

## MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2009 GENERAL MEETING

Eleven (less than a required quorum) attended at the Montview Manor Penthouse from 7:00-7:40 PM. The meeting was chaired by SCPNA Vice President Alicia Thorne in the absence of President Jim Slotta, who was traveling. Because there was no quorum, there was no voting.

DPD Technician Amy Esten led a discussion of recent crime statistics, which were summarized in a handout. Most of what is going on in June and July is criminal mischief crimes such as broken out car windows or graffiti, and a few aggravated assaults. All the information on the handout is available at the city's [denvergov.org](http://denvergov.org) web site. Overall crime has gone down in most categories versus last year. Please call her with any questions or concerns; her phone number is on the first page of the newsletters.

Question: There were complaints about trash and junk left after the Black Arts Festival. What types of actions can people take? Answer: Contact the promoter. Usually there are permits that require groups to take care of trash in the park. If it's not taken care of appropriately, then it can fall back on the promoter. When blocks surrounding the park or bordering Colfax are trashed, that falls on the city to enforce the situation. Amy introduced Lieutenant Kyle of District 2. He is in charge of the District's two SCAT Teams, the Detective Bureau, and the Community Resource Officers.

Resident Rob Hunsley led a discussion of the status of the proposed New Denver Zoning Code as it relates to South City Park. Copies of two maps were passed around--one of the proposed new zoning, and one of current zoning. Basically, after more than 50 years the city is re-doing zoning city-wide, changing from legalistic, formalistic wording such as setbacks and bulk planes, and going to something more contextual that defines neighborhoods. They have six different designations (Suburban, Urban Edge, Urban, General Urban, Urban Center, and Downtown). Neighborhoods are being defined by how they are now, and by how the city and the planning department visualize them changing over the next 20-25 years. If Denver is going to grow and adapt it will be through infill within existing borders and not through annexation. This new map is out to define the different areas (of stability and change). Congress Park between 13th Avenue and Colfax is listed as "Urban Row House 3"(U-RH-3), and that is also what they initially listed for most of South City Park. What that would allow for at a maximum is Row Houses 3 stories high anywhere in the neighborhood. So what you would get over time is a much denser neighborhood than what we have now--which is mostly single-family homes and duplexes. Councilwoman Carla Madison met with some of us and made some changes. What we have now is "Urban TU-A" (U-TU-A), which is 2 Units on a 4,500 square foot lot, and some "General MU-3" (G-MU-3), which allows multi-units up to 3 stories high--think neighborhood apartment houses. They are defining us under the new zoning as a combination between the current R-2 and R-3. The "2 Unit" tops out at 2 ½ stories, so think of the Denver Squares (Victorians) that are on Steele as being as high as anything in the neighborhood can go, except for where you see the "MU-3"; then they can go to 3 stories high. Another thing is that the "TU" designation allows duplexes and tandem houses on a 4,500 square foot lot. Smaller lots will not be allowed to develop duplexes, convert to apartments, or build "Granny Flats" under the new zoning. They also made changes to "Main Street" zoning. There are a lot of "MS-3" lots, meaning a height of 3 stories, which is similar to the current "MS-1" designation. Some of the larger Colfax lots have "C-MS-5" or "C-MS-8", which have lower parking requirements. A lively question-and-answer period followed Rob's presentation. Basically, Rob pointed out that our meeting with Carla Madison, and our large turnout at the District 8 zoning meeting, got results. What we have now is much better than our original designations.

Possible parking ramifications of the New Denver Zoning Plan and of the Denver Strategic Parking Plan were briefly discussed. SCPNA proposed boundary changes were also briefly

discussed, with several questions raised that attendees could not answer. Attendees asked about any update of the status of an SCPNA request to the city for improved pedestrian crossings on 17th Avenue. No update was available as of the meeting. Plans for expansion of the Museum of Nature and Science were also briefly discussed, as well as plans to repair the lightning-damaged fountain in Ferril Lake.

Finally, an announcement was made about the "Tasty Colfax" restaurant event coming July 28.

These full meeting minutes will be made available at the [scpna.org](http://scpna.org) web site.

*-Submitted by Jim Slotta from a digital voice recording*