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Visit us at www.scpna.org!

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NEXT GENERAL MEETING Sat., 5/20

@ 10:00 AM at the Montview Manor

Penthouse, 1663 Steele St.

MAY 20TH MEETING AGENDA

The Montclair Basin Storm Water Project

-Report on May 16th meeting at the Zoo

-Questions answered by lead project engineers

Reports by CHUN and City Park Jazz Officer and Committee reports

-New Committee input and signup

Vote on suggested changes to SCPNA

Bylaws

Reports on several SCP Zoning issues

-All Inn Motel and Atomic Cowboy

-Vote on St Paul Health Center Variance Appeal

**FOLLOWING OUR MEETING,
WONDERLAND AT CITY PARK SOUTH
HAS INVITED US TO AN OPEN
HOUSE AT NOON TO VIEW THEIR
MODELS AT MILWAUKEE & 16TH.
PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!**

SCPNA NEWSLETTER - MAY 2006

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

SCPNA is an inclusive organization. Does that ring true? Do you own or live here, and do you feel included? Does one have to be actively involved to feel included? Or, for someone very busy, is it enough to be kept informed of important matters? What is involvement, anyways, and how does it start--with joining, or with inter-communication?

As our Association strives to increase our paid household memberships, these questions are relevant. Please let me tell you about our latest effort to inter-communicate with you: It is our website called **scpna.org**

That's www.scpna.org !!!

Go visit our website and see what you think. It is still being developed, and will no doubt change in content as development occurs. **scpna.org** has been developed by neighborhood resident Gregory Kuhn, and includes, among other things, links to SCPNA's Neighborhood Link website.

Through the website and its links, you are offered chances to dialogue with others, and to stay informed both locally and regionally. There are archives, including past newsletters, meeting summaries, and neighborhood agreements with businesses.

scpna.org also has links to our neighborhood listserve called 'scpna@yahoogroups.com'. Soon, that activity will be incorporated into the website itself.

We have a webmaster, in Gregory Kuhn. In addition, we want to form a committee to oversee the ins and outs of our website. There is currently much "overlapping" of items residing at **scpna.org** versus items available through the links to SCPNA's Neighborhood Link website. Would you like to be on such an oversight committee?

Please go often to **www.scpna.org** and try the links to SCPNA's Neighborhood Link.

We want ours to be an inclusive organization. Right now, paid Members vote at meetings, and that is how the Association's decisions get made. That is what our Bylaws call for. **What would it mean for 80%-100% of our total households to somehow participate in this exercise of local democracy?** Perhaps our website committee can elicit some creative thinking on the subject. Thank you for listening, and I hope to see you at the May 13th Cleanup Day event!

-Jim Slotta

**THANKS TO SCPNA MEMBER WILLIAM BOWMAN
FOR PRINTING OUR NEWSLETTER!**

CITY PARK FERRIL LAKE & STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS - PROJECT SUMMARY

Denver is preparing to move forward with the Montclair Stormwater project construction. The project will begin the upgrades for the city stormwater systems along 17th Avenue and City Park Esplanade in early June and the City Park improvements this Fall. The project combines the needs of undersized stormsewer systems and deteriorating park amenities with a goal towards significantly improving the park and the surrounding neighborhood.

The project will be phased over two years of construction beginning with stormwater pipe upgrades in vicinity streets and ending with park improvements as follows:

17th Avenue Stormline. Install new dedicated stormwater pipe and inlet collection system

City Park Esplanade Stormline and Road Improvements . Install new stormwater pipe and inlet system . Eliminate diagonal parking and reduce road widths to accommodate parallel parking, bike and one traffic lane in each direction . Construct new curb and gutter and repave roadway . Install irrigation system and pedestrian improvements.

Ferril Lake and Park Improvements. Rehabilitate lake edges with terraced contours, wetland plantings and fishing access areas to accommodate 2-foot lower water level. Reconstruct historic concrete lake wall on northwest edge. Install new seawall to function as stormwater detention wall and public amenity. Rehabilitate island shoreline. Reconstruct Electric Fountain structure. Replace asphalt walkway with concrete. Add accessible ramps. Rehabilitate pavilion plaza. Reconfigure and repave selected park roadways . Rehabilitate DeBoer Waterway. Restore Little Lake shoreline and add wetlands . Replace manual irrigation system with automated system.

Contacts:

Tom Blackman, WMD Project Manager, 303-446-3610, Thomas.blackman@ci.denver.co.us
Helen Kuykendall, DPR Project Manager, 720-913-0630, Helen.kuykendall@ci.denver.co.us
Consultant Team: ASCG Engineering, PKM Design Group, Inc.

SCPNA MARCH MEETING MINUTES - ABRIDGED

OPUS Group Presentation: Jim Slotta introduced presenters from OPUS group, the developers of the Pinnacle Towers. The first tower has 160 homes with 93 sold. Second Tower sales will begin in May. Occupancy of the tower one is scheduled for Summer 2007. The entire project will be completed in Summer 2008. Completion of the project's parking garage is a priority in order to provide parking for construction workers. Up to 250 workers are expected with a normal crew of 100. OPUS has created a website: "www.thepinnacleinfo.com". Also, neighbors are encouraged to contact Steve Rogers (303-383-4228) if they have any questions or complaints. The project office is 1633 Fillmore.

By-laws: Several by-laws issues were raised. A vote on recommended changes will be taken at the next meeting.

Main Street Zoning: Resident, CHUN Rep & UCD professor Gabe Kaplan worked on the Main Street Zoning project and wants association input on a letter that he is preparing to send to the city regarding the zoning changes. The association agreed to allow Mr. Kaplan to construct a letter on behalf of the association in support of Main Street Zoning.

City Park Jazz: Lynn Sibbit gave a brief summary of the 20 year history of City Park Jazz concerts that was begun by Tom Morris and several neighbors. This year there will be 10 concerts beginning the first Sunday in June and ending the first Sunday in August. Concerts are 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The schedule for this year's concerts will be available in May. CPJ receives foundation support to cover its budget, which is \$70,000 this year. OPUS will be one of the sponsors this year.

Community Resource Officer Mike Rappe: Officer Rappe asked that with the summer months coming, the neighborhood consider a "Neighborhood Watch" program. Neighbors are urged to report suspicious behavior; one phone call might solve hundreds of cases. Officer Rappe also discussed "Business Watch". Business owners on Colfax will be trained to monitor activity in their area. Bus drivers will also be trained. Other items raised included homeless persons loitering in the park (there is an 11:00 pm curfew), and abandoned cars (call police dispatcher).

Association Donations: (1) City Park Jazz: A \$250 donation was approved. (2) Dollar Dictionary Drive (that supports the donation of a dictionary and a thesaurus to every 4th grade DPS student): A \$50 donation was approved. Donation decisions were delayed until some future date for other causes, including East High School's Angel Pride, Teller Elementary School, and City Park Alliance.

National Jewish Signage: National Jewish is seeking a zoning code variance for new signage. The association agreed to write a letter in support of the variance.

City Park Bible House Renovation: The association agreed to write a letter in support of restoring this historic house.

The Fountain: The association agreed to write a letter in support of restoring the fountain and the Sullivan Gateway.

Clean-up Campaign: This spring there will be a neighborhood clean-up campaign across the city. Our involvement will be discussed at the next block captain meeting.

People's Fair June 3 - 4: It was suggested that individuals be encouraged to support CHUN for this year's People's Fair, but that SCPNA not participate as an association.

HRC (Michelle Prescott Carter): DURA funds are available for an \$80,000 public art project consisting of some type of public art to be installed at Milwaukee and 16th in the pedestrian thoroughfare. DURA wants the neighborhood to form a committee to participate in assessing the work. Two members of the committee will represent SCPNA, with other committee members representing Mercy Hospital property developments.

-submitted by Jim Slotta. A complete version of the minutes is available at SCPNA.org.

ZONING??? SO WHY SHOULD I CARE.

Recently, a friend and I passed out flyers in Congress and South City Park, walking the blocks between Colfax and 14th, then crossing over, and doing the same on our side of the street. We were struck by the difference! Many of the houses south of Colfax were neglected, kind of sad. Not many flowers, lots of torn screens and weeks of old newspapers piled on the porches. Almost like nobody really lived in these homes, many of which were obviously owned by absentee landlords.

And on our side of the street? A feeling of vibrant neighborhood: loved houses and pretty yards. Everything said "folks live here...and care".


So, what's the difference? SCP people aren't uniquely special. I had to think about it.

The neighborhood to the south is four times our size while SCP is only two blocks wide, bounded by colorful Colfax and all its challenges.. I realized that our neighborhood has remained livable because throughout the years, we've banded together, paid attention and worked to keep it this way.

An example: when the Bluebird Theater first opened, nearby neighbors had to deal with crowds of hi-spirited concert goers walking to parked cars. Even if you love punk rock or grunge, it's tough to appreciate being wakened at 2 a.m. So what do you do? Do you sell your house and head for quieter pastures? Or do you stay, and look for a solution. Fortunately, time and again, SCP neighbors have done the latter. It takes a lot of commitment and time to sit down with business owners, talk thru problems, and find win/win solutions. But that's just what we've done, successfully, with the Bluebird and many other businesses!

The SCPNA Zoning Committee is just neighbors, like you and me, who meet to consider the ever growing changes facing SCP, and work to find compromises that won't stifle positive change or ruin the qualities that made us choose this place to call home. Whether it's a little grocery selling crack pipes, a new outdoor patio at the Atomic Cowboy, living with the growing pains of building homes for 800 new neighbors at the old Mercy, or working on agreements for the new dance cabaret opening in the All Inn Motel, you can count on the zoning committee being there, listening to developers and entrepreneurs, and neighbors, and working to find that middle ground which values the old and embraces the new..

SCPNA's zoning committee usually meets at least once monthly. While there are a few 'old hands', it's open to all!!! When changes are coming in your part of the 'hood, it's YOUR concerns we want to hear. You'll find committee updates on our new neighborhood website www.SCPNA.Org or you can email or call Tom at tomrutt3@juno.com or 303.946.0580 to find out how you can help keep South City Park growing better all the time. -by Tom Rutter, Zoning Chair



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**THANKS TO WONDERLAND AT CITY PARK
SOUTH FOR SPONSORING OUR NEWSLETTER!**

SECRETARY POSITION NEEDS FILLED

The responsibilities of SCPNA Secretary are currently being covered by other elected officers. Residents have been taking meeting notes. We need a resident to 'step up to the plate' for the balance of 2006. Is that you?

BLOCK CAPTAIN NEEDED - 1500 HARRISON

Because of his work schedule, Chris Merman has asked to be replaced. We are asking for someone living on the 1500 Block of Harrison Street to contact us about this position. An alternative idea is a "team" of block residents sharing the position.

CITY PARK PUBLIC MEETING ON MAY 16TH

Mark your calendars for the upcoming public meeting about the Stormwater Management Project in City Park, 17th Avenue and City Park Esplanade. All interested parties are encouraged to attend on May 16, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gates Education Center at the Denver Zoo, 2300 Steele Street. The consultants, city staff and construction contractors will be on hand to discuss the project and proposed construction schedule. Many suggestions from previous public meetings and other input have been considered to develop the final plans. Come see the final results of these efforts!

SATURDAY, MAY 13 COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY!

A flyer delivered last week notified residents of this 3 hour happening! Come at 11 AM to the corner of 16th & Detroit, and join one of several teams of neighbors who will divide up South City Park streets and alleys. Food will be provided at the end of the workday period.

MAY 20TH VOTE ON SUGGESTED CHANGES TO SCPNA BYLAWS

A series of open meetings were held during the past few months to review our Bylaws, and to develop a list of suggested changes, intended to bring the Bylaws more in line with current practices--so long as the changes are consistent with, and do not legally conflict with, Denver's City Charter guidelines for Registered Neighborhood Organizations.

Sentences of the Bylaws with suggested changes that have been received thus far are presented below. Changes are underlined. A brief description of the changes, parenthesized, follows each sentence. These and other future suggested changes, should they be submitted, will be reviewed and will be voted on at the May 20th General Meeting. Before May 20th, two lawyers have agreed to review the proposed changes from a legal standpoint.

A complete listing of SCPNA Bylaws before any suggested changes is available at our website (scpna.org).
Suggested Changes:

Article I #1 THE NEIGHBORHOOD. The association represents residents and owners of real property within that part of the City and County of Denver (etc) (change replaces 'property owners and persons doing business')

Article III #1 MEMBERS. Residents and owners of real property within the neighborhood shall be admitted to membership in the Association (etc.) (change replaces ' , owners of property or persons doing business')

Article III #3 SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings of all of the members, for any purpose or purposes, unless otherwise prescribed by statute, may be called by the President, and shall be called by the President at the request of one-fourth of the members. (addition)

Article III #5 QUORUM. Twelve members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of members. In the absence of a quorum at such meeting, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting to another time for a period not to exceed sixty days without further notice. (changes replace 'Ten'; 'from time to')

Article III #8 VOTING BY BALLOT. When ballots are used, ballots will be given to all paid members per current data base sheet. Dues may be paid at that time to allow one to vote. (addition)

Article III #9 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP. In addition, failure to maintain status as stated in Article III #1 shall result in loss of all membership rights. (change replaces 'pay the membership fee')

Article III #12 NOTICE OF MEETINGS. Written notice stating the place, day and hour of any meeting of members, and of the items of business to be considered, shall be delivered either personally, by mail, or E mail to the members of the Association (etc.) (addition)

Article IV #1 NUMBER. All officers of the Association must be full time residents of South City Park Neighborhood. (addition)

Article IV #2 ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE. The officers of the Association shall be elected by the

Membership each year at the last meeting of the calendar year. (change replaces 'annual meeting')

Article IV #5 PRESIDENT. He or she may sign, with the Secretary or any other proper officer of the Association thereunto authorized by a vote of the Membership deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts (etc.) (addition)

Article IV #7 SECRETARY. (d) keep a register of the post office address of each member which shall be furnished to the Secretary by the Treasurer; (change from 'such member')

Article IV #8 TREASURER (c) maintain the Membership data base to be current and supply a copy of same to the Secretary and President; and (d) in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the President or by the Membership. (addition of (c); (c) to (d))

-submitted by Jim Slotta

CITY GRANTS NEIGHBORHOOD'S REQUEST TO DELAY PAVING OF SIDE STREETS

Because of the overwhelming amount of construction in our area, Denver Public Works has agreed to delay re-paving all of our north-south streets. Instead of this summer, the work will be done in 2007. Current repairs to curbs and sidewalks will not be delayed.

INVESTING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

As a SCP property owner concerned about neglected properties in our neighborhood, I was interested in an article in the Denver Post describing the Curtis Park homeowners group "Grassroots Neighborhood Development, LLC" and the positive impact that group has made on their area through investing in land and properties to be built. I contacted Cathy Bellem, who is referenced in the article as one of the group leaders, to learn more about the group and the project. Ms. Bellem promptly e-mailed me information about the original project and the group's plans for the future. In her letter to me, Ms. Bellem stated, "Please contact me if you would like to schedule a meeting with your own neighbors who may be interested in investing, and I will be happy to consult with your group about the viability of using our business model to improve the South City Park neighborhood."

At our next SCPNA meeting on Saturday, 5/20, there will be copies of Ms. Bellem's letter and the Denver Post article for interested persons to take, read and think about. It would be an ambitious undertaking for South City Park neighbors to initiate a development project, but as Ms. Bellem suggests, investing in our own community environment would be an act of positive commitment to the future of our neighborhood. -by Ann Luke, Saint Paul St.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

Wonderland at City Park South has ten new residents in their project and The Retreat at the Park has twenty new residents, with both expecting more soon! Welcome to our new neighbors! We hope you explore SCPNA and find that you would like to become involved. As Jim Slotta said in his message, we strive to be an inclusive organization, and we look forward to including you! -by Michelle Prescott Carter