overall affordability of living in the city, the transportation needs in the Globeville/Elyria/Swansea planning process, and the role that neighborhoods can play in holding discussions between different interests on traffic and parking topics.

We learned that last fall Denver joined NACTO, the National Association of City Transportation Officials, and is reviewing their design guides which focus on urban areas and multimodal complete streets rather than earlier largely auto-/highway oriented traffic engineering guidelines. Denver is comparing our current practices to the NACTO guidelines to see what might fit, where our gaps are, and what we can do moving forward.

Crissy emphasized that she’s in a listening mode and would like neighborhoods’ input on what Denver should be thinking about and working on for transportation. For example, should the City have a transit plan, to work with and guide RTD, and maybe add additional investment to transit beyond FastTracks? How should we be working with adjacent cities in improving corridors that connect between us?

You can reach Crissy Fanganello at crissy.fanganello@denvergov.org.

Emily Snyder, Bicycle/Pedestrian Planner from Denver’s Public Works Department gave us an update on the 2014 bike facility work plan, implementing bike facilities called for in Denver Moves. Denver Moves identified 311 new miles of on-street bicycle facilities to be implemented in three phases.

Over the past few years, progress has been made within existing staff capacity, and progress will be accelerating with the addition of new Associate Planner, Bicycle Engineer, and a
From The President

Is Neighborhood Opinion Obstructive and Uninformed?
No, Not enough Credit Given to Community

At the Saturday March 21 meeting at the Denver Zoo, where Parks Manager Laurie Dannemiller finally lopped the City Loop from City Park, I ran into an old friend who, to my surprise (and disappointment), was actually there in support of this much and deservedly maligned “regional, multi-generational playground” project. Turns out, he had somehow been on a junket to Philadelphia with head honcho, Park Planner, Gordon Robertson, and had seen all kinds of cutting edge and “modern” park development amenities which he angrily said, “would obviously never see the light of day in Denver because of the unreasonable and stupid neighborhood people who are against everything”. That this reasonably intelligent, former hippie who lived in a commune in his youth could be so vitriolic against what he perceived as pervasive NIMBY-like opposition shocked me.

The week before this episode, I had the privilege of being invited to participate as a panelist with Roger Armstrong of Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) in the recent Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute Conference at the University of Denver. The Conference, sponsored by the law firm of Otten Johnson Robinson Neff & Ragonetti brings together real estate developers and urban planners from around the state and the nation to learn about the most recent development trends. Roger and I followed a presentation by lobbyist Sean Maley from one of Denver’s most prominent lobbying firms, CRL Associates. Lobbyists like CRL make a lot of their money getting Denver’s Planning Office, Planning Board and City Council to do what their clients need and want. Perhaps Mr. Maley didn’t know that a couple of neighborhood activists would be listening when he revealed his strategies for dealing with what he also portrayed as consistently difficult, negative and vocal neighborhood groups who, incidentally he said, really only represent a very small percentage of the actual number of households in any particular area.

Mr. Maley pointed out that key to getting what his client wants is working behind the scenes with City and Planning Office officials and Council members most of whom he knows personally. Important too, is packaging what is wanted in a way that neighborhoods will buy it and, he told the planners and developers, as a rule, he never identifies himself to neighborhood groups as a lobbyist. No surprises here but when his presentation, replete with photos of no Walmart signs, was over, what struck me is how much to the financial advantage of such consultants is perpetuating the culture of conflict between developers, the City and neighborhoods.

The sort of tag team presentation, which Roger and I made to this room full of developers, was basically this: Don’t wait until after you put pencil to the paper to come talk to the neighborhoods. Neighborhoods are not against development, just poor development. There is such a thing as a bad development plan. The Community is the marketplace. Successful development plans are market driven. Gathering input from RNOs and communities at the outset will save time, money and the need for lobbyists.

It is so easy to portray neighborhood people as against everything - any more density, any more height, any more traffic, any more people, any more salary increases, any more events, any less dog poop, you name it. Demonizing concerned community opinion leaders is unfair and fails to recognize the fact that people in the neighborhood movement are much and deserving of no credit, was over, what struck me is how much to the financial advantage of such consultants is perpetuating the culture of conflict between developers, the City and neighborhoods.

INC EC Minutes

D3/10/2014
Submitted by: Thad Jacobs, Secretary
Present: Cindy Johnstone, Karen Taylor, Tiffany Rice, David Stauffer, Jane Lorimer, Katie Fisher, Thad Jacobs, Michael Henry, Steve Nissen, JJ Niemen, Gayle Rodgers, Meg Schomp, Joel Noble
Quorum established
Call to order: 6:03pm

Introductions and welcoming remarks
• Introductions were done for all board members
• How far and wide do we take this; City Council, State level, RTD, School Board, etc?
• How would this tie into election forums
• Do we look at putting this information together as part of the Tool Box in regard election information
• May want to look at website how to, where to, information

Old Business
• Membership statistics/demographics study
• 186 RNOs in the city, 87 have renewed or joined INC – 47%
• 14 still targeted to renew that were members in 2013
• 87 RNO members represent approx. 100,031 concerned citizens

Distribution of funds from Dinner
• Motion to table the discussion on Dinner proceeds discussion by Katie, 2nd by JJ – yea 6, nay 1 - passed
• Municipal Candidate orientation of INC and RNOs
• Do we look at putting this information together as part of the Tool Box in regard election information

New Business
• Past EC Retreats, outcomes, and goals follow up
• Did not do last year
• Goals
  • Increase membership
  • Work better with the City
  • Hire staff (priority)
> continued on PG 6
Senior City Planner to the bicycle planning and implementation team. This is good news, consistent with the Council priorities we heard about in a presentation from Councilwoman Shepherd last year.

Most of Emily’s presentation was delivered in front of a map of the city that illustrated the entire implementation work plan for the year, with color-coded lines indicating where new bike lanes, sharrows, and protected bike lanes will be installed in 22 corridors. As well as highlighting key intersections for capital improvement projects and key corridors for study this year. The presentation style, grounded in an overview map, was highly effective (but slightly difficult to summarize in meeting notes). Emily was able to respond interactively to questions anywhere in the city, referencing her map and drawing on her comprehensive knowledge of the city streets.

Just prior to the meeting, it was announced that Denver has been selected by PeopleForBikes as one of six cities to join its intensive two-year Green Lanes project to build better protected bike lanes. There are many potential design options for building protected bike lanes so we can look forward to more discussion as this unfolds. Inclusion in this program connects Denver with other cities considering how best to implement these new, safer, easier-to-use bike facilities, as well as providing supplemental funding. The city will soon be implementing vertical separation between the bike lane and traffic on 15th Street downtown, and will be developing protected bike lane designs for 14th Street, Lawrence Street, and the Broadway corridor (as part of a larger study for Broadway). Additionally, a city-wide study will be kicking off shortly to expand Denver Moves to identify options for protected bike lanes elsewhere in the city. Just with the initial implementation of the separated bike lane on 15th Street, Public Works has seen a 60% decrease in bicycle riding on the sidewalk. As more-comfortable bike facilities that appeal to riders of all ages and abilities are built, they expect to attract more bike ridership overall while seeing a lower amount of riding on the sidewalks.

Other key projects discussed include 21st Street downtown, a design study in and around the 38th/Blake station area for bike connectivity, and a preview of the types of tradeoffs that will be studied for Broadway (in conjunction with Lincoln). The city is just about to break ground on a bike/ped bridge over I-25 near Colorado Boulevard. A new look at bike connectivity through the “Buckley Annex” section of Lowry is being considered based on community feedback. A new design for bike lanes at intersections is being considered which will help riders and drivers to clearly understand where and how bike lanes continue across intersections. Public Works is actively reviewing the last five years of bicycle crash data as to understand the specific safety interventions needed, both in terms of specific problem areas, as well as specific behaviors that require education.

Emily emphasized that where proposed implementation of bicycle facilities initiates tradeoffs between bike facilities and on-street parking and/or travel lanes, Public Works will be engaging with the nearby neighborhoods before decisions are made. Depending on the size of the area under consideration, they may contact the Council office and RNOs in the immediate area, or they may hold larger meetings for longer corridors touching more stakeholder groups.

Watch for updates at www.DenverGov.org/bikeprogram. You can reach Emily Snyder at emilysnyder@denvergov.org.

Sean Mackin Manager of Parking Operations, and Cindy Patton, Senior City Planner, both with Denver Public Works, gave an overview of the three parking permit program tools the City is finalizing rules & regulations for, as called for in the Strategic Parking Plan.

The original Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program, in place today, was originated in the 1950s and revised in 1987. It only addresses certain parking cases where residential neighborhoods are near non-residential sources of parking pressure (stadiums, hospitals, commercial centers, etc.) and permits are only available to residents, not to businesses or other user groups. It’s been a “one size fits all” approach that works well in some areas but isn’t a good fit for the challenges in other areas.

In December 2012, City Council passed an ordinance to create two new types of programs that, in addition to the existing RPP program, will offer flexibility to manage parking in more cases. Public Works has been drafting rules & regulations to document existing practices and provide transparency on how parking management decisions are made. In October and November of 2012, Public Works received a lot of feedback on the draft document, and is taking additional time to come up with a second draft of the rules & regulations reflecting the requests for additional clarity and ease of use.

The majority of the presentation covered the two new tools, which seek to address increasingly mixed neighborhoods and special cases. First, the “Area Management Plan” allows for a collaborative, integrated approach developed in conjunction with the stakeholders who help create it. This is the program that the discussions between residents and businesses in West Highlands (described in the March 13th Denver Post YourHub article “West Highland Neighborhood Association seeks to establish parking plan” and the North Denver Tribune article “Parking Studies Underway”) will be using. The West Highlands case is a perfect example of what Public Works would like to see – extensive collaborative discussion between all the parking user groups to come up with strategies that then Public Works can help implement with an Area Management Plan. If your area is interested in an Area Management Plan, they encourage you to contact the Parking Operations team and ask for advice on how to engage in discussions between all area stakeholders to develop reasonable, balanced and detailed ideas on approaches that might address the issues near you.

The second new permit type, called “Manage the Right of Way”, is intended for special, small unique circumstances where a permit program can help. The example cited was a school where modular classrooms were built on top of the parking lot, so teachers needed to park on-street in the surrounding neighborhood. Since the teachers aren’t residents, they aren’t eligible for the RPP program that was already in place in this scenario. With the “Manage the Right of Way” permit type, the department would have the flexibility to write a specific permit for this situation, after appropriate collaboration with the community.

Cindy emphasized that the existing RPP plan is continuing as-is for the foreseeable future. The first draft of the rules and regulations was confusing on this point, and she apologized for that. Those with active residential permits will continue to receive renewal notices. In established RPP areas, residents in buildings with active permits will continue to be eligible. Consideration for new RPP areas and/or new buildings will continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, the City is working to make the renewal and application process as easy as possible, having moved the renewal process online and soon will be moving the application process online as well.

There are no immediate plans to introduce feeds for any of the permit types. If fees are contemplated in the future to cover the costs of the program, there will be specific community outreach and process at that time. Due to retirements, the team is down to three people, and so the schedule for publishing and reviewing the revised rules and regulations is not yet set, but is estimated for late spring or early summer of this year. There will be a presentation at the City Council LUTI Committee, a public open house, presentations at neighborhood groups, and finally a formal public hearing.

You can reach Sean Mackin at sean.mackin@denvergov.org, Cindy Patton and cindy.patton@denvergov.org, or the Parking Operations team in general at parkingoperations@denvergov.org.

This was a very successful meeting in helping neighborhoods connect with people in the city who plan and implement transportation related topics and opening up avenues for engagement. Many thanks to all our guests, and to Michael Henry for the use of his building’s wonderful top-floor room!

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.

INC PARC Committee
Diana Helper, PARC member

INC Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC)
met March 18, 2014, at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe Street. Present were co-chairs Maggie Price and Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Larry Ambrose, Cindy Johnstone, Karen Miller, Marlene Johnson, Ray Ehrenstein, James Sample, Ronnie Crawford, Diana Helper, Renee Lewis, Casey Davenhill, David and Linda Mathews, Glen Legowik, Tim OBryne, Christine O’Connor, and guests Catherine Sandy, Councilman Chris Nevitt, DPR Manager Lauri Dannemiller, and Mary McCoin, a member of PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board).

DPR’s plan to ban 3.2 beer at Washington Park this summer was presented by Chris and Lauri. This park has had more reported problems than any other Denver park, for which 3.2 beer is deemed responsible, as it is the only alcoholic beverage allowed at Denver parks. DPR rangers, police, and others plan strong enforcement. DPR Managers may call for a “test policy” for up to 180 days, to try changes such as this. Those with beer will go to other parks, so increased enforcement will be needed for problems that may occur elsewhere. Notification of this change will be made by media and posted signs. PARC members had many comments, and it was hoped that Mary would take these to DPR. Also it was suggested that funds from marijuana sales be used to increase safe and peaceful park use by Denver citizens. Comments may be sent to Lauri.Dannemiller@denvergov.org.

Cindy Johnstone proposed a letter from INC PARC to the Washington Park Profile in response to the “Representative View” by Mayor Hancock in the March issue. After discussion, PARC voted 17-0 to send the letter. See Letter Here: http://gallery.mailchimp.com/421d1d555f191cd3e6f8d500d/files/Death_of_Community_Members_at_SEAP_LDA.pdf

Ronnie introduced Catherine Sandy, who told of the long project she and others undertook to get the radioactive waste at the Shattuck Superfund Site (Overland Park neighborhood and surroundings) removed and taken away for disposal. Over 18 years of opposition, denials, determination, help from grants, experts, influential government people, reluctant release of important documents, proof of contamination in dust and water, at last the ineffectively “buried” waste was carefully hauled away in 2700 rail cars. This is a testament to perseverance by citizens, and especially Catherine, to whom DPR gave a standing ovation. She vowed to do what she can regarding the ASARCO site in north Denver before she moves to Florida. Casey spoke about Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners, which promotes care and maintenance of natural areas. She urged keeping a positive attitude and increasing public interest in our valuable open spaces. Visit www.cherry-creek.org for more information.

Renee reported that there is firm documentation of Hentzell wildlife open space as a designated park. Friends of Denver Parks website http://www.friendsofdenverparks.org contains full info about this ongoing process. Friends of Denver Parks had a good turn-out marching in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and will have a fund-raiser Puppet Show March 22 on the topic of short-grass prairies.

Larry advised that SEAP (Special Event And Planning) held its “final meeting” but forgot to send notice of it to the INC representatives on that committee. INC asks that another meeting be held including the INC reps.


Word was received from DPR that it is dedicated to doing the needed work to make Prairie Park a truly fine example of historic prairie. Diana said that it is a great amenity to Denver and gives the visitor a view of the land historically trod, with the mountains rising ahead.

Katie reported on several items from the recent PRAB meeting, including golf, fees for mountain park use, and trash removal from those parks. Maggie reported that the second round of stakeholder/DPR meetings concerning City Loop at City Park will take place March 22 10:00 at the Zoo. You need not be a stakeholder from an RNO to attend the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Next meeting April 15.

INC Zoning And Planning Committee

By Michael Henry, Committee Chair March 22, 2014

Judy Steele, the Deputy Director of the Department of Excise and Licenses (who is also the Acting Director until Director Stacie Loucks returns from maternity leave in May) discussed several items with the committee. She said that Excise and Licenses would be the first of several city departments to use the new Accela permitting software. It will include and allow citizens to review online all of the documents for each license from the application to the hearing decision. It will include automated e-mail notification of registered neighborhood organizations. It will ultimately allow licensees to renew online. She also indicated that the Department and she encourage applicants for liquor and marijuana licenses and neighborhood organizations to enter into Good Neighbor Agreements. She also said that citizens could file complaints online about establishments that cause problems and/or violate the law. Committee members emphasized that they had strongly opposed House Bill 1132 (defeated on February 17), which would have permitted local jurisdictions to allow liquor-serving establishments to serve liquor until 4:30am.

Steve Kite reported on the first meeting of the INC Excise and Licenses Working Group, which is considering the following tasks:

• Possibly propose changes to the zoning code re liquor or marijuana licenses in embedded business districts.

• Develop an online library for INC members of Excise and Licenses decisions on contested license applications that we can study and make arguments about inconsistencies

• Develop an online library for INC members of Good Neighbor Agreements.

• Develop a master Good Neighbor Agreement or template that RNOs can use.

• Provide coaching or seminars for RNOs about how to deal with liquor/cabaret/marijuana license applications

• Invite all RNOs to help INC compile a list of problem establishments that will be shared with Excise and Licenses. INC did this several years ago and E & L was very responsive in taking action

• Compile and share state statutes and regulations and Denver ordinances and regulations regarding liquor, cabaret and marijuana licenses.

• Compile statistics about how many licenses have been approved/denied/revoked in last 5 years.

Anyone wishing to join the working group should contact Steve Kite - skite@ares.csd.net or Michael Henry – michaelhenry824@comcast.net.

City Councilwoman-at-Large Robin Kniech spoke with the committee about several city programs for affordable housing. In the 2014 city budget, there is $3 million for affordable housing, which is a small amount compared to the great need. She said that in the last 30 years around the country the federal and local governments have gotten away from building housing “projects” for low-income people and moved to mixed-income developments, including low-income, workforce and market-rate housing units. She also described Denver’s inclusionary housing ordinance (IHO), adopted in 2002, which requires developers of 30 or more for-sale housing units to construct 10% affordable units or to buy out their obligation by paying money to the city to be used for affordable housing, according to complicated formulae. She said that she is working on a proposal to revise the ordinance so that more affordable homes can be produced in the future and that she will update Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation as the revision progresses. She invited neighborhood representatives to attend a public meeting to discuss the IHO on April 9 from 6 to 7:30pm at the La Alma Recreation Center at 1325 West 11th Avenue. She also said that the Mayor’s Housing Advisory Committee is in the process of developing a Housing Plan, estimated to be completed in spring 2014.

Committee Member Stephen Griffin, a public engagement researcher shared some comments from others studying public participation around the country, including the following: Another indicator is that in the last several years there has hardly been a session on public engagement at the national American Planning Association conference except those on digital tools, surveys and online media. All of these (going back to our work with television electronic town meetings starting in 1979 in Roanoke) are powerful extension complements to a face-to-face collaborative stand of “getting around the table and working it
INC Delegate Meeting

3/8/2014
Denver Health Medical Center Rita Bass Trauma Institute Auditorium
Submitted by: Thad Jacobs, Secretary
Quorum established: 52 members present

Call to order: 9:05am
Welcome Remarks: Elbra Wedgeworth and Olga Garcia – welcomed to Denver Health talked about Denver Health’s long history and community base health care efforts.

Motion of the approval of the February delegate-meeting minutes moved by James ample, 2nd by Al Habercorn, approved as submitted.

Auditor Dennis Gallagher spoke for a few minutes about his report
• 68% of audit recommendations implemented, still need to continue to improve on implementation
• Performance audits are working in Denver

Treasurer’s Report
CDs: $11,433.28
Savings: $12,814.07, moved $5,000 from checking to savings
Dollar Dictionary Drive: $2,637.37
Checking: $5,787.39
Balance: $32,672.11 all accounts through end of 02/28/14
** Numbers do include revenues from the INC Dinner of approx. $6,000 net proceeds

Report of INC Accomplishments in 2013
by President Larry Ambrose
• Grown over the past 5-6 years 2011 implementation of Board retreats, INC Mission
• Several bylaw updates
• Two new standing committees, PARC, Transportation
• Increased membership, and revised membership categories
• Developed PARC platform, working on ZAP platform
• Forums for voters for school board and council elections
• INC members have sat on City boards and commissions
• DPS RNO notification for school activities in the neighborhoods

Edgar Wells

Denver Health Medical Center

City of Denver

Shattuck cleanup site

Michael Henry

Meeting reminder, 3/22 will have acting Director of Excise and Licensing (Judy Steele), and City Councilwoman Kniech

Education
Karen Taylor & Meg Schomp
• DPS Board Meetings have changed timing of the meetings to 4:30 pm with public comment at 5:00 pm
• New Board location at 18th and Lincoln next month
• More next month on DPS new schools and Bond Oversight committee update

Dollar Dictionary
Blake DiMeo: no update

Public Safety
Merce Lea
• May date for the public safety event has been pushed to the fall, new date to come

New Business/Announcements
• 4/26/14 Great Denver Cleanup
• Open Doors Denver 4/12th -13th
• City bidding for Republican Convention for 2016 Presidential election

Next Meeting: April 12, 2014
Guest Speaker – Bradley Buchanan, Executive Director of Community Planning & Development Denver’s vision and CPD working with communities

Location: Mile High United Way Building, 2505 18th Street, Denver
Adjourn: 11:00am

Pilot Park Program

This spring will be the beginning of a recycle pilot program in Cheesman and Washington Parks. A dozen or so purple ‘dumpsters’ placed on the perimeters of the parks for recyclable materials. This program will be discontinued if too much “trash” finds its way into the recycle dumpsters and the program will not be expanded to other parks. For further information on these plans, neighborhood maps, and time frames please visit www.denvergov.org/SolidWastePlan. There is also a presentation planned for the May INC Delegate meeting. Steve Nissen, Ronnie Crawford, and Mark Michalek are serving on the Solid Waste Management Implementation Committee.
March Speaker, Dr. Bill Burman

Health Priorities CHIP - Community Health Improvement Plan

Dr Burman discussed the issue of lack of health insurance and the Affordable Care Act. It is risky for people not to have insurance. The leading cause of bankruptcy is health care costs. When people don’t have insurance, the costs are shifted to people with insurance (employer sponsored and individual plans) and the government. As an example, $8,000 is the average cost of health insurance per year and $1,000 of that expense is cost shifted to those with insurance and the government. When people don’t have insurance they rely on emergency rooms for care, which is very expensive and inefficient.

Colorado is following the Massachusetts health plan from seven years ago. Now only 3% of their eligible population is uninsured. The health of their citizens has improved, more people have quit smoking, and there has been an improvement related to people with chronic conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes. Insurance costs for employee sponsored and individual plans has stabilized. The norm is for insurance rates to go up two to three times the rate of inflation every year.

Our Health Exchange program is being renamed The Marketplace. The word Exchange confused people. What Colorado has done is create a website (http://connectorforhealthco.com) where people can shop for insurance. There are 180 plans being offered in Colorado from high risk with high deductible to higher cost and low risk. By the end of January, 26,000 people had signed up for Medicaid and 11,000 for the online marketplace. Denver is leading all Colorado counties with enrollment. The marketplace will close March 31 and reopen November 15th. If people don’t sign up they will have penalties of 1% of their income or $95. Each year those penalties will go up.

It is estimated that of the 100,000 people in Denver that are uninsured, 80,000 would be eligible for coverage, and approximately 41,000 would be eligible for Medicaid. 75% of people eligible will qualify for a subsidy in paying for the insurance cost.

In the month of January Denver Health has already seen an increase in revenue from Medicaid as a result of the Affordable Care Act. This will provide needed money to expand services. More people have been visiting mental health centers and community health centers.

Dr Burman said that there is an overabundance of specialized doctors and not enough primary care physicians. He related that it takes a while for big programs to be improved. 6 to 7 years ago they came out with Medicare Part D. It took several years to be as good a plan as it is today. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect but with time it can be improved.

Citywide Cleanup Day: April 26

Keep Denver Beautiful’s annual, citywide cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 26.

This one-day event offers Denver residents free disposal of unwanted household items and yard waste at collection sites located around town. We will also have private organizations available to collect items, which can be recycled or reused.

The locations are: Cherry Creek Transfer Station (7301 E Jewell Ave & S. Quebec) Evie Dennis Campus (4800 Telluride) Focus points Denver (2501 E 48th Ave) Fred Thomas Park (26th Ave & Quebec) CO Driver’s License Office (W Mississippi & S Raritan) Greenlee Elementary (12th Ave & Kalamath) Lincoln HS (S Federal Blvd & Iliff) North HS (W 32nd Ave & Eliot South HS (E Louisiana & Gilpin) East HS (E 16th Ave & Josephine) These items WILL BE ACCEPTED: mattresses, carpet, scrap metal, bikes-toys, indoor & outdoor furniture, branches (under 4ft in length, less than 4 inches in diameter), appliances without freon, BBQ grills (no ashes), lawn mowers (without oil or gas). These items WILL NOT be accepted: Electronics, TVs, soil, sod, tires, auto parts, railroad ties, tree stumps, fireplace or BBQ ashes, construction & building materials, appliances with freon (air conditioners, freezers, refrigerators, etc.), commercial, industrial or household hazardous waste (oil, gas, paint, batteries, solvents, etc.)

For more information call 311.

INC Adds SurveyMonkey To Its Toolbox

A new benefit of INC membership! Beginning in April 2014, INC Member Organizations (RNOs) will have free access to conduct neighborhood-related surveys through INC’s SurveyMonkey® Gold level member account - a value of $225 a year!

SurveyMonkey is the world’s leading provider of web-based survey solutions. Although, it is free to the public to use for short surveys, more detailed surveys require membership with them. The survey level we’ve entered permits unlimited responses and opportunities to conduct longer, more in-depth surveys. It also stores your surveys so that you can re-issue the same survey in future years.

INC use policies:
• INC will initially limit the use to only its RNO members for neighborhood-related survey activities.
• User name and password will be issued upon request to the RNO representative through the contact below.

Committee Corner cont.

Rosemary Stofall of University Park Community Council discussed the disappointment of UPCC and many neighbors about the Planning Board’s recommendation of a rezoning of a large parcel on the 2400 block of South University from GMX-3 to GMX-5, with no demonstration by the developer of changing conditions.

INC President Larry Ambrose, a member of the advisory committee regarding the proposed large City Loop project in City Park, briefed the committee about a large meeting of the advisory committee that he just attended, where Lauri Dannemiller, the Executive Director of the Parks and Recreation Department announced that the project will no longer be proposed for City Park.

The next Zoning and Planning Committee meeting will be on Saturday April 26 at 9:30am at 1201 Williams Street in the 19th-floor party room.

• We require the survey name to include the RNO name or acronym for easier filing, sorting. Passwords will be changed at the close of every survey.
• INC is not responsible for the content development but will require a question review before the survey is placed
• INC cannot provide staff support to develop or mount the survey. We suggest you use tutorials at the site.
• INC will provide assistance in retrieving (downloading) survey results if necessary

For more information please contact Jane Lorimer, communications@denverinc.org or phone 303.388.9224
How Much Clout Does Your Neighborhood Have?

By Gayle Rodgers

A strong neighborhood association is necessary to have the influence needed to affect change. What can you do to build up your neighborhood association?

First you need to build connections between neighbors and the community. Do you know your neighbors? If not, it’s time you start knocking on doors. A side benefit when you get to know your neighbors is you create a neighborhood that is safer because you look out for each other. You could start a Neighborhood Watch program for your block. Our neighborhood has a Nextdoor.com social media site and many email addresses. We get the email addresses when people sign up to be a member on our association website. At least once a month you could send out a monthly email newsletter. Denver Days encourages people to have block parties or service projects during a specific time period. The dates this year will be from August 2nd through the 10th. Do you have block captains for each block? They can be the link between the association board and what is happening on their block.

Second it is important to build a sense of community. There are many ways you can do that and most are events that are FUN. Our neighborhood picnic was started so neighbors could get to know more neighbors and the local business community. Business sponsorships bring in money to support a printed newsletter that is mailed quarterly. Does your neighborhood need to be revitalized? Create some service projects for your neighborhood and involve all ages. We had two bridges that needed painting. After working with the City for many months, we had a Painting Weekend to get the project done. A clean-up day can be fun for social interaction. Do you have a neighbor who isn’t able to work in the yard? That could be a Saturday project or you could have a teen help them with snow shoveling and the yard.

Do you have a vision for your neighborhood? We are creating a vision of what our neighborhood will look like in 2020. Now we’re in the process of reverse engineering into that vision. For greater participation it’s easier when residents are involved in meaningful ways around issues that impact them. How do you find out what is important to them? You could use INC’s new SurveyMonkey® benefit to survey them. When you understand their needs and interests, you can plug them into that project. A young man in our neighborhood came to a visioning meeting. The idea of having a recreation center in our area resonated with him. He is now heading up a task force to get a recreation center built in the future. He is looking towards the future when his baby is older.

Does your neighborhood association support your neighborhood schools? The value of your home is influenced by the quality of your neighborhood schools. This year we are organizing a community golf tournament where the net proceeds will be divided between our four neighborhood schools. We’re reaching out to neighboring associations to support us in this effort. Last year a new Target store donated money to the four neighborhood schools to be used for field trips. We started working with them 4 months before the store opened. Our newsletter has information about what is happening in all four schools.

When you have connections and a sense of community, you have clout and influence. Sometimes public sector officials think they are the experts and know the answers. Often there would be less resistance to new projects if cities would include neighbors in the planning process and make it more of a collaborative process. People support what they create. There needs to be a sense of trust from both sides. Your neighborhood association can be the squeaky wheel if you are organized, especially when you combine with nearby neighborhood associations. There is power in one but an organized group has a lot more power.

Gayle Rodgers has a business called Vibrant Neighborhoods. She is President of Southmoor Park South Neighborhood Association (formerly Hampden South) and is on the INC Board.

“Roll Out the Barrel”

It’s trash talk time, as Solid Waste Management will begin converting to the colored carts for our solid waste material, beginning this spring. There will be three different colored carts for different materials; black for trash/garbage, purple for recyclable materials, and green for compost. The first neighborhoods initiated to the new system will be: Barnum, Westwood, Elyria-Swansea, Globeville, E. Park Hill, East Colfax, Hale, and Cory-Merrill. Other neighborhoods will follow as the mechanics of the new system are worked out and the new handling equipment acquired. It is expected there will be a great increase in collection efficiency. Hopeful benefits are: Decreased illegal dumping, Cleaner alleys and neighborhoods, safer alleys and neighborhoods, and increased recycling.

NeighborhoodLIFT program from Wells Fargo boosts homeownership

On March 12, 2014 Wells Fargo, NeighborhoodWorks America® and Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC), joined Denver Mayor Michael Hancock to announce the Denver Wells Fargo NeighborhoodLIFT® program, an initiative offering $5.65 million from Wells Fargo to boost homeownership and strengthen neighborhoods in the city’s low- and moderate-income areas.

Down payment assistance grants of $15,000 will be available for eligible homebuyers with annual incomes that do not exceed 120 percent of the Denver area median income— which is about $92,050 for a family of four— with income maximums varying depending on family size and type of loan. To be eligible, homebuyers must meet criteria including completing an eight-hour homebuyer education session with CRHDC or another HUD-approved counseling agency.

In addition to providing down payment assistance for homebuyers, Wells Fargo will donate $500,000 to support stabilization efforts in Denver neighborhoods.

The Denver NeighborhoodLIFT® program will begin with a free homebuyer event on April 14–15 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Colorado Convention Center located at 700 14th Street.

Prospective homebuyers can register and learn more about the program at www.neighborhoodlift.com or by calling (866) 858-2151. Pre-registration is strongly recommended for an opportunity to reserve a $15,000 down payment assistance grant, although walk-ins will be welcome while funds are available. The event also includes a Wells Fargo Affordable Home Tour® viewing center where attendees can preview local homes available for sale.

Denver is the third city in 2014 to receive the NeighborhoodLIFT® program, and is now one of 25 housing markets across the country that will benefit from a total of $195 million Wells Fargo has committed through its LIFT programs. Since February 2012, LIFT programs have helped create 6,072 homeowners in housing markets where the programs have been introduced.

INC Seeks Membership Chair for 2014

Our current chair is Jane Lorimer who is retiring from this position at the end of her Board term with INC this spring. She says the system is in place and easy to take over now. Primary duties include keeping a spreadsheet of members, providing the sign in sheets monthly and sending renewal notices each December (INC covers costs). Jane will train the person and be available for support help. The person taking over would need to know Excel or other spreadsheet. Please contact either membership@denverinc.org or president@denverinc.org if you are interested (or call Jane at 303.388.9224).
Denver Recycles’ Free Mulch Giveaway & Compost Sale

Saturday, May 3, 2014, 8 am to 2 pm

Kick-off the spring landscaping season by getting your mulch and compost for less. Denver residents can load up on FREE mulch and purchase compost at a significantly discounted price at the main Havana Nursery location.

MAIN SITE: Havana Nursery, 10450 Smith Rd., just south of I-70 on Havana St., 8 AM to 2 PM (while supplies last)
- Dig-your-own free mulch, purchase pre-bagged compost, or fill the bed of trucks and trailers with our loader service for mulch and compost at this location.
- Compost will be sold pre-bagged in 1.25 cu. ft. bags (9 gal.) at $3.50 per bag and in bulk at $30.00 per cu. yd. (tax included).
- Dig-you-own compost is no longer available due to the size of this event. Limit of 3 cubic yards of compost per vehicle and a minimum of 1/2 cubic yard for bulk compost.

Dig-Your-Own Mulch will also be available at:
- Northeast: Fred Thomas Park, Quebec St. & 26th Ave.
- Northwest: Sloan’s Lake Park, Sheridan Blvd. & 17th Ave.
- Southeast: Veterans Park, Iowa St. & Vine St.
- Southwest: Bear Creek Park, South of Dartmouth Ave. on Raleigh St.

For more information about Denver Recycles’ programs call 311 (720-913-1311) or visit us online at DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

Free Learn to Compost Classes Start in April

Compost is a crumbly, nutrient-rich soil amendment that is great for your plants, lawn and garden. Learn how easy it is to make your own compost in your backyard from food scraps and yard waste at Denver Recycles’ and Denver Urban Gardens’ FREE Learn to Compost classes. Classes start at the end of April and are offered until the middle of October at the Denver Compost Demonstration Site located in the Grove Community Garden at 13th and Colorado Blvd.

For a complete list of class dates and times, visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

Applying compost to your plants, lawn and garden is especially important during times of drought when we all need to be cautious about how much water we use. Compost holds moisture in the soil for extended periods of time, which allows water to be available to plants longer between watering. Compost also opens clay soils, allowing better drainage, and closes sandy soils, preventing water from leaching away too quickly.

Each hands-on, two-hour Learn to Compost class teaches the basics of backyard composting. Special in-depth Worm Workshops and Build-a-pile classes are also offered.

WORM WORKSHOPS focus on vermicomposting (worm composting) and will be held once each month, May through October.

BUILD-A-PILE CLASSES give participants hands-on experience building an entire compost pile, including incorporating different ingredients, chopping materials, watering and turning the pile. Five Build-a-Pile classes will be held throughout the season.

Class registration is first come, first served. Registration for each class opens one month prior to the class date. Pre-registration is required to attend the classes.

To review the class schedule and register for a class, go online to www.dug.org/compost or call 303-292-9900.

This program is sponsored by Denver Recycles (a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management) and Denver Urban Gardens. For more information about this program or other Denver Recycles programs call 311 (720-913-1311) or visit us online at DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

Moving Out or Moving In?

Make sure to update your voter registration address so your mail ballot will be delivered to you! Ballots are not forwardable. Update your address today at: www.DenverVotes.org
INC MEMBERS

The following are members of record as of March 20, 2014. Please contact membership@denverinc.org if you have questions.

Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) Members

Patron Bronze RNO Members

Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Assn.
Congress Park Neighbors Inc
Crestmoor Park 2nd Filing
Jefferson Park United Neighbors
Upper Downtown Development Organization

Patron RNO Members

Country Club Historic District
Friends & Neighbors of Washington Park
Golden Triangle Museum District
Neighbors & Friends for Cheesman Park
Overland Park Neighborhood Assn.
South West Improvement Council/SWIC
Stapleton Master Community Association
University Park Community Council
West Washington Park Neighborhood Assn.

RNO Members

ABC Streets Association
Alamo Placita Neighborhood Assn.
Admar Park Neighborhood Assn.
Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn.
Bellevue Hale Neighborhood Assn.
Berkeley Neighborhood Assn.
Berkeley Regis United Neighbors
Capitol Hill United Neighbors
Cherry Creek East Assn.
Cherry Creek North BID
Cherry Hills Vista Community Assn.
City Park Friends & Neighbors
Civic Association of Clayton
Clayton United
Colfax on the Hill Inc
College View Neighborhood Assn.
Concha Homeowners Assn
Cook Park Neighborhood Assn.
Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Assn.
Cranmer Park Hilltop Civic Assn.
Crestmoor Park Home Owners 1st Filing
Cultural Arts Residential Organization (CARO)
Curtis Park Neighbors
East Washington Park NA

Elyria Swansea/Globeville Business Assoc
Federal Blvd. Corridor Improvement Partnership
Five Points Business District
Globeville Civic Assn.  #1
Golden Triangle Neighborhood Assn.
Grandview Neighborhood Assn.
Greater Park Hill Community Inc.
Green Valley Ranch Citizens Advisory Board
Greens at Pinehurst HOA
Hamden Heights Civic Assn.
Harkness Heights Neighborhood Assn.
Harvey Park Improvement Assn.
Highland United Neighbors
Hilltop Heritage Assn. LLC
Historic Montclair Community Assn.
Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HO
Inspiration Point Neighborhood Assn.
Ivy Street Neighborhoods Assn.
LaAlma/Lincoln Park NA
Lighthouse at the Breakers HOA
LoDo District Inc
LoDo Neighborhood Assn.
Lowry Community Master Assn
Lowry United Neighborhoods
Mayfair Neighbors
North City Park Civic Assn.
Park Forest HOA
Plat Park People’s Assn.
Rosedale Harbor Gulch N.A.
Ruby Hill Neighborhood Org/RHINO
Second Cherry Creek Townhouse Corp.
Sloan’s Lake Neighborhood Assn.
South City Park Neighborhood Assn.
South Hilltop Neighborhood Association
South West Improvement Council/SWIC
Southmoor Park East HOA
Southmoor Park South Neighborhood Assn.
Sunnyside United Neighbors Inc
Stapleton United Neighborhoods
Swallow Hill N.A.
The Unsinkables
Trail Creek Ranch Condominium Assn.
UCAN of Metro Denver
University Neighborhoods
Virginia Village/Ellis Community Association
Warrens University Community Council
Wellshire East HOA
West Colfax Assn. of Neighborhoods
West Highlands N.A.

Have You Renewed Your INC Membership? If you don’t see your neighborhood listed under our membership, it is time to renew. For a membership application form go to: www.denverinc.org/membership/

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Katie Fisher**, Co-chair, Parks and Recreation Committee 303-744-3888 boardmember_2@denverinc.org

University Neighbors

**Michael Henry**, Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee 303-377-6609 zonningplanning@denverinc.org

Capital Hill United Neighborhood, Inc.

**Geneva Hooten**, Co-Chair, Transportation Committee transportation@denverinc.org

**Merce Lea**, Chair, Public Safety Cmte 720-210-4056 Broadway COP Shop publicsafety@denverinc.org

**Jane Lorimer**, Budget Committee Chair Interim Membership Chair 303-388-9224 membership@denverinc.org

Winston Downs H.O.A.

**Joel Noble**, Co-Chair, Transportation Committee transportation@denverinc.org

**Maggie Price**, Co-chair, Parks and Recreation Committee parksrecc@denverinc.org

**Meg Schomp**, Co-chair, Education Committee education@denverinc.org

**Michael Smilanic**, Chair, Communications Cmte 720-932-1580 communications@denverinc.org

Sloan’s Lake N.A.

**Karen Taylor**, Co-chair, Education Committee 303-455-0562 education@denverinc.org

Harkness Heights N.A.

**Whispering Pines West HOA**

**Whittier Neighborhood Assn.**

**Winston Downs HOA**

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**Patron Silver Associate Members**

Agency for Human Rights & Community Partnership/Denver

Colorado Convention Center

Denver Health

National Western Stock Show

**Patron Bronze Associates**

Gertie Grant

**Patron Associate Members**

Denver Relief Inc.

Bernie Jones PhD

Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann

Visit Denver

**Associate Organization Members**

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Denver Public Schools

Denver Sheriff Department

Denver Water

Dept. of Environmental Health

East Evans Business Assn.

Pink House Blooms

Urban Land Conservancy

Xcel Energy Inc

**Associate Individual Members**

Dennis Gallagher

Councilman Albus Brooks

Ms. Christiane H. Citron

Dennis Dougherty

Bonna Gayhart

Stephen Griffin PhD

Harriet Hogue

Councilman Lopez

Councilwoman Deborah Ortega

Meg Schomp

Sandra D. Shreve

Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman

Penelope Zeller

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