

MINUTES-NOVEMBER 18, 2009 SCPNA MEETING

About 30 attended the meeting on November 18, 2010 at the Montview Manor Penthouse, 1663 Steele Street, from 7:00-8:30 PM.

Announcements

Jim Slotta opened the meeting. This is our annual meeting because we have elections at this time. New offices begin with the January Meeting. Announcements: Meeting tomorrow night at the Neighborhood Flix. Review the license application by the Tavern-Hospitality group who wants to convert a portion to an events center. This association will hear about plans then; Congress Park has held its own meeting prior. We may vote on the application to support it if we have a quorum. National Jewish Health is having a food drive and wants us to announce that on December 3 they are celebrating the 110th anniversary of their founding. From 10:30 – 1:30 they will collect food at the Molly Blank Conference Center due to the current great food shortage presently. Food for All is another way to participate in a local food drive-Metro CareRing and Denver Urban Ministries are the recipients. Agenda tonight: 2 representatives of District 2 Police Dept. SCAT team are here. Mark Hoskin from East HS Project Angel Pride--is here to talk about the inner-city rec center plans. We will vote on moving our western boundary from Detroit Street to Josephine Street. Purpose is to include East HS campus and future development along Josephine Street within our SCPNA boundary. There will be a drawing for the 2 City Park Jazz T-shirts. "New Business" practice- put a topic title on a post-it on the board if you have an item for discussion at the end of the meeting. You must be a paid member to participate in votes-you may vote in this meeting and your dues will also apply to next year-2010.

Denver Police District 2 Q & A

Officers Tyson and Robb from District 2 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. Has the camera been activated (HALO camera)? Yes it is –at each intersection from Sheridan in Lakewood to Yosemite. At every intersection-alleys etc. Does it help to identify property damage and disturbance etc? We see it afterward. 2 civilian employees monitor the camera-they may radio to officers if they see something in progress. Can also be used as evidence afterward. They work pretty well. Victims still need to identify. What is the crime like on Colfax? In the past 10 years it is 100 times better than it was when I started. Still have narcotics and prostitution-but in small amounts. How can we tell about incidents in City Park? Don't warm up your cars in the driveway—they will be stolen. There was a recent burglary. What's the take on crime in City Park? Don't see gangsters there anymore. Lots of families there now. Transients sleep under the trees. What do you do about transients sleeping in front of doors on Colfax? If you call, and the transient is on your doorway-could get him/her for trespassing. Or if intoxicated, take him/her in for help. Or we'll ask him/her to move along. If a warrant we'll put him/her in jail. 3886-obstructing public pathways. If on private property the owner must call and complain. Then they have to show up and testify. There is one business that allows them to sleep there. (Comment:They seem to be living in that doorway). Question: I live on 16th and Steele; a parked car has been there for over a week. Has a tag that expires on Jan 4, 2010. For Sale sign in it. Green car on 16th. Reply: They will check it out.

Treasurer Report (Doña Dodson)

Membership is 170 households, down only 7 from last year. Balance in checking is \$2800.

Report-East High Project Angel Pride (PAP) re. Planned Rec Center (PAP Chair Mark Hoskin)

Mark Hoskin, volunteer alumni parent: Thanks to Jim—our organization at East HS-Project Angel Pride-we meet every month. Jim has been at every meeting representing your interests. Convinced us to join SCPNA. Active relationship with Colfax. Also transportation. Many projects affect us both. Flix- Rec Center. We began several years ago when we were eyeing the Church in the City site. Used to own it. Would like to see rec center there. May soon be under a contract. Denver Parks and Recreation presented why that site rose to the top. Issues

such as parking, shared use, hours of operation, will be resolved as plans proceed. East prefers this to Charles Woolley's housing plan. Our projects are redesign and reconstruction of the Esplanade. Bike lanes returned. Playing fields, bleachers, lights, tennis courts in City Park, which also produced increased parking in the student lot. Jim and I hope that organizations that use City Park can use that lot. There is a process for other organizations to be able to use that lot—we should pursue that option. Fund raising is underway for a new East High Entry Plaza. \$250,000 is needed; \$40,000 has been raised. Funded the study of the Sullivan Gates. Restoration will cost \$1M. Money earmarked is gone. On the back burner for now. EHS Principal John Youngquist, is great. Assistant Principal Wes Ashley is very involved. We did the restoration of the clock & library. The EHS Grounds is an arboretum-dedicated volunteer (Susan Bardwell)-Angel Garden. We view ourselves as a very important part of your community. Please support the motion to include us in your boundaries. Q: What about liquor in proximity to a school? A chain link fence fell out of the sky and landed—created a 500 ft travel path. We placed East on the National Registrar of Historical Places. No one knew about it—on public right of way. Design appropriate fence is supposed to replace it. Charles Woolley in the discussion. We like the fence because it keeps kids from getting hit on Colfax. It happened a lot. It meets the letter of the law. Badly done. All good people. They really blew it—it will cost \$20,000 to fix it. Q: I haven't yet heard a compelling rationale for why East wants to be included in SCPNA boundary. Ans: Neighborhood Assn. of residents—common concerns about traffic. We have 2,000 teen-agers who sometimes have conflicting interests with your organization. We want a direct dialogue—any time you can create that it makes a way to talk—we have a large land. As good neighbors—we should we're a school-border 2000 homes. We've got a parking lot. Land use, zoning, etc. We're a big neighbor—might as well bring us into the room. The spirit of joining is the same spirit—to include the neighborhood in what we do. We want correct neighborhood agreements to support Colfax development—call DPS Facilities Dept. (Larry Williams) who will pass you to the right person. Esplanade is a right of way. 600 cars in parking lot. Q: Have you had a discussion with DPS about the neighborhood using the lot? No—it isn't our issue. It takes a little bit of effort from the stakeholders. Can the gate be re-opened? Britta Herwig is the new parks manager; start the discussion with her. Q: Would the rec center be available to us? Ans: Ours is the only neighborhood in the city that doesn't have a rec center. Of course.

Vote-Approval of September Meeting Minutes

Motion by Rob Hunsley that the minutes of the September Meeting be approved; second by Sally Barton-Higgins. Results of vote: Approved unanimously.

Vote-Extend SCPNA West Boundary to Josephine Street

Motion by Mark Hoskin to extend the West Boundary of SCPNA to the East side of Josephine Street (from Detroit Street). Carol L. seconded. Discussion: What is the position of Denver Parks and Recreation? No precedent—Manual is within Whittier. Doesn't matter. What are the benefits? We are assured of notification if it is within our boundaries; helps keep us abreast of changes coming. Other discussion? We can get a better seat at the table as design issues emerge. Vote: 27 yes, 0 no, 0 abstained.

Vote-SCPNA Officer Elections

President

Nomination at September Meeting: Bonita Lahey—by Karen Newman. She indicated a willingness to run.

Nomination at November Meeting (from floor): Jim Slotta—by Ruby Wilbur; seconded by Mara Abrams and Will White. He indicated a willingness to run.

Jim Slotta statement: Jim presented his position paper on 10 SCPNA Emphases for 2010: 1)Person-to-person membership campaign; 2)Broad active Member participation; 3)Champion SCP quality of life issues; 4)Build community through social events and at the block level; 5)Champion SCPNA Parking and Traffic Resolutions; 6)Integrate SCP multi-family residencies into the association politics; 7)Locate association delegates to key other organizations; 8)Maintain working relationships with Colfax businesses, East High School, and Denver city agencies; 9)Maintain and improve SCPNA electronic and written communications; 10)Maintain SCPNA involvement in zoning and liquor license issues.

Bonita Lahey statement: I don't so much disagree. But I do believe there is a sense of urgency lacking. I also believe the residents don't have to continue to take the costs of the businesses--much more proactive with City Park. We're at a crossroads and in danger of losing our neighborhood if we don't get more proactive. Not to say that's an anti-business stance, because I don't believe that for a minute. I do believe we shouldn't be taking the cost of their businesses--in property damage, disturbance of the peace, and all the things that go with that. By being much more proactive, we'll get more memberships. We don't appear to have done a great deal that gets people excited about this neighborhood association. Congress Park had professional signs made to oppose the cabaret license. I've talked to the Congress Park President; they are very interested in working with us on the parking and Bluebird District issues. I have a background of being on boards of directors of non-profits, including as a president. I've also been a chief operating officer in major corporations. I'll make these meetings more efficient. I don't believe we need a newsletter published independently. We already get Life on Capitol Hill delivered independently to our doors; we could put our minutes and newsletter information into that publication. Bonita replied to several minutes of questions from attendees.

Results of vote: 17 Jim, 10 Bonita, 0 abstained. Jim Slotta is elected President.

Vice President

Alicia Thorne is willing to continue as a Co-Vice President.

Karen Newman was nominated at the September Meeting, and is willing to run as a Co-VP.

It was moved that we accept both nominees. Karen would like to work on the direction that Bonita presented. Karen has done a lot of work on business agreements. She is hoping Bonita would be willing to be a Co-VP. We want our voice to be heard when we work very hard. Roger nominated Bonita; seconded by Bill Newman. The vote will therefore be for three Co-VPs--Alicia, Karen, and Bonita.

Results of vote: 22 yes, 1 opposed. The three Co-VPs are elected.

Secretary

Grant Grigorian is willing to help with electronic communications but is not willing to run for Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor; therefore, the position of Secretary will remain vacant.

Treasurer

Dona Dotson is willing to continue in the position of Treasurer for 2010. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Results of vote: Doña Dodson is Treasurer by unanimous voice acclamation.

New Business

There was a need expressed to amend the By-Laws to reflect changes such as meeting dates. This will be done at a future meeting.

There was a request for an update on crossing lights on 17th Avenue. Mark Hoskin thought he had a contact. He will help that to happen. The safe crossings are East HS priorities as well.

Drawing for 2 City Park Jazz T-shirts

Winners-Rich Kadinger and Roger Lawson

The next meeting will be held the third Wednesday in January.

-Submitted by Jim Slotta from notes taken by Oliveann Slotta, and from a digital recording.