



NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY – JUNE 22, 6:30...

NEW TIME! *Change voted at May meeting!*

Please attend and bring a friend so we can GROW ONA and our influence on our future.
Pay measly dues (\$5 a calendar year, \$35 for businesses) and you get to vote!
Education Building of John Collins Church – 2320 S. Bannock – follow signs!

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JUNE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

€ Elect Board Officers Before July Registration – *It's a Must!*

As reported last month, a filing with the City is due by the end of July to maintain ONA's registered status. It has over 60 questions and key among them are names and information about officers, which we need to elect by that time. Our By-laws require a statement of candidacy and position, very informal, a month in advance of elections.

If you or someone you know wishes to serve in a Board position making that statement (and being or joining as a voting member) as of this Thursday's meeting will be necessary, so that "campaigning" and a vote can be done by the July meeting. As of this time the current Board members will all plan to stand for re-election, in addition to

any new candidates. Leadership should change more regularly than it has (though long tenures are the rule among RNO's) and that should be possible with the current growing participation. A clear understanding of the time commitments and City resources and responsibilities obviously adds effectiveness. It should also be clear that the Officers elected at the June or July meeting will serve only through October's meeting – the regularly scheduled election time. All officers are happy to share information at any time.

€ Quad Reps?

Quad Reps are not a muscle group but an uninspired name for the idea that Overland Park is divided into four quadrants by Evans and Santa Fe. These have different-enough issues that they could use dedicated representation and leadership. The By-laws suggest such an arrangement. As the balance of this ONANEWS edition shows, each quadrant has its issues. Are there volunteers willing to stand for their part of the neighborhood?

€ Northwest and Southwest Quad ONWATCH Report

We have just (6-19) received from Officer Roggeman copies of the signup cards turned in at our 5-16 meeting. The purpose is to cross-check these registered ONWATCH members against the street lists we made as we canvassed and then go back and call on the remaining homes with a 100% participation goal. Congratulations to the streets that have already met the DPD's participation requirements for street signs, but in fact these are often not the streets that *most need* the neighborliness and back-watching that the program can provide. Define "neighborliness" as *knowing the names of the eight address occupants closest to your home*. Our team will be collating data and revisiting target homes soon. For SE Quadrant neighbors thinking of doing ONWATCH we have some lessons learned to share at the meeting. For a comprehensive description of what the highly flexible Neighborhood Watch program can look like see http://www.ncpc.org/topics/neighborhood_watch/publications.php.

€ District 4 Crime Report

Efforts are underway to have a police representative at the upcoming meeting.

€ Crime Statistics and Business Members – Business Watch in Northeast Quad

Overland typically leads our State Senate District in crime. Alarmed neighbors generally hear an interpretation that implies we are safer than this would indicate: there is significant crime on business along Broadway and all businesses report all crimes for insurance reasons, so don't be afraid. BE VERY AFRAID! Why? Because that's our neighborhood, too. In an ideal future the number of living wage jobs in this commercial-industrial area would grow and provide no-commute income for residents. District 4 is headed into an outreach in the area that is the business version of Neighborhood Watch, and we should be involved. As with ONWATCH, *it pays to know neighbors*. Knowing who our business neighbors are can add to their sales and shorten out trips to find goods and services; and the hundreds of Business Memberships that could support ONA can greatly increase what our organization can do across the neighborhood. Learn more at the meeting and volunteer to help!

€ Calling All Quads – The ONA Website Evolves!

NeighborhoodLink is a nationwide hosting site that can support a simple neighborhood Web presence. ONA Database Coordinator Kevin Dickson has been posting more and more useful content there. Visit by going to NeighborhoodLink.com and entering our 80223 ZIP. You'll see Overland Neighbors as a "Worth Watching" address (thanks to Kevin) - click there to see our stuff. Or use this lengthy link: <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/overland/>. Ideas for future postings include comprehensive urban planning maps (where we need bike bridges, zoning change proposals, etc.), business member ads, and official ONA position statements that capture consensus votes (and spur discussions). NeighborhoodLinks may not be the permanent home of ONA's Web presence, but it is a great start. One factor becoming clear with this format, however, is that a distinction is needed to identify which contents represent ONA and which simply reflect community discussion; accuracy is also something that needs monitoring where it affects ONA's interests (the boundaries are incorrect, for example). How this happens can be discussed at the meeting. The "digital divide" issue also needs ongoing attention: Internet access is not a prerequisite for ONA membership (see By-laws below)

€ Basketball Court at Pasquinel's Landing in Northwest Quad

Volunteers are needed to canvass for support and convey community consensus in the upcoming Parks and Recreation Citywide court review.

€ If We Are Overland "Park," Are We OPNA? (President's Editorial)

Promoting the positives and possibilities of our neighborhood creates a better mental climate in which to live and

work for improvement – as well as adding property value and promoting development. With this in mind we have decided (April meeting) to rename the neighborhood “Overland Park.” The hyper-responsive District 7 Council Office has extrapolated this decision to list us as OPNA on its site. Heaven knows there are clumsier acronyms among Denver RNO’s (Registered Neighborhood Organizations), but ONA trips off the tongue more readily and contains the valuable preposition “on,” as in ONWATCH. There is no competing Overland that would require ONA to distinguish itself by adding P for Park (as there is with West Washington Park Neighborhood Association). Why don’t we just stay ONA – a better brand for our organization – and be Overland Park when we say where we live and do business? Neighborhood interests in Overland Park are ably represented Overland Neighborhood Association.

€ ONA Meeting Signs – Sign Up?

We’ve tried a pilot program of placing meeting announcement yard signs and had some good results and some mediocre implementation. As a visible showing that ONA exists and reminder for folks who attend the meetings there is good value to the signs; they also help with the digital divide problem. Although Jack Unruh has agreed to print the double sided signs, there is at present no set pattern to when they are put up, no one person in charge of the program, and only five signs for all of Overland. If there were, say, 25 signs; if they were printed for the whole year and distributed to folks who’d place them in their yards, say, a week in advance of the meetings via a phone-tree reminder; if the folks hosting the signs had high visibility corner lots or sites where parked cars don’t obscure the signs, and if a few Broadway businesses agreed to post them in windows, why, then, what a wonderful program it would be! Let’s talk about it at the meeting...

€ Evans Light Rail – Southeast Quad: Transit Oriented Development

As noted, the station area is predictably a focus for several issues:

- € Pedestrian access to Light Rail from west of Santa Fe
- € Inadequate parking and excess parking demand on neighborhood
- € Cut through traffic, speeding and pedestrian safety, especially at rush hour
- € Transit Oriented Development and a TMU zone to promote it
- € Development of Delaware down to the proposed Bates Station
- € And, for better or worse, Evans and Santa Fe is the center of Overland

Although planning for the Station Area by the City is not scheduled until 2007, Caryn Wenzara in Community Planning and Development has agreed to sit with a representative ONA group and share ideas. This is an excellent opportunity for stakeholders to get to know one another’s concerns and for the City to share its agenda and process before we get too far downstream. John Damiano and Kevin Dickson are particularly interested and the process also calls for reaching out to immediate property owners who may become ONA members.

€ Grant-Frontier Park Greenup – Southwest Quad

Times are tough and crooks are ripping off anything copper that’s not nailed down, including the expensive backflow valve in the Grant-Frontier irrigation system... twice! As a result, the lawns in the park became brutally stressed and browned out in the heat wave of early June. Kas Berzins, who was a longtime Parks employee and lives on the park organized some consciousness raising, and with the help of Councilwoman MacKenzie’s office there is now water and a slowly recovering carpet of grass.

€ Aqua Golf Rises Again – Northwest Quad

The funky old Aqua Golf driving range at Overland Lake (Santa Fe & Florida) is long gone and something new is coming... though what is not entirely clear. A miniature golf course is a part of the 2007 plan and the contractor is being selected for that design-build. There will be a small clubhouse, some City drainage project, and apparently a car wash and shops just one block north of the new Scrubs car wash. There are also add-alternate features that may come about. No input to or from ONA has been sought though Kathleen MacKenzie will likely mention the neighborhood’s interest. It is pretty much a foregone conclusion that ONA can think of more interrelated impacts from this project than can Parks and Rec, and equally obvious that community input costs city agencies time and money. Hopefully as things progress we can have some dialogue.

€ Granny Flats – There’s a Canary in Our Mineshaft!

Kevin Dickson touched on the density-increasing idea of small units on existing properties - “Granny Flats” - at the last meeting. QuickWins II zoning disallows Granny Flats at present. All over town, older neighborhoods facing very different circumstances are examining this well-regarded new-urban concept. There is demand for it in the DU area as student housing and well-organized resistance on the part of homeowners fearful of wild tenants and mindful of properties of this nature which have run down, blighting surrounding areas. In Platt Park, on the other

hand, it is being touted as an “anti-scrapeoff” strategy for owners in a high demand area. In Overland, Granny Flats may add transit-oriented density (good), or could spur construction that lowers adjacent values even when new. Illegally high occupancy is another problem here that might only get worse. Looking at and understanding this issue – which could bring new construction, income streams and neighbors – should be a valuable learning exercise and help us think carefully about the future.

MINUTES OF MAY 25 MEETING -

Overland Neighborhood Association (ONA)
Minutes of 5/25/06 Meeting

Call to Order (CTO) by Vice President Sandy at 7:36pm at John Collins Church, 2320 S. Bannock.

Present: Vice President Catherine Sandy, Secretary Charley Samson, Treasurer Lois Strohmeier, Explorer Patrick Bramley, Neighbors Julia Bajcsi, Ray Ehrenstein, Arlene Lipman, Jim Sample, Jennifer Pollock, Dion Boeke, Mary Ann McCann, John Damiani, Brandon Andrews, Tedd Jari, Tracey H., Barb Poole, Rebecca Nalbandion, John Chapman, Dana Damison, Eric Peterson, Jennifer Marquardt, Mari, Paul Weber, Kevin Dickson, Denver City Council Candidate Chris Nevitt, Senate District 32 Candidate Fran Coleman.

Reading of the Minutes of the April meeting was postponed.

Treasurer’s Report was approved. Current balance of \$1099.34, which includes \$25.00 in membership receipts and a \$200.00 donation to John Collins Church.

2 police officers reported 108 offenses in our neighborhood during the period of January through March, 2006. This includes 17 burglaries, 19 auto thefts (Evans Light Rail Station is a favorite target) and 4 assaults.

Vice President Sandy summarized President Unruh’s agenda items, including board elections, large item pickup, West Quadrant Neighborhood Watch, basketball court, neighborhood branding and RTD concerns.

We agreed that a print version of the Newsletter was a good idea.

The West Quadrant Neighborhood Watch, which produced an 80% turnout, has borne fruit: 2 drug houses were closed almost immediately. These West Side sparks have offered to drag the East Side into the 21st century.

We agreed to move the start of ONA meetings to 6:30 p.m., but keep it on the 4th Thursday of the month.

A basketball court at Pasquinel’s Landing was discussed. A skate board park was regarded as too small. Under the Evans bridge was mentioned as a good place for public art.

Fran Coleman spoke about her history with RTD. While on the transportation committee in the state house, she lobbied for the light rail component in T-REX. She proposed link buses on

Sheridan, Lowell, etc. She revived the idea of “smart growth,” noting that all land along I-25 from 104th Ave. to Cheyenne is already platted. She noted the mix of jurisdictions at Columbine High School, a database of locations for gunfire, fireworks, etc., and the “smuggling and trafficking” implicit in the methamphetamine world.

Chris Nevitt, candidate for MacKenzie’s city council seat, introduced himself.

Arlene Lipman mentioned videos of traffic avoiding Broadway & Evans intersection by turning on Bannock to Warren. The idea of 4-way stop signs was rebuffed by the City. Vice President Sandy, no stranger to this sort of thing, introduced the term, “traffic calming,” and promised to consult.

The dollar stores are not locking up their spray cans, as required by law. District 4 Police officers recommended calling their SCAT team: 720-913-0286 or 720-913-0200.

Deb Sanchez’s graduation from the Iliff School of Theology on 6/4 was noted. Pot luck afterwards, 5-8 p.m., at her house, 500 W. Jewell Ave. Given her historic contribution to the neighborhood over the years, ONA will send a card and a \$40 donation to the school in her name.

We dissolved into chaos at about 8:50 p.m., with Vice President Sandy’s call to “go on home everybody.”