

MINUTES-MAY 19, 2010 SCPNA MEETING

About 25 attended the meeting on May 19, 2010 at the Montview Manor Penthouse, 1663 Steele Street. President Jim Slotta asked new attendees to introduce themselves (Cecilia Madison).

Denver Police District 2 Report

Technician Amy Esten brought City Park area crime statistics handouts comparing 2009 to 2010. Motor vehicle crimes of opportunity are up; she urged everyone to lock their cars and to not leave items of value in the car in sight. Also, marijuana regulations are changing all the time, with new state legislation due to be introduced in December. Comment: Crossing 17th Avenue is dangerous. Amy offered to speak to Traffic Operations about speed monitoring. Comment: Fewer officers seen around. Amy said there has been no hiring in two years, increasing the 'call load.' We won't see as many officers sitting around. Comment: Parking violations aren't usually given out during City Park events. Amy said to call Parking Management; they respond.

Vote-Hooked on Colfax Patio Application

Hooked on Colfax Coffee Shop has applied for expansion of liquor license premises to add a front patio. Owner Scott Spero described the patio as 56 square feet, 4-5 stools. The overhead door will allow an inside/outside connection. The recently approved liquor license is now limited to beer and wine; may add some mixed drinks in time. No music outside; no smoking in front area. Motion made by Warren Rempel and seconded by Chris Gates to support the liquor license application for expansion of premises to include a front patio on Colfax. Result of vote: 15 yes, 0 opposed, 2 abstained.

Vote-SCPNA 2010 Budget Proposal

Newsletters were handed out which contained the proposed budget. The proposal is consistent with budgets for the past few years. Amounts are based on \$2,000 income from 200 Member Households. Some categories will allow more spending only if there is a higher total income. Question: What are Committee Expenses? Answer: Reasonable expenses related to the committee's work, such as publicity, purchased items. Bank balance is currently about \$3,000. We have committed to maintain a \$1,500 minimum cash balance. We have made a contribution to City Park Jazz each year, in addition to an amount from 'donations to other groups' collected in addition to member dues. Motion made (Oliveann Slotta) and seconded (Bill Newman) to approve the budget as published in the May Newsletter. Result of vote: 19 yes, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Vote-Contributions to City Park Jazz, Montview Manor

The approved budget allows for \$250 donations to other groups--more if total income is more than \$2,000. Motion made and seconded to donate \$250 to City Park Jazz from the association checking account. SCPNA Treasurer Doña Dodson offered a friendly amendment that the amount donated to City Park Jazz be \$200, with \$50 donated to Montview Manor, which allows us to hold our meetings. Results: Unanimous approval.

Discussion-Open Air Cinema in City Park

Bonita Lahey led the discussion. The city has a contract with a company out of Zurich to show movies in City Park. This is similar but different from the admission-based policy that the city is considering. The first year of the three-year contract for Civic Center Park was cancelled. Years 2011 and 2012 for City Park still remains. Many complications are anticipated, including adequate parking, noise control, and schedule conflicts with City Park Jazz. Including setup, takedown, and 30 consecutive days of performance, the theater area will occupy space in the meadow west of the museum for about seven weeks. The company plans to apply to the city for a liquor license. An effort will be made by SCPNA to respond to the company's request to meet with them, either alone or with other neighborhoods. Motion made and seconded that SCPNA oppose a liquor license for Open Air Cinema in City Park, when they apply for it. Results: 17 yes, 3 opposed, 0 abstained.

Discussion-Status of SCPNA Traffic Resolutions

Jim Slotta led a discussion of SCPNA Traffic Resolutions which were passed last year: Additional stop signs along 16th Avenue; Pedestrian-activated crossing lights, with refuges, along 17th Avenue; Speed limit reduced from 35 to 30 MPH, and enforced, on 17th Avenue; Sharrows (for a bike-vehicle shared-lane on 16th Avenue. In response to a resident's recent request for one of the Traffic Resolutions--a 4-way stop at 16th and Harrison--to be granted, the Director of Traffic Engineering Services, Brian Mitchell, reiterated that traffic control devices such as stop signs and traffic signals are installed based on nationally established engineering standards, and that studies thus far have not shown either additional traffic signals for 17th Avenue or additional stop signs for 16th Avenue to be warranted. However, he went on to say that "Our staff will commit to working with Mr. Slotta and the South City Park Neighborhood Association to review the stop sign pattern for this area to determine if there are any traffic control changes that are warranted at this time." After several further exchanges, Mr. Mitchell offered five changes that he would support implementing in the short term: (1) Add 'back-to-back' stop signs along 16th Avenue where visibility and compliance is a problem; (2) Upgrade the intersection of 16th Avenue and Steele Street to an all-way stop; (3) Upgrade the intersection of 16th Avenue and Detroit Street to an all-way stop; (4) Create a 'pedestrian safety zone' with traffic fines doubled for 17th Avenue between Fillmore Street and Colorado Boulevard; (5) Install a parking edge line along the south side of 17th Avenue in conjunction with the proposed pedestrian safety zone. In addition, there have been exchanges between Mr. Mitchell and J. J. Folsom--an engineer who has worked on traffic designs and who lives in South City Park--about the inclusion of 'safe havens' for 17th Avenue pedestrian crossing. So, the dialogue with the city about our traffic resolutions has begun. Jim said he would like to see the SCPNA Vice Presidents initiate a dialogue with Traffic & Engineering Services, and rally people around them to be part of that dialogue, and see where we end up. Jim asked for who had another idea. East High School will assist us to request that the 17th Avenue speed limit reduced. Jim got an email from resident lawyer Dave Lichtenstein, who lives at 16th & Jackson. He said we should write a letter back to Traffic & Engineering Services, appreciating their outreach, and do it in a very cordial way. Jim's recommendation is that Dave be asked to write the letter, and that the SCPNA Officers approve the content before it is sent. Comment: We should be both tactful and firm--be thankful for the short-term offers, request that those offers get done, and request that we talk about the rest of our recommendations. Mark Hoskin of Project Angel Pride, knowing Brian Mitchell for many years, and having been surprised at his reluctance to do anything for some time, sees Mr. Mitchell's recent letter as almost an about-face from his perspective. For the first time, he is being responsive, and we should encourage him to continue to be responsive, recognizing that he has offered what in his mind are pretty significant accommodations. But we should continue to ask for things that we consider important. Attendees were satisfied to have the letter written by someone, have the officers approve the content, and copy the letter to the neighborhood so they will know.

Discussion-Status of 2010 Priorities, Including SCPNA Parking Resolutions

Jim handed out a list of six priorities for 2010 that were passed unanimously at the March Meeting. He wants to discuss how each of these will be achieved: (1) 300+ Members; (2) Delegates to 4 other organizations; (3) Parking/Traffic issues resolved; (4) Quality of life preserved; (5) Eventfulness experienced; (6) Candidates for all elected offices by 7/31/10. After brief comments about the first two priorities, an argument ensued between the officers about parking issues. It was subsequently decided to adjourn the meeting without continuing the priorities discussion. There will be no meeting until September unless a special meeting is called to discuss a topic such as Open Air Cinema.

-Submitted by Jim Slotta