

SCPNA Meeting Minutes-Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The meeting was held in the Penthouse of the Montview Manor at 1663 Steele Street at 7 pm. Approximately 50 people were in attendance, with about 40 vote-eligible.

Introduction of Guests/New Members & Announcements:

At 7:05 pm, Jim Slotta opened the meeting. Various new members introduced themselves.

Guest Presentation:

Britta Herwig is the new City Park Planner. Still learning the ropes (been working for the city for 8 years). She thinks City Park is a fabulous park and she is very excited to be involved. There are currently 6 contractors working on various projects in City Park: Projects include: 1) Repairing by the bandstand (reopen- Mid-April). 2) Irrigation by the zoo and south side of park. 3) Finishing the 5280 running trail (will be finished by the beginning of May). She suspects that they will have a party to celebrate this. 2 million dollars of bond money is to be spent in the park over the next three years! She's examining the circulation of the park (trying to figure out a good balance of parking/driving/biking/walking). She will return to the SCPNA for feedback and suggestions (she is leaving cards with her contact information). She also fielded questions from the group. Q: Do the contractors have to park in the park? A: Feel like it is reasonable to park near where they work. Q: Is the circulation money going toward entering the park? A: Not yet . . . looking into it. She has been following the email trail examining the traffic lights for crossing 17th Ave. Comment: Thanks for the improving the gates. Comment: I love the running trail . . . it's great. Q: Curious about the pelicans? Are they hurting native habitat? A: No, they are native and they are on their regular migration route. Q: Outhouses are in horrible condition. Can they be cleaned or replaced? A: The outhouses get cleaned up 2 to 3 times per week. Trying to maintain clean facilities, but it only takes one person to trash them. Contact Park Services to notify them if you see them needing servicing. A bathroom facility is being designed for the area near the ball park/Science Museum fountain and will hopefully be completed by Memorial Day 2010.

There was a reminder to participate in the vote tonight, you must be a 2009 dues paying member of the SCPNA. Dues are \$10/household.

Jim Slotta introduced the SCPNA officers.

National Read Across America Day was March 2nd 2009: Jim Slotta circulated a note from a second grade class from Teller Elementary School requesting volunteers to read to them. Special thanks to Dan Rosenbluth and his wife, and Ken Chomic, and Don McCloskey.

Congresswoman Diana DeGette is meeting with various neighborhood associations. Saturday March 21 at District 2 Police from 9-10:30 AM.

There will be a meeting on the Colfax Bond Fund on Tuesday, March 24 5:30-7:30 PM National Jewish Health. They will be discussing the stretch of Colfax from Grant Street to St. Paul specifically.

Alicia Thorne introduced the procedure for Old and New business.

Sgt. Eric Knutson filling in for Amy Esten for the next couple months. Her number will reach him. One thing he wanted to hit upon is the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH. Is there a "Neighborhood Watch" block captain present? No hands were raised. He has not been able to contact any neighborhood block captains, so South City Park has no representation. Theft from motor vehicles has the highest number of crimes perpetuated. A woman volunteered to be a NW block captain . . . she has called countless times to report alleged drug activity on her street in front of her house. To be a certified Neighborhood Watch block 70% of the block needs to participate in formal training to gain certification. Improves communication among neighbors. Q: Who controls the park for speeders? A: Traffic and speed enforcement is an on-going battle.

Jim Slotta mentioned that he tries to promote the neighborhood watch but it will require a leap to get into the formal program.

Jim passed around a letter from Montview Manor thanking us for the contribution that SCPNA made to the building at the last meeting.

Discuss, Vote-SCPNA 2009 Budget Proposal

Jim Slotta requested members to refer to the newsletters circulating that contain the budget as proposed for a vote. The projected budget is based on 350 households. Jim Slotta requested Dona Dodson to make a motion for a vote.

Dona wants to take a poll to see how many folks would be willing to try to find a few other members to join. She is skeptical that we will be able to get 350 households, especially during an economic recession. We currently have 154 members representing 95 households. Somebody asked, "How many households are there in the neighborhood?" The answer is there are 1400 households in SCPNA (creeping toward 1700 households). Jim again requested somebody make a proposal for a vote.

Bonnie Clarke makes a motion to adopt the 2009 budget as printed in the newsletter. Bonita Lahey seconds the motion.

Oliveann Slotta asked, "When a condo association joins SCPNA, does each unit contribute to the SCPNA dues?" The answer is, "Yes."

Jim Slotta asks if there are there people willing to join the membership campaign? Alicia Thorne asks that it be an organized campaign as to avoid harassing the same people over and over again.

Sally Barton-Higgins asks, “Is there anyway to give the block captain a list of current members?” The answer is yes, we can get that data to current block captains. We will also post a list of block captains on the SCPNA website.

Ron Hunsley wondered if we will continue the existing practice where payment on certain line items on the budget were not paid out until the funds came in. He is worried about the liability of the newsletter costs. Jim suggests that we will cut the budget for the newsletter if we don’t get the funds as proposed and only do a newsletter once every four months.

Lesley Millhouser requests an amendment to the proposal: Can we make cuts to each of the budget categories proportional to the total budget?

Concern raised by Alicia Thorne that we can do that, but then certain things, like the newsletter, may not be feasible. Jim Slotta says that we will simply be over budget (on certain items) if we don’t get enough members. Another member wants to prioritize the budget items. Somebody complained that the details of the budget should be up to the officers . . . he requested a vote.

Final amendment: Total budget of \$3500 get reduced proportionally to the number of members we achieved (individual budget categories are prioritized according to the officers’ discretion).

Call a voice vote: Majority voted Yes.
One voted no.
No abstainees.

Bonita Lahey, Member of Traffic and Parking Committee. Tonight we will only vote on Traffic Resolutions.

Resolution 1. That north-south stop signs be placed on the Cook, Steele, and Detroit Street intersections of 16th Avenue so that all streets along 16th Avenue have north-south stop signs, and that 4-way stops be placed every two blocks on 16th Avenue.

Bonita Lahey makes motion to vote on the proposal as written.
Stan Griffith seconds it.

Discussion: Somebody felt that the lack of stop signs is not a problem. Several other people spoke up reporting that they have seen accidents or near accidents. There is much concern for the safety of children. Alicia Thorne encourages people to call police when they see traffic violations (because the report determines where stop signs get placed). Sgt. Knutson added that the traffic violations aren’t publicly reported. Ron adds that there are examples in the city where the traffic patterns have been implemented based on the overwhelming data collected by the neighborhood members.

Hand Vote:

Yes: 36

No: 1
Abstain: 1

Resolution 2. That a traffic light be installed by the City on 17th Avenue at either Monroe Street or Garfield Street (preferably Garfield St), and reduce the speed limit to 30 mph on 17th Avenue between Colorado Boulevard and York Street, with enforcement.

Bonita Lahey makes motion to vote on the proposal as written.
Oliveann Slotta seconds the motion

Discussion: Alicia Thorne wonders if the light is wanted for pedestrian crossing or to slow traffic? The answer is BOTH. Predominately for pedestrian safety.

Member JJ Folsom who is an Urban Designer has created a power point presentation on this issue. He suggests changing the language in the proposal to be a "pedestrian activated signal." Light is always green unless a pedestrian pushes a button to cross the street. Britta Herwig doesn't want SCPNA to hinge the resolution on whether or not Harrison or Garfield is a pass through to City Park. Committee Member Bonita Lahey stated Garfield because it is the only street from 1st to 17th Ave that Garfield doesn't have a traffic light. A Garfield resident is opposed to a traffic light on Garfield. Concerned that Garfield will be used as a thoroughfare to Colfax.

A "Pedestrian Refuge" is a raised median wherever there are pedestrian cross walks. JJ Folsom suggests there be two pedestrian activated lights (and pedestrian refuges) placed at Madison Street and Jackson Street.

He also suggests separating the speed limit on 17th Ave from the pedestrian lights.

Amended Resolution 2: Two pedestrian activated crossing lights (with refuges) be installed by the City on 17th Ave, one on Madison and another on Jackson Street.

Hand Vote:
Yes: 38
No: 0
Abstain: 1

Amended Resolution 3: Request to reduce the speed limit on 17th Ave from 35 mph to 30 mph (and enforced) between Colorado Blvd and York Street to be consistent with the rest of 17th Ave speed limits.

Hand Vote:
Yes: 36
No: 0
Abstain: 2

Committee Resolution 3) That bike lanes be installed on 16th Avenue with no parking on one side of 16th Ave.

Bonita Lahey makes motion to vote on the proposal as written.
April Voas seconds the motion.

Discussion: Ron Hunsley brings up the fact that there are concerns about parking issues and that this will not help the problem. Several neighbors agreed with this. Britta Herwig asks if the committee knows about the concept of 'Sharrows' (shared-lane pavement markings) that there are street signs to indicate bikes need to share the road with vehicles. Bonita makes the point that a parking resolution is coming at a later date (to make the one side of available for resident permit parking only). Somebody points out that 16th Avenue has too many parking signs to make it an effective bike route anyway.

Hand Vote on Committee Resolution 3:
Yes: 1
No: 37
Abstain: 0

New Resolution 4: Sharrows (for a bike-vehicle shared-lane) be placed on 16th Ave between Colorado Blvd and York Street.

Bonita Lahey makes motion to vote on the proposal as written.
Sally Barton-Higgins seconds the motion
Hand Vote:
Yes: 36
No: 0
Abstain: 2

Jim Slotta introduced **Carol Boigon** Congresswoman At-large
She took the floor to explain that she is coming around to various neighborhood associations to discuss pedestrian lights on Colorado Ave. About \$1 million dollars to fix the lighting for pedestrian crossings (on Colfax, Montview, and 17th Ave, etc.) Because CO Blvd is a state hwy, it is difficult to address. SLOPE reduces visibility. Need larger lights, and to reengineer sidewalks. Bigger/larger lights require larger poles are old and need new mast arms at all three intersections. Probably won't start for another 4-5 months.

Old/New Business:

- Problem with dogs pooping along 16th Ave (and not picking it up). Can we put up signs? Or do some sort of enforcement? One solution suggested is to tie bleach bottles filled with plastic baggies on trees along 16th Ave.

- Oliveann wants to bring up the 2009 Garden Tours. If you are interested in being a volunteer on the committee, we welcome you! It is a lot of fun! Contact Oliveann Slotta.
- Molly Parrish is the volunteer coordinator for City Park Jazz. No meadows concerts this year . . . they will all be at the bandstand. Three volunteer positions available: 1) Take down the canopy at the end of the concert (8 pm). Volunteers get a T-shirt, free dinner (only takes 20 minutes). 2) Man the table is 5-8 pm selling t-shirts and collecting donations (in a jar on the table). 3) Take buckets around to collect donations during the intermission.

Bonita Lahey reminded people to come for the parking resolution at the May meeting.

Lesley Millhouser made a motion to make a \$250 donation to City Park Jazz (in order to get acknowledgment in print).

Nick Mancini seconded the motion.

Hand vote:

Yes 21

No 0

Abstain 0

Meeting was adjourned around 8:40 pm.

--submitted by Lesley Millhouser, from computer notes taken by Lesley and a tape recording of the meeting.