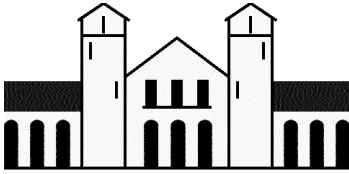


SCPNA NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2010



SOUTH CITY PARK
Neighborhood Association

PO Box 18375
Denver, CO 80218
www.scpna.org

Email for Officers
southcitypark@gmail.com

President

Jim Slotta -- 303.388.3388

Co-Vice President

Alicia Thorne -- 720.323.0449
Karen Newman -- 303.399.6825
Bonita Lahey -- 303.321.8533

Treasurer

Doña Dodson -- 303.333.2983

Secretary

(Position Vacant-please inquire)

City Council Representatives:

Carla Madison (District 8), 303-298-7641
Carol Boigon (At Large), 720-865-8100
Doug Linkhart (At Large), 720-865-8000

Police Community Resource Officers:

Reyes Trujillo, 720-913-1094
Amy Esten, 720-913-1095

City Park Maintenance Contact:

Juan Marsh (Field Superintendent)
720-865-0871 (Office)(non-emergency)
303-916-4525 (Cell)(emergency/safety)

Next General Meeting:

Wed., January 20 @ 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Montview Manor Penthouse
1663 Steele Street

Meeting Agenda:

- Police Dist. 2, 'Brief' Q & A
- Vote-Resolution on medical marijuana dispensaries
- Vote-Resolution on Parks & Rec private event policy
- New, Old Business Topics

Thanks in abundance to Propaganda Labs and myColfax.org for converting our articles into a beautiful Newsletter, and a big thank you once again both to Saint Paul Health Center and to National Jewish Health for helping with the printing costs! Please come to the January 20 Meeting!

Dear South City Park Residents,

A bunch of "2's" and "3's" follows.

Two resolutions will be presented at the January 20 Meeting. An article about each is included in this issue.

Two concerted efforts will be made at our meetings this year: (1) We will 'time' all segments of our meetings to allow us to proceed through the 1.5 hours in the most efficient manner; (2) We will limit the number of items on the meeting agenda, covering other items through weekly outreaches. This will be a little different, but the idea has captured the imagination of our Co-Vice Presidents. The officer group will invent ways for the outreaches.

Three inserts accompany this issue:

1) The Member Appeal Letter with accompanying form provides life-blood for our neighborhood association. I invite each of you to reflect on the letter's message, and join up. On the form, 'Suggested Dues' means just that; for example, if paying (any) lesser amount will make it more possible for your household to join, that is fine. 'Extra Contributions' offers a way to support related efforts through the association. Note the line item recognizing the importance of our volunteer Webmaster.

2) There's a 2-sided flyer about the East High School Entry Plaza Renovation. The Entry Plaza campaign is both newsworthy and an exciting opportunity for those in the community who have some connection to historic East.

3) The third insert is an ad for a supportive Colfax business--The Atomic Cowboy's Denver Biscuit Co.

Jim Slotta
SCPNA President

VOTE ON ADMISSION-BASED PARKS EVENTS

Please be prepared to discuss and vote at the January Meeting on the resolution presented below:

Whereas, events in City Park place a parking burden on the South City Park neighborhood,

And whereas, City Park is already burdened with over 4,000,000 annual visits,

And whereas, a five-year planning process for City Park concluded that as an amelioration of the 4,000,000 annual visitors, the remainder of the park not impacted by the two cultural institutions would be developed as a passive park for casual recreation by area residents and other Denver area citizens,

And whereas, the Denver City Charter contains the following provision:

DENVER CITY CHARTER

Part 4 - PARKS AND RECREATION

Paragraph 2.4.5

"Without the approval of a majority of those registered electors in an election held by the City and County of Denver, no park or portion of any park belonging to the City as of December 31, 1955, shall be sold or leased at any time, and no land acquired by the City after December 31, 1955, that is designated a park by ordinance shall be sold or leased at any time, provided, however, that property in parks may be leased for park purposes to concessionaires, to charitable or non-profit organizations, or to governmental jurisdictions. All such leases shall require the approval

(over)

(Park Events - Cont.)

of the Council as provided for in Article III of this Charter. No land acquired by the City after December 31, 1955, shall be deemed a park unless specifically designated a park by ordinance.”

And whereas, the public has never voted to rescind this Charter provision,

The South City Park Neighborhood association hereby urges the Mayor, the Manager of Parks and Recreation and the Denver City Council to reject proposals to fence off use of the park by Denver citizens for the benefit of any non-governmental enterprise.

- Submitted by South City Park resident Tom Morris

VOTE ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES

Please be prepared to discuss and vote at the January Meeting on the resolution at the end of this article. SCPNA received an email on November 20, 2009, from the owner of a zoned-for-business property, indicating that the owner signed a lease with a company that intends to operate a medical marijuana dispensary/wellness center on the property, located in the 1500 Block of Adams Street in South City Park. The property owner indicated that the new tenant had assured the followings and vote at the January Meeting on the resolution presented below:

Signage - no references to pot or marijuana or any pot leaves. No loitering on or about the premises. Patients are to wait in the waiting area. The front of the premises will not change in any way with the exception of signage. They will install security cameras and glass reinforcing film on the windows. They will be installing a 500# safe bolted to the basement floor. No product will be left out overnight. No cash will be on site overnight.

The property owner knew these things are somewhat controversial, and wanted to give the neighborhood a heads up, not wanting the info to come from someone else.

There have been many articles in the news lately about medical marijuana dispensaries. Denver police indicate that there have been at least 25 robberies or burglaries related to medical marijuana including 13 at dispensaries since July. Governor Ritter's office reported that as of mid-August 3/4 of marijuana recommendations came from 15 doctors, half of whom operated on restricted licenses. As of December 15th, 194 sales tax licenses had been issued to medical marijuana dispensaries. Los Angeles is having similar issues and is considering restrictions that would shut down all but 5 of its 800 to 1000 dispensaries.

New laws are being considered here as well. The ordinance that Denver is currently considering would only prevent dispensaries from opening within 1000 feet of one another and within 1000 feet of schools and child care centers. Note that this would not impact the dispensary on Adams Street, and that additional dispensaries might be allowed in South City Park. Councilwoman Boigon's tougher proposal to bar dispensaries from lo-

cating close to city parks, churches and public buildings was not supported by other council members according to the Denver Post. There are also several proposals at the state level to adopt more stringent marijuana rules including one proposal from the law enforcement community that was recently supported by the Post in an editorial.

Several residents have expressed concerns about having this type of business in our neighborhood. Concerns include criminal activity and proximity to residential areas, schools and parks. They have suggested that SCPNA go on record at its January 20th meeting as supporting stricter new laws that would prevent dispensaries from operating in the neighborhood. If a resolution is passed, SCPNA's opposition to dispensaries can then be shared with our elected officials and we can ask that they be as restrictive as possible. If a resolution does not pass, SCPNA will not take a position on whether dispensaries should be located in the neighborhood. The business owner, who has leased the Adams Street property and plans to operate the medical marijuana dispensary/wellness center, has been invited to attend the meeting.

The following proposed resolution will be presented at the January SCPNA meeting:

The South City Park Neighborhood Association is opposed to allowing medical marijuana dispensaries to be located in the neighborhood. SCPNA asks that local and state elected officials adopt new laws and regulations that will prevent medical marijuana dispensaries from operating within its boundaries.

- Submitted by SCPNA Block Captain Rich Kadinger

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SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2009 SCPNA MEETING

About 30 attended at the Montview Manor Penthouse from 7-8:30 PM.

Announcements (President Jim Slotta)

This is our annual meeting because we have elections at this time. New offices begin with the January Meeting. Tomorrow there will be a meeting about a liquor license application by the Tavern Hospitality Group for the former Neighborhood Flix location at 2510 East Colfax in the Lowenstein complex. Two local food drives were described---one by National Jewish Health and one by CHUN called Food for All.

Police District 2 Q & A

Two Officers from the Street Crime Attack Team (S.C.A.T.) talked about their group's investigative roles such as gangs, drug deals and prostitution. The Officers responded to questions about topics including crimes on Colfax, transients, illegally parked cars and crimes in the park.

Treasurer's Report

Doña Dodson reported memberships at 170 households and a bank balance of \$2,800.

East High School (Project Angel Pride Chair Mark Hoskin)

Mark Hoskin reviewed the role and accomplishments of Project Angel Pride. He expressed East's support for having the proposed city recreation center just west of the school, and confidence that issues such as parking, shared use, hours of operation will be resolved as plans proceed. He said that East High School considers itself "a very important part of your community" and asked us to

"please support the motion to include us in your boundaries." the presentation was followed by a lively question-and-answer session.

Vote: Move of SCPNA West Boundary from Detroit to Josephine

The motion was approved with 27 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Election of SCPNA Officers for 2010

President-Jim Slotta; Vice Presidents-Alicia Thorne, Karen Newman, Bonita Lahey; Treasurer-Doña Dodson; Secretary-(position vacant).

- Submitted by Jim Slotta from digital recording and from notes taken by OliveAnn Slotta

MISCELLANEOUS TIDBITS

Vacant SCPNA Secretary position needs filled - Please consider volunteering for this important position. If interested, you can begin by discussing this opportunity with a current officer.

Two Block Captain vacancies--1500 Harrison and 1600 Detroit - If you reside on one of these blocks, this role is a great way to increase your neighborhood involvement. Talk with a current officer if interested/willing.

New Block Captain for 1500 Cook - Thanks to Doug Olson, 1542 Cook, who has taken on this duty!

Regarding additional articles in the long (web site) version of the SCPNA November Newsletter: - In her interview article, South City Park resident Way Shen uncovers interesting insights about Hooked on Colfax owners Scott & Malissa Spero. In a separate article, Way expresses appreciation for the Mercy public art. Wow!

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CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dog Park Masterplan

Parks & Recreation will hold two public meetings to present the draft recommendations and take public comment. One occurs before this newsletter is distributed; the other is: Sat., Jan. 30, 2010, Cook Park Rec Center, 7100 Cherry Cr. Dr. S., 1:30 -3:30 PM

Upcoming SCFD Free Days

Denver Botanic Gardens, January 18th: 1005 York St., Denver. 720-865-3500

Denver Zoo, January 18th: 2300 Steele St., Denver. 303-376-4800

Denver Museum of Nature & Science, January 21st ;2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver. 303-322-7009

Denver Center for the Performing Arts NEW: Apply for free tickets www.denvercenter.org 1245 Champa St., Denver. 303-893-4100

Denver Continues to Keep Cold Weather Emergency Shelters Open for the Homeless

Since October, Denver emergency shelters have been open for 55 nights. Emergency shelters have been open every night since Nov. 13, 2009 and will continue to remain open as needed.

“We have a team of 19 street outreach workers, along with partnerships with the Denver Police Department, Downtown Denver Partnership and many other shelters and community organizations that work together to make sure every homeless man, woman and child has a safe and warm place to stay in dangerously cold weather,” Katie Symons, homeless outreach coordinator at the Denver Department of Human Services, said.

Denver activates its emergency shelters only when space at other shelters is filled to capacity. Once regular beds are filled, Denver opens the Salvation Army emergency overflow shelter at Crossroads and the Lambuth Center, as well as The Delores Project. If shelter beds fill at these locations, shelter staff will make a referral to the outreach team to assist the homeless in finding another safe and warm place to stay for the night.

Denver’s Road Home and its partners ask for the public’s help in telling any homeless man, woman, child or family to sleep indoors. Anyone can seek more information about shelter locations and resources for the homeless by calling Mile High United Way at 2-1-1 or the City and County of Denver at 3-1-1. Denver’s Road Home created an Emergency Shelter Procedures flyer (http://www.denversroadhome.org/files/Emergency_Shelter_final.pdf) with specific information about its emergency plan.

ToolBank USA

A handful of community-minded citizens are teaming up with ToolBank USA to bring an innovative new resource to Denver, CO! A ToolBank in Denver would provide a vast inventory of tools for use by charitable organizations in the Denver area. Nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, education institutions, and neighborhood associations may borrow shovels, ladders, drills, wheelbarrows, and other essential tools for a small fee to increase the impact of volunteers while reducing expenses.

Presentation Details:

Location: Montclair Civic Building, 6820 E 12th Ave – Denver CO - 80220

Date/Time: Thursday, Jan 14 @ 1:30pm

Presenter: Mark Brodbeck, CEO of ToolBank USA (www.toolbank.org)

Please RSVP so that we may prepare accordingly to mark@toolbank.org.

Community Support Sought for East High School Entry Plaza Renovation

Buy a brick or a paver for East High School’s new “Gateway to Learning” Entry Plaza project and you will become a lasting partner in upgrading the entrance to the venerable building at 16th and the Esplanade, across from City Park. The project is being spearheaded by Project Angel Pride, a non-profit group founded in 2003 to plan and implement improvements to the school’s grounds.

To order your own commemorative brick or paver for the Entry Plaza Renovation visit www.ProjectAngelPride.org or contact Susan Bardwell at 303-399-1155 or susanbardwell@msn.com. (See also the order form inserted into this Newsletter.)

Additional information about East High School, Project Angel Pride, and the Entry Plaza Renovation Project can be found either at www.eastangels.org or at www.eastangelalliance.org.

Colfax Street Car Study

The City and County of Denver is working to assess the technical and economic feasibility for development of a “modern streetcar” line on the Colfax Avenue Corridor. The initial study area is bounded on the west by Interstate 25 (I-25), on the east by Syracuse Street, on the south by 12th Avenue, and on the north by 19th Avenue. In addition to exploration of the feasibility of a streetcar application on Colfax in the study area, the Colfax Street Feasibility Study (CSFS) process will identify criteria to evaluate candidate corridors for a potential broader streetcar network.

Project Contact: Terry Ruitter, Principal Planner
Denver Public Works - Policy and Planning
terry.ruitter@denvergov.org - 720.865.3136