DCDN (October 1996)

September 7 Meeting

Minutes of Last Meeting

By Diane Wolta
Interim Secretary

RTD Southwest Corridor Light Rail: Letters, signed by Chairman Stan McIntyre and Transportation Committee Chair Rita Sokolowski, were sent to Colorado Senators Hank Brown, Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Sen. Mark Hatfield, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, declaring INC's support for funding of an initial $3 million in Section 3 New Start Funds for the Southwest light rail transit corridor and urging these Senators to support the bill in the U.S. Senate.

Dollar Dictionary Drive: Cathie Fisher and Sarah Bradley wrote and submitted a grant proposal to Colorado National Bank for $1,000 to help pay for dictionaries. We should have notification of whether or not INC gets the grant money by the end of September. Dictionaries are ready for associations to pick up and distribute to the 3rd graders in neighborhood elementary schools. All dictionaries have the name of at least one local neighborhood association and INC's name on a label inside the covers. INC received television coverage from Channels 2 and 4 of the first distribution of dictionaries, which was made to Colfax Elementary School this past week.

City Council: At its September 9 meeting, City Council will present INC with a resolution commending the excellent work done by INC on the Dollar Dictionary Drive.

Presentation: INC members Cathie Fisher and Janey Hanley were presented with plaques by Stan McIntyre in appreciation for organizing the 1995 "Make a Difference Day," for which INC received national recognition.

Announcement: Cathie Fisher advised the members that everyone in the City of Denver can now do volunteer work for Denver Public Schools and receive a property tax rebate of $250. This program used to only be available to Senior Citizens, but it is now open to all.

Liquor License Issues: By unanimous vote, INC accepted the proposal as printed in the September 1996 INC newsletter, which should be the first step in controlling the badly run, nuisance liquor establishment.

Dollar Dictionary Drive: By unanimous vote, INC shall urge the City to keep moving on rewriting the City's Zoning Code.

New Member: By unanimous vote, the Godman Community Neighborhood Association was accepted into INC membership.

(continued with "Around the City" on page 3)
Chairman's Column
By Stan McIntyre

The following is the preamble to INC's bylaws:

We, the independent neighborhood organizations of Denver, in order to represent the interest of neighborhoods and to encourage autonomy, diversity, and power for neighborhoods, and collectively address issues of common interest while adhering to the principles of democracy, openness to all Denver neighborhoods, and social and economic justice, do hereby accept responsibility for shaping our own future by forming Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation.

The INC Executive Board has had many discussions on how to become more effective addressing city-wide issues and concerns of our membership. Delegates to INC need a procedure to follow if requesting assistance or support. INC needs to be assured that the proposal is supported by a majority vote of the association requesting assistance. Remember, we can act on city-wide issues. INC can and should be able to assist you on procedures and direct you to the right agency or person.

I wish to thank all the INC members who are donating their time to attend the Denver Neighborhood Partnership session. Their seven meetings through January 8, 1997, meet then in the fall of 1997 we will restructure the committee, to review progress and evaluate the model. INC needs to keep neighborhood associations informed on main issues that will directly affect us, and the way we function with it.

INC was informed by the Colorado National Bank that our grant for the Dollar Dictionary Drive of $1000.00 will be presented to us at our November Meeting. This grant was made possible by Sara Bradley, Carriee Feiss and a great program. A Denver City resolution was presented to INC by the Denver City Council, and in turn INC presented Denver City Council with the National Award for Make a Difference Day.

NOTICE
INC Delegates will vote on the following motions passed unanimously by the INC Executive Board at its September 17, 1996 meeting:
1. Not to support the current (7-10-96 draft and prints) Residential Care Use amendment and we strongly suggest that a city-wide process (similar to the Nuance Abatement process) be implemented prior to the final draft going to City Council Committee.
2. To encourage City Council to begin revising the Denver Zoning Code per Jan Zavist and Mike Henry's letter dated September 18, 1996.
3. To request clarification of the city's vision and use of the neighborhood plans.

Denver Renaissance Project Begins

The City of Denver has begun what is being called the Renaissance Project. The mission of the Renaissance Project is to recognize the permitting process in Denver. This will be a massive undertaking that will not happen overnight, but it won't take a century either.

The Renaissance Project team is composed of representatives from the departments in the City that issue permits. They have been working many extra hours so that they can test a pilot permitting process before the end of the year.

Right now a building project in Denver could have to apply to as many as 20 different agencies for permits. That's 20 different potential points of entry. The goal of the Renaissance Project will be to design a single point of entry for those who do business with the City. All records on a project will be kept in one place.

Community Police Training Scheduled

The Colorado Consortium for Community Policing is sponsoring two-day basic training programs free of charge to community members. The program covers community partnerships, problem solving, strategic planning, and management/supervision.

In addition to the two-day courses, the Consortium also offers community policing implementation workshops which deal with such topics as traffic problems, graffiti, and multi-family housing.

Public Works Chair: Dave Vice Chair: Haynes Members: Gallagher, Foster, Thomas

Denver City Council Committee Assignments 1996-1997

Rethinking Law Enforcement Chair: Casey Members: Foster, Gallagher, Haynes, Thomas

Special Assignments

Affirmative Action Community Task Force: Haynes, Martinez, Davis

Child Care Task Force: Martinez

City School Coordinating Committee: Casey, Foster

Colorado Municipal League: Reynolds

Constitution & Visitors Bureau: Martinez

Denver Center for Performing Arts Board: Himmelmann

Denver General Authority Task Force: Barnes-Gelt, Hackworth

Denver Regional Council of Governments: Foster

Interagency Homeless Task Force: Haynes, Martinez

Juvenile Detention Selection Committee: Haynes, Ortega

Liason for Community Festivals: Thomas

Lowry Coordinating Committee: Fiebeck, Reynolds

Management Review Oversight Committee: Ortega, Reynolds

Metro Scientific & Cultural District Board: Barnes-Gelt

Metro Wastewater Reclamation Board: Hackworth

National League of Cities: Ortega, Reynolds

PACT (Polling America's Communities Together): Ortega, Martinez

Public Technology, Inc.: Ortega

Regulatory Reform Oversight: Casey

Regional Air Quality Council: Hackworth

Community Management Team: Davis, Fiebeck, Haynes

Sports Facilities Task Force: Nuggets: Ortega, Reynolds

Broncos: Martinez, Gallagher

Sunrise/Sunset Committee: Barnes-Gelt, Gallagher

Urban Drainage & Flood Control: Reynolds, Ortega, Himmelmann

Green Flats: Hackworth
Senators Address Light Rail

Editor's Note: INC received the following in response to its letter to Colorado's two U.S. Senators expressing INC's support for additional funding for light rail.

Thank you for contacting me with your concerns regarding the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) project to develop a new light rail line from Denver to Littleton.

As you know, Denver's current light rail system is an integral and beneficial component of the Denver public transit system. In addition to combusting air pollution and traffic congestion, it provides many people, including the elderly, disabled, and the economically disadvantaged, with a means of transportation to and around Denver.

RTD this year asked Congress for $8 million to extend the light rail line along South Santa Fe Drive in Denver into Littleton. In July, the House of Representatives passed a transportation spending bill that included $3 million for the Southwest Corridor Light Rail extension. On July 31, the Senate passed their version of H.R.3675 by a vote of 95-2. This version earmarked no funds for the extension.

Differences between the two versions will be worked out in a conference committee.

Thanks again for the time to contact me.

Sincerely,
Hank Brown
United States Senator

Denver Neighborhood Connection
Deadline for Articles Is
The 20th of Each Month
For Your Information

Gift Cooperative

The second annual Kaleidoscope gift sale will take place October 25 and 26 at the Greek community center, 4610 E. Alameda Avenue. The event, which brings together items from the gift shops of 20 area museums and cultural organizations, benefits 4Parents Helpline, a free and confidential family support services of Community College of Denver. Admission is $3.50, with children under 12 free. For further information call 534-3789.

Essay Contest

Each year, the Fleet Reserve Association sponsors an essay contest on Americanism. This year the theme is "What Freedom of Speech Means to Me." Local prizes range from $15 to $100. National winners will receive savings bonds ranging from $100 to $1000.

The contest is for students in grades 7 through 12. The submission deadline is November 15. For further information, call 757-0035.

Heartfelt Help

Denver Department of Social Services is sponsoring an "Exercise Your Heart" breakfast on October 17 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

The breakfast, which is open to all, does not involve push-ups or sit-ups. Instead, it will give attendees the chance to choose from a number of different volunteer opportunities in which to participate to improve the health and welfare of the entire community. The event will be held at 80 S. Santa Fe Drive. RSVP to Beverly Whitt at 727-2647.

Education Report

By Marilyn Vaughn
Chair, Education Committee

Significant to the citizens of Denver: At press time, the Board of Education was considering and most likely would approve the issuance of $23.7 million in Certificates of Participation (COPs). Currently outstanding is $23.8 million in COPs due to be paid off in the year 2000. Payments per year are $3.9 million made from the Capital Reserve Fund and COP Trust Fund investment earnings. Reserves of $71 million are required in the Trust Fund. If new COPs are issued, the district would finance the current COPs.

Over $4 million has already been spent to make capital improvements stated to be necessary for redistricting. This money came from paying down the capital reserve and transfers from cash reserves in the General Fund.

District staff state that this money is necessary to finance capital improvements related to redistricting, for buses, technology and a new elementary school in Montbello and an additional school in northwest by buying and remodeling the Mt. Carmel School.

COPs are in effect a mortgage and payments are made from the capital reserve fund by a vote of the Board each year. Unlike a bond issue, no vote is necessary from the electorate to issue COPs.

However, there is still discussion of asking the voters to approve a bond in the future to pay off these COPs and for other needs. The voters would be asked to retroactively approve the capital improvements made with COPs. If no bond is approved, the COPs would be a burden to the district for 15 to 20 years.

According to the adopted budget, $9.9 million was added to the Capital Reserve Fund from the General Fund this fiscal year. State law requires that $210 per pupil be placed in capital and insurance reserves each year. This fund carries an emergency reserve required by TABOR of $1 million.

(continued on page 5)

Platte River Park Report

By Gloria Rodden
INC Parks Chair

I have discussed the problem of the homeless and their occupation of the Platte River parkway. I spoke with Sara Rapalino, South Park Concourse Assistant, and with the Mayor's Office and asked how they intended to control the homeless along the 10.5 mile greenway. The city is working on a legal eviction law and with homeless advocacy groups to institute a transitional shelter space. The Platte River Greenway will have different areas planned around different activities.

Common Parks: will have educational involvement for inner-city youth, gold painting, camping, open spaces, environmental education and will be open to activities for organized groups.

Rocking Green: will have ball fields, picnic tables North Denver (Globeville) will have playgrounds, soccer fields, and baseball diamonds. Our city is trying to strike a balance and it seems the additional open space will meet the needs of residents as well as organized groups.

Education Report

(from page 4)

Discussion at the Board work session also included comments that in the future the capital reserve be assured of having sufficient funds to "pay as you go" on such items as buses and major improvements ($2,500+, $750+ on equipment purchases). If COPs are issued and no bond is subsequently passed, this effort would be hampered. Bonds, however, would mean new revenue to the district and would allow voter input. Temporary alternatives to the overcrowding issue could include year-long schools, which have been used in other districts, and busing to schools with low enrollment. These are not popular with parents. Incidentally, approximately $400,000 was spent on work at Colfax Elementary to accommodate the year-round school which was hailed as a means to increased student achievement. The dollar figure could have financed 3 to 4 classrooms.

Regarding the Capital Reserve Fund, the District Accountability Council and the Budget Steering Committee have both recommended an advisory committee to set priorities for this fund. No such committee has yet been established. Now, this fund has been paid down.

INC Members (Patrons in Bold)

- Alamo Placita NA • Belcaro Park HOA • Beaumont Place HOA • Belleview-Hale NA • Berkeley NA
- Bonnie Brae HOA • Brandychase at Eastmoor Park • Broadway Terrace NA • Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods • Clayton NA • Colfax on the Hill • College View Civic Assn • Congress Park Neighborhoods • Cook Park NA • Cory-Merrill NA • Cranmer Park/Hilltop Civic Assn • Crestmoor Park Neighborhoods • Denver Market Neighborhoods Coalition • Denver's Uptown on the Hill • Downtown Denver Residents Orgn • East Montclair Neighborhoods • Eastmoor Park Condominiums • Far Northeast Neighborhoods • George Washington Park HOA • Globeville Civic Association • Golden Triangle NA • Good Neighbors Assn • Greater Bible Park Civic Assn • Greater Park Hill Community • Hampden Heights Civic Assn • Harkness Heights NA • Harman NA • Highland United Neighborhoods • Hunt Club HOA • Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point Homeowners • Indian Creek Neighborhoods • Inspiration Point NA • Jefferson Park NA • Mayfair Neighborhoods • Mayfair Park NA • Metro Denver Local Development • Morgan's Subdivision Historic District HOA • Morrison Road Business Assn • North City Park Civic Assn • Organized Baker Residents • Overland NA • Park Forest HOA • Pine Valley NA • Sloan Lake Citizens' Group • South Hilltop NA • South Jackson Street NA • South West Improvement Council • South Washington/Emerson Action Team • Southmoor Park East HOA • Southmoor Park HOA • St. Charles Neighborhood Group • Stokes Place/Greenhaven • Traveller's Rest-Hampden United • Upham Down • Valley Beach Civic Assn • United Colorado Neighborhoods • United South East Denver • University Park Community Council • University Place NA • Upper Downtown Development Orgn • Valverde Neighborhood Group • Virginia Villaggio/Ellis Community Assn • Virginia Vale Community Assn • Warren's Home HOA • Washington Park East NA • West Highland NA • West Washington Park NA • West University CA • Yale Avenue Safety Comm

Associate Members: Agency for Human Rights & Community Relations • Bill Himmelmann • Broadway Terrace Merchants • Michael Healy • Dan Orendor • Pat Pasco • 12th & Madison Square Businesses • Colorado Coalition for the Homeless • Denver Medical Society • Denver Real Estate Association Management • Denver Public Schools • Downtown Denver Partnership • Habitat Denver • Keep Denver Beautiful • Mile High Associates • League of Women Voters of Denver • South East Denver Youth Council • Tim Sandos • Young Amricans Education Foundation
MAJOR WELLINGTON E. WEBB  
URGES YOU TO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE  

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1996, AS INC (INTER  
NEIGHBORHOOD COOPERATION) DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
& the CITY OF DENVER CELEBRATE NATIONAL  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY! 

HOW?  
JOIN A BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL  
HELP AN ELDERLY NEIGHBOR CLEAN UP THEIR PROPERTY  
PLANT A TREE  
VOLUNTEER AT A LOCAL SHELTER  
START A CRIME WATCH PROGRAM FOR YOUR BLOCK  
REMOVE ILLEGAL HANDBILLS  
CLEAN UP YOUR YARD  
ORGANIZE A BLOCK PARTY  
JOIN A GRAFFITI-REMOVAL PROJECT  
BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION  
CLEAN UP A PARK OR A BIKE PATH  
JOIN A NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP  

WHEN?  
OCTOBER 26, 1996, FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M. (RAIN, SNOW, OR SHINE)  

WHERE?  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, LOCAL SCHOOL, PARK  

SPECIAL TRASH COLLECTION SITES FOR HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BAGGED HOUSEHOLD  
AND YARD RUBBISH ARE AS FOLLOWS:  
26TH & QUEBEC  
PEORIA & ALBROOK  
NORTH HIGH SCHOOL  
COLFAX & PEARL  
34TH & DOWNING  
CHERRY CREEK TRANSFER STATION (QUEBEC & CHERRY CREEK DR.)  

NON-ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS INCLUDE: METAL PIPES & POLES, CEMENT, TREE TRUNKS OVER  
3 INCHES IN DIAMETER, LIQUIDS, PESTICIDES, BUILDING MATERIALS, CAR PARTS, FREEZERS,  
REFRIGERATORS OR AIR CONDITIONERS.  

A LIMITED SUPPLY OF TRASH BAGS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CLEANUP PROJECTS AT THE  
COLLECTION SITES. 

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, CALL 640-2900, OR COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM ON  
THE BACK AND RETURN IT TO KEEP DENVER BEAUTIFUL BY OCTOBER 11, 1996.
REGISTER BY OCTOBER 11, 1996

DETACH AND MAIL TO: KEEP DENVER BEAUTIFUL, 1390 DECATUR ST., DENVER, CO 80204

I AM REGISTERING FOR MY:  ___ SELF  ___ BUSINESS

NAME ____________________________

ORGANIZATION ____________________

ADDRESS W/CITY & ZIP CODE ____________________________

DAYTIME PHONE ____________________

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATING BY AGE ___ 17 & UNDER ___ ADULT

I/ WE WANT TO VOLUNTEER FOR  ___ LOCAL SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION

___ PARKS BEAUTIFICATION

___ NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY PROJECT

___ OTHER

CALL KEEP DENVER BEAUTIFUL AT 640-2900 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER.