Minutes of June 10 Meeting

By Connie Mays
Acting Secretary

The June 10 INC meeting was held at the Kirk of Bonnie Brae Church, 1201 South Steele Street.

Around the City

Jim Zavist, West University Community Assn. and INC Zoning Chair, spoke of possible changes in the zoning and sign codes. Rita Sokolowski of Cory-Merrill NA, host of today’s meeting, welcomed everyone to her neighborhood. Rita and Chuck Michaels, also from Cory-Merrill, noted that they are working with the St. Thomas Seminary regarding enlargements and improvements to their property.

Tom Valdez and Jane Heaven represented Pine Valley NA, who have just joined INC for the first time. They expressed their appreciation to Vel Oliver, who got their neighborhood association going again. Gene Tepper, Upper Downtown Development Organization, informed the group that four downtown organizations are working together regarding a neighborhood plan for the downtown area. Diane Wolta, Virginia Village/Ellis, spoke of problems at Ash Grove School. Virginia Village/Ellis is also trying to put pressure on the City to move more quickly in its efforts to clean up a toxic gas leak in the neighborhood.

Vesta Glitner and Nancy Landauer of Greater Bible Park noted that the Goldsmith Gulch improvements have been delayed due to rain. Nancy also noted problems with the traffic on Yale Avenue. Gary Roll, West Highlands, praised the Highlands Lutheran Church for donating $457 to their association. Representatives from RTD attended their last meeting to discuss possible changes in the bus service. The Highlands UMC Church is setting up a soup kitchen and operating pretty much as they wish, without neighborhood input. Gary also mentioned the upcoming Highland Square street fair on June 17.

Mike Henry, CHUN, said the People’s Fair was a “moderate” success, considering the inclement weather. Mike is involved in working on a comprehensive plan for the homeless, and invited neighborhood groups to contact him if they are interested in having a presentation. Gloria LeFevre, SWEAT, spoke of her involvement in the advisory (continued on page 3)
Chairwoman's Column
By Janey Hanley

The Board recently met with Andrew Wallace from the Mayor's office in an attempt to improve communication channels between neighborhoods and the city. Some very exciting ideas were discussed. We will share them with you at our July meeting. Both Andrew and Mayor Webb will be there.

As you will read in the article about The Neighborhood Resource Center, Doug Linkhart and I are about to become very busy working with communities throughout the metro area. We are very excited about the opportunity we have to work with neighborhoods on many levels. I hope we will hear from a lot of you.

Just a reminder! I know that having the Mayor come to our meeting this month is more exciting than the committee meetings we will have after his visit, but those meetings are very important to INC. With all that is happening in our city, the schools, and all around us, we need to work in our committees several times a year, so please count on staying.

For those of you who gave me your names, and wanted to be a part of the DIRCOG task force this summer, you will now be given your number, address, and phone numbers to Peter Kenney of The National Civic League. You should already have heard from them. If you haven’t, let me know.

Oh yes, in case you forgot, we won’t meet in August, and your next newsletter won’t come until late August. We have a wonderful summer, and I will see you in September!

Education Committee Report
By Marilyn Vaughn

Chair, Education Committee

Bits and pieces re DPS:

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Some tuning of graduation requirements has been done. Highlights: Language Arts: 4 units (1 unit = 10 semester hours) required including 1 unit of literature and composition. With permission, student may substitute up to 1 unit of World History and 2 or foreign language courses (3, 4 or advanced placement). Social Studies: 2.5 units required including 1 unit of American History and 5 of American Government.

Science: 2 units required including study of the nature of alcohol and narcotics, their effects upon the human system and environmental concerns.

Mathematics: 2 units. With permission, student may substitute Accounting 1 and 2 for one unit. Physical Education: 1 unit. Community-Based Experience: Students may substitute a maximum of 3 units of community-based experience toward graduation requirements.

Attendance: 4 years or 8 semesters required with 2 exceptions: students with a 3.0 GPA who have completed requirements may graduate in 7 semesters; students with 3.5 may graduate in 6 semesters.

An individual school may not impose course requirements beyond those stated as a condition of graduation from high school.

INSOUTS: Many students in DPS choose to attend schools other than their home schools. Some choose to attend magnet schools (cost noted in last edition).

INCENT Members
(Patrons in Bold)
Agency for Human Rights & Community Relations • Alomo Placida NA • Altona Park NA • Ballard Park NA • Beaumont Placed HOA • Birkett NA • Blackhawk • Blake Valley NA • Board of Education NA • Broomfield C-HS Parent • Buchanan Valley NA • Carriage House NA • Capilotti Hill United Neighborhoods • Cherry Creek North NA • Clayton NA • Collin on the Creek • Community Park • Congress Park Neighbors • Cook Park NA • Corey-Morrill NA • Country Club Improvement • Coppseed Village Civic Assn • Cramoor Park Houseowners • Curtis Park Block Council • Dease re Neighborhood Coalition • Denver East Central Civic Assn • Dawson Downer Residents Org • East Montclair NA • Eastmoor HOA • Eastwood • Enterprise Hill HOA • Far Northeast Neighborhoods • George Washington HOA • Golden Triangle NA • Greater Bible Park Civic Assn • Greater Park Hill Community • Hampden Heights Civic Assn • Harkness NA • Harris NA • Harland United Neighborhoods • Historic Denver • Historical Montclair Community Assn • Hunt Club HOA • Idaho Homeowners • Indian Creek NA • Inspiration Point NA • Jefferson Park NA • Lower Maroon Houseowners • Martin Street Coalition • Mayfair Neighbors • Mayfair Park NA • Metro Denver Local Development Company • Morgenstern's Subdivision Historic District HOA • North City Park Civic Assn • Organizer Residents • Overland NA • Park Hill HOA • Pineridge Village Improvement • The Promontory • Sloan Lake Citizens Group • South Hilltop NA • South Valley NA • Washington/Emerson Action Team • South West Improvement: 3 Units • South Park East HOA • St. Charles Neighborhood Group • Sunnyvale United Neighborhoods • University Park faculty and student • University Place • Upper Downtown Development Org • Upper Lariat NA • Upvalley HOA • Valleywood Neighborhood • Virginia Village/Elli Community Assn • Warren's University HOA • Watson Park NA • West University Neighborhood • West Washington Park NA • Whittier NA • Woodland Park Community Council • Woodson Tract Residential HOA • Yale Avenue Safety Comm •

Associate Members
Keep Denver Beautiful • Denver Board of Realtors • Denver Business Round Tables • Governor's Community Partnership Office • King & Associates • Mary DeGroot • Tan Grenda • Tim Sanders • RTDB

Registration Ordinance Changed
July 1995

by Michael Henry

On May 15, the Denver City Council passed without discussion or debate, a significant revision of § 41-19 of the Revised Municipal Code, pertaining to regis- tration and notification of neighborhood organizations.

When it was first passed in 1979, the ordinance was an extremely important milestone in the development of Denver neighborhood organizations as being "players" in issues affecting neighborhoods. The official notices of prop- osed actions, which agencies are required to send to neighborhood organizations, enable neighborhood groups to learn about proposed changes, spread the word to residents of the area, and bring together with city officials and applicants to testify at appropriate hearings. Prior to the passage of the ordinance, sometimes groups were lucky enough to learn about proposed actions in advance of a hearing and sometimes they were not.

The most important change in the ordinance is that the list of matters which neighborhood groups are required to receive notification has been expanded to include the following new items: 1) residential care uses; 2) major modification to premises and/or transfer of liquor and/or cabaret licenses; 3) hearings before the Board of Adjustment and building department; 4) changes to park land use; 5) proposals to change park traffic patterns; 6) reconstruc- tion, widening or change in direction of streets and changes to and from one-way to two-way; and 7) identification of properties being processed through nuisance abatement procedures.

The revised ordinance also articulates a new policy: The Council encourages neighborhood organizations to work cooperatively with any adjacent or overlapping neighborhood organizations to determine positions on issues affecting the neigh- borhood and to conduct, in an organized, representative and fair manner, which is designed to obtain informed participation from as many neighborhood citizens as possible. Registration of organizations with overlapping boundaries is allowed, but the formation of numerous overlapping neighborhood organizations is strongly discouraged.

"The new ordinance also add a few items of information which will be required for the annual registration application in January of each year and also allows a neighborhood organization an "opt out" of receiving notification of certain matters.

Finally, the revised ordinance also slightly expands the information which needs to be given by any person testifying on behalf of a registered neighborhood organi- zation to include the following: 1) the name of the organization; 2) the boundaries of the organization; 3) the number of people, households, constitutions and the methods represented by the organization and the basis for determining membership; 4) the time and date of the meeting when the organization decided on its position; 5) the nature of the meeting; whether the same was a meeting of the board, of a membership subcommittee or the general membership; 6) the number of members present; 7) a description of the process for reaching the decision, including if and how neighborhood citizens were informed and if and how they were invited to participate; and 8) the votes cast for or against the proposed position of the group.

These revisions were the product of a several-month process, coordinated by Harriet Hogue of the Denver Planning Office, which included solicitation of com- ments from all neighborhood groups, agency heads, City Council and a committee of Larimer Neighborhood Cooperation including Jim Zavist, Stan McIntyre and Michael Henry.

Neighborhood Connection Articles
Articles for Denver Neighborhood Connection must be submitted by the 20th of the month prior to publication to the Editor, Craig Eley, 3800 S. Peach Way, Denver, CO 80237. 758-9499 (fcm); 757-5000 (wk); 689-9827 (fax).

Education Committee Report
(from page 2)

A question that has not been an- swered: What is the impact on the home schools of the magnet schools? In any case, here are "in and out" fig- ures for the high school (1993-94 school year) with the "in" figure representing students from another attendance area at that school and the "out" fig- ures, students from that attendance area at another Denver school. Lincoln, 89 in; 292 out; East, 268 in, 287 out; George Washington, 81 in; 292 out; Manual, 70 in, 248 out; Computer Magnet; Kennedy, 228 in, 83 out (Marine Biology program); Manual, 226 in, 313 out (School of the Arts Magnet); North, 14 in; 249 out; South, 364 in, 241 out; Thomas Jefferson, 154 in, 260 out; West, 300, in 183 out (International Studies Magnet); Jefferson, 154 in, 261 out. You might want to compare test scores. A district official has told me that most of the out-of-district high school students in DPS are W.

Projected enrollment for 95-96 is 62,154 with an increase of 129 Early Childhood Education (ECE) students. September 30, 1994, (official count day) enrollment was 62,771.

FTE: This stands for full-time equi- valent in DPS budget. Children in ECE and Kindergarten are funded as .5 FTE.

Colorado At Risk Preschool Pro- grams: Preschoolers have not been traditionally part of the funding formula except in the past few years. However, under this program a limited number of ECE students are funded and DPS is projecting an increase of 400 students in the funded pupil count with additions to the program.

Next INC Meeting
Saturday
July 8, 1995

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Page 5
Around the City

The toxic well spill, which is less than two blocks from her home, Virginia serves on the Keep Denver Beautiful advisory board, and her sign program has been accepted. Dorothy Wells of the Cook Park neighborhood added information about the Goldsmith Gulch project.

Walt Kembel, Harmon-Cherry Creek NA, told about ground breaking on a 54-unit (very expensive) townhouse project in that neighborhood. Walt was delighted to read in the Denver Post that there is virtually "no growth problem" in Cherry Creek. Jerry Burns, Yale Avenue Safety Committee, happily reported the disappearance of graffiti in his neighborhood, and noted the zoning overlay which will soon come before City Council. Harry Nier of Hunt Club praised Polly Flobeck and Mayor Webb and his staff for their efforts concerning the development of highrises in Indian Creek. Anne Callison, George Washington Homeowners Association, also praised the mayor for offering to amend the intergovernmental agreement of the Lowry Redevelopment Authority to add voting representatives from adjacent neighborhoods.

Various Thank Yous

Sandy Adams, former candidate for Auditor, thanked those who supported and voted for her, and offered kudos to INC for its work in support of neighbors. Stan McIntyre, Virginia Village/Ellis, and INC Vice Chair, reminded everyone of the Mayor's quarterly meeting to be held at the new library on the 14th. Stan thanked all who supported him in his run for the school board; excess money from his campaign will be donated to the Southeast Denver Youth Council. Stan also noted that six neighborhoods in his area are performing a transportation analysis. Ken Strohsmann of Whittier Neighborhood spoke of continuing efforts to wipe out abandoned buildings. Kathleen Brooker of the Denver Landmark Commission talked about preservation efforts regarding the Zeckendorf Plaza on the 16th Street Mall.

Ginny Westin and Dot Schoel of the League of Women Voters expounded on their efforts to make revisions in the sign code and especially in the ethics code. Efforts in this regard have been stepped up partly due to the negativity in the recent mayoral race. Jennifer Moulton (Planning & Development) and Dick Farley (Urban Design) made a short presentation on the Stapleton Redevelopment plan. The meeting concluded with a presentation by representatives from the Lowry Redevelopment Authority.

Chair Janey Hanley adjourned the meeting at 12:00.

Debbie James, Mayfair Park, introduced herself to the group. Teresa Taylor and Ellen Van Ness Seymour, University Park, introduced their new president, Dick Bjarstrom. Construction has begun on the Boulder Trail with money from Parks and Rec, and they are organizing a fund raiser to help with landscaping. Concerns exist about the traffic on Colorado Boulevard. Kaki Woods, Greater Park Hill, announced a June 27 hearing regarding the solid waste transfer project. Connie Maps, INC Treasurer and Membership Chair, announced that we have reached 80 regular members and nine associate members; Connie also noted that with contributions from Tim Sandos and the Governor's Partnership Office, we finally have a healthy treasury.

INC's newest member, Stokos Place/Green Bowers, sent three representatives to this meeting: Esther Palmer, Louise Rouse and Chuck Anderson. Their boundaries are Steele Street, Colorado Boulevard, Exposition and Cherry Creek Drive South. Kirby Amble, HUNI, noted that each Denver school solicits funds for clean up individually rather than through DPS. He also noted that their Weed & Seed project is associated with the overall beautification plan. Ann Caples reported that Organized Baker has received a grant for a Weed & Seed project. She also spoke of their upcoming festival and garage sale.

Healthy Treasury

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Toxic Spill

Virginia McIntyre, Virginia Village/Ellis, expanded on...
Major Improvements Made in Liquor License Law

By Michael Henry

On April 27, 1995, Governor Roy Romer signed House Bill 1145, which contains two significant improvements (from the point of view of neighborhood organizations) in the liquor licensing process.

The pertinent sections of the bill amend Colorado Revised Statutes §§ 12-46-103 and 12-47-103 to provide that:

"Good cause" for the purposes of refusing or denying a license renewal or initial license issuance, means:

a) the licensee or applicant has violated, does not meet or has failed to comply with any of the terms, conditions or provisions of this article or any rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this article;

b) the licensee or applicant has failed to comply with any special terms or conditions placed on its license in prior disciplinary proceedings or by agreement between the licensee and licensing authority;

c) in the case of a new license, the applicant has not established the reasonable requirements of the neighborhood or the desires of its adult inhabitants . . . or;

d) evidence that the licensee has conducted its licensed premises in a manner that adversely affects the health, welfare or safety of the neighborhood in which the licensed establishment is located.

The first major improvement of this bill is that it defines "good cause," which should avoid the legal problems which caused the Colorado Court of Appeals in 1994 to reverse the Denver Department of Excise and License's non-renewal of the liquor license of the Squire Lounge at East Colfax and Williams. Although the evidence at the Department's hearing showed significant problems with the Squire Lounge's operation, the Court of Appeals determined that the phrase "good cause" in the statute lacked any definition and was, therefore, too vague to be the basis for non-renewal of a liquor license. Now, with the newly enacted definition, both neighborhood organizations and the Department of Excise and Licenses should have a firmer basis to use against problem-causing liquor licenses.

The second major advantage of the new legislation is that, for the first time, it specifically authorizes a local liquor licensing authority to impose "special terms or conditions . . . by agreement between the licensee and the licensing authority" and, in addition, to refuse a license renewal if the licensee fails to comply with such special terms or conditions.

In the past, many neighborhood organizations have been reluctant to support a new liquor license application, even though the applicant might promise certain things, such as a limitation of hours or a limitation of sales (such as wine only), because the neighborhood organizations doubted that such limitations could be legally enforced. Other groups have sometimes been willing to sign contracts with applicants to establish such limitations; however, in the event that the applicant would violate the contract, the enforcement obligations and legal expenses would fall upon neighborhood organizations. Under House Bill 1145, such conditions are specifically permitted and can be enforced by the city.

Thanks should be given to Tom Knorr and Margot Hartmann of Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods for successfully lobbying for the changes and to Senator Pat Pastoe and Representatives Noebert Chavez and Doug Linkhart for supporting the bill.
(These provisions of House Bill 1145 became effective on the date of the Governor's signature, April 27, 1995.)

Grant Received for Training, Strengthening Neighborhoods

A program to strengthen metro Denver neighborhoods is beginning soon under the direction of the Neighborhood Resource Center of Metropolitan Denver. The program will include workshops, technical assistance and written materials.

NRC recently signed a contract with the Governor's Community Partnership Office to conduct a year-long community mobilization effort. Activities under the contract will be funded by a federal grant aimed at reducing and preventing crime.

Under the contract, NRC will open an office in mid-July to begin providing services to neighborhood groups in the six-county metro Denver area. NRC, which was founded by executive director Doug Linkhart two years ago, will offer a variety of assistance programs to neighborhood groups.

Technical assistance will be provided to neighborhood groups requesting such aid by a group of community consultants hired and trained by NRC. These consultants will be appointed by a community advisory board after a search process.

NRC will also conduct workshops on neighborhood organizing skills in different parts of the metro area. In some cases, NRC will work with individual neighborhoods or coalitions to produce workshops tailored to their needs.

NRC will produce a newsletter, workbooks and resource guides for neighborhood use. This information will also be made available through the Internet.

More details on these services will be distributed in the near future. In the meantime, please call Doug Linkhart, 733-3569, or Janet Howley, 729-2837, for more information.