



NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 6:30 PM...

NEW TIME! *Change voted at May meeting!*

Please attend and bring a friend: GROW ONA and *influence your future.*

Pay measley dues (\$5 / calendar year; \$35 for businesses) *and you get to vote!*

Education Building of John Collins Church, 2320 S. Bannock – *follow signs!*

AUGUST MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

More Members, Less Time in Meetings, More Action

As ONA continues to grow, meetings need to be more effective and convenient, not longer. Starting with this Thursday's August meeting we'll try to evolve an answer.

The current business agenda will be limited to one hour, with a time afterward to plan actions and form action groups. The Minutes and Treasurer's Report will be reviewed by officers separately and posted on the Neighborhood Links site. The number of agenda items will be divided into the hour, a time allotted for each, and that schedule will be posted in the meeting room. If you have new business for the agenda, call or e-mail Jack Unruh or show up early at the meeting.

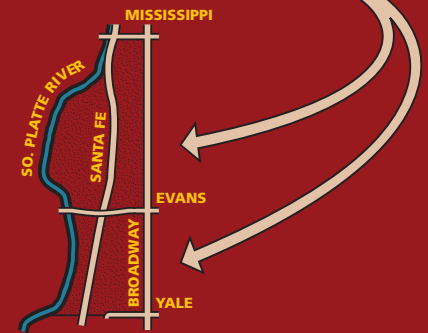
We will vote as a body on whether and how (generally) to act on an issue, but volunteers will take it from there. Obviously, actions and expenditures in ONA's name must be voted on. For example, this meeting format will be the first order of business Thursday, so do come on time!

After the meeting, if you want to get involved in an issue or find out more, the member or chair spearheading the matter will be available for up to a half hour to define the next steps and how the matter will be dealt with. ***This arrangement reflects the fact that only small, dedicated groups get things done.*** People most interested or affected by the issue will naturally participate and ONA officers can support you with resources and process advice.

ONA / ONWATCH Neighborhood Picnic, September 23, Grant-Frontier Park

To celebrate participation in ONA and Overland Neighborhood Watch we will party in a neighborly and family-friendly way on the above-mentioned Saturday. Time and weather provisions to be decided at the August meeting. Have fun, meet, and prove our power in numbers!

**If you live here,
you live in historic
Overland Park!**



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AUGUST MEETING AGENDA ITEMS *continued...*

Broken Windows Policing and Overland Park “Efficacy”

Our own District 4 police and Commander Sandoval have “road-tested” the controversial “Broken windows” policing method in the troubled Westwood neighborhood with strong results. Mayor Hickenlooper and Chief Whitman are invested in this program and Commander Sandoval assures us ***it will be coming to Overland Park as resources permit.*** ONA will be represented at the Broken Windows-Office of Independent Monitor briefing which conflicts with the August meeting.

“Broken Windows” holds there is a relationship between disorder (broken windows, littering, jaywalking) and major crime. When enforcement expands to these small offences (***police increased stops and arrests in Westwood by over 100 times***) major crimes drops (***well over 20% to date in Westwood***) due, for example, to arrests on outstanding warrants and for illegal possessions that take practicing criminals off the streets. A competing theory holds that “Collective Efficacy,” not police-enforced “order,” improves neighborhood health: this ten year study in Chicago defines “efficacy” as ***social cohesion among neighbors and their willingness to intervene on behalf of the common good*** (the dictionary defines it as the ability to produce the intended result).

These two well-meaning theories may be talking past one another: when people get involved – as we’re seeing in Overland Park – and use the existing tools of city government as well as their own elbow grease to improve conditions, crime drops. Appeals to Neighborhood Inspection Services, for example, from Overland’s southeast quadrant are skyrocketing, and the westside ONWATCH response has greatly increased communication with District 4. Underlying these changes are an increased “social cohesion among neighbors and their willingness to intervene on behalf of the common good.” ***We are thinking as neighbors and as a neighborhood, not as individual victims.*** We have a long way to go but these are heartening trends.

Officers doing Broken Windows community policing ***undergo special training to smooth the process of stopping hundreds of citizens,*** and this reestablishes familiar neighborliness between regular citizens and police. Likewise, ONA participation and ONWATCH reconnect neighbors in a conversation about a better community. And planning and development collaboration like the current Transit Oriented Development committee studying the Evans Station area meld priorities between groups and ***establish a vision to move toward*** with our efforts. Co-op cleanups and chore trading have been discussed as a community way to improve everyone’s quality of life and property values.

If this sounds like the slippery slope to a goody-goody police state and chi-chi yard grooming covenants, ***relax and remember where you live.*** But wouldn’t it be nice to see a bit less crime and a bit tidier streetscape and a bit more equity in your home or business every year? That would be some of that “efficacy” setting in... and it will if we keep talking and working together.

AUGUST MEETING AGENDA ITEMS *continued...*

Transit Oriented Development on Delaware

As much as it may feel like every block of Overland Park needs some improvement, Blueprint Denver labels most of the neighborhood as an "Area of Stability." A notable exception is industrial Delaware Street south of Evans. An ad hoc group kicked off by Kevin Dickson has ONA volunteers meeting with ***new property owners aiming toward development near Evans Station.*** The going is slow and needs long range planning (due from the City next year) and collaborative neighborhood thinking, but there are a number of pressures trending toward something happening on Delaware. Kevin will report.

'Tis the Silly Season: Candidates and Issues Want ONA Time

Just as we decide to shorten meetings here come the stump speeches. ***In general, if we allow one candidate or issue to present to us, we owe a spot to everyone else.*** One way to sort it out is by candidate versus issue. Many RNO's allow issues to present arguments but don't hear candidates.

Another thought is that as a City-registered organization we could attend to Denver issues and nothing else. In particular it seems we have a stake in the Preschool Matters 1-A Referendum. Since Rosedale closed, which was serving middle class and literally homeless preschoolers to great advantage, we've lost a key resource. No element of Overland's future is more important or vulnerable than our young children. Co-oping with nearby RNO's on a candidates' forum is another plan we've used in the past: we want to be well informed voters, but efficiently informed as well, and we don't want to become a political battleground. Idea 4: get a bipartisan task force to summarize the issues for us via League of Women Voters materials or similar. Idea 5: just include web links and other non-partisan backgrounding sources in ONA NEWS next time. ***We should decide at the August meeting because they're already beating down the door to get on the agenda.***

Shattuck Wind-Down, a Revised Schedule, and What's Next for ONEW

As of this week, work on the Shattuck cleanup is finished. The 10:30 a.m. event on August 30 has changed a bit in that it is now a no-speech inspection by Senator Allard with no other dignitaries (the Senator was key to keeping the funding coming for completion). Community members are still invited and ***a completion celebration is still expected in September.***

Overland Neighborhood Environmental Watch has a Technical Assistant and EPA funding grant stretching ahead through the early stages of groundwater monitoring. Although most of the neighborhood soil is free of radioactive contaminants groundwater still carries some radiation toward the Platte, making wellwater below the golf course unusable. Testing will determine if there are sources of continuing contamination or only residual isotopes slowly being diluted to acceptable levels. 2007 will see a scheduled Five Year Review that will summarize the overall safety of the site. The property is listed and potential buyers interested. ***ONA will reassert the principles of the Shattuck Plan in hopes of a desirable use.***