

Neighborhood Associations Lack Clout

By Richard Chapman

Reprinted unedited with permission from *The Source*
University of Denver Community News

When political newcomer Chris Nevitt took his seat on Denver City Council for the first time July 13, he did so with the support of only 21 percent of the voters in his district.

About 13 percent in the June 5 runoff election preferred someone else, and 66 percent of eligible District 7 voters didn't mail back a ballot at all. With only 3,617 votes, Nevitt won decisively. Yet, for the next four years, each of Nevitt's decisions on council will be on behalf of all 50,000 residents of his district.

That such a key role could be vested in a person empowered by so few is an oddity not lost on neighborhood activists.

"City Council members are elected by a tiny slice of the voting public, but no one says they're not representative," says Dave Reusch, co-chair of the West University Community Association (WUCA). "How are RNOs different?"

Activists like Reusch charge that Registered Neighborhood Organizations, known as RNOs, don't receive the status elected officials get even though both ride to responsibility on the coattails of only a sliver of their constituencies. Instead, he says, RNOs are pushed to the back of the bus by processes that seek their opinion but deny them clout. Neighbors' opinions end up being too little, too late and of too little weight.

Nevitt, among others, is sympathetic.

"They're left twisting in the wind – invited to participate but with no clear expectation of what they can do," says Nevitt. "It's a formula for frustration."

Some of that may be their own fault, observes District 6 Councilman Charlie Brown, who along with four other city council members was unopposed in the May 1 election. RNOs often are dominated by a small number of activists, Brown points out, who "can't see beyond the end of their own sidewalk" and who don't speak for their entire neighborhoods.

"I've got 23 registered neighborhood associations [in District 6]. I can go to any one of them and tell you who's gonna be there, where they're sitting and what their gripes are going to be."

Activists in some of the 218 or so RNOs in Denver say Brown has a point. Membership is often low, apathy high and the reputations of "difficult" RNOs can easily tar the reputations of all.

A VOLUNTEER EFFORT

On the other hand, RNOs are also complicated, time-consuming, thankless volunteer efforts that not many people have the time or interest to engage in. City code requires an RNO to be notified of pending actions in 30 different categories of city business, everything from zoning changes and variances to liquor license applications, planning board hearings and street repairs.

"The ideal is to let immediately adjacent neighbors know of notices that come in," says Michael Henry, board member of INC, a coalition of neighborhood groups. "But the truth is we don't have the energy to go knocking on doors. You have to be smart

(Continued on page 8)

The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



October
2007

www.
neighborhoodlink.
com/denver/inc

Denver Neighborhood
Connection

Elsewhere in This Issue

Executive Committee Minutes	3
Delegates Meeting Minutes	3
Zoning Code Rewrite	4
Around the City	5
Parks Forum	6
Homeowner Resource	7
Komen Race for the Cure	8
Macy's Shop for a Cause	9

INC Member and Associate Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Member Organizations

Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn
 Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn
 Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn
Ball Park Neighborhood Assn
 Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn
 Berkeley Neighborhood Assn
 Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Assn
CCHN Country Club Historic Neighborhood
 Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods Inc
 Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Assn
 Cherry Point Homeowners Assn
 City Park West Neighborhood Assn



Denver Neighborhood Connection

Denver Neighborhood Connection
 is published monthly by

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
 (a coalition of Denver neighborhoods)
 P.O. Box 181009
 Denver, CO 80218-1009
 Editor: Ken Beaudrie
kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net
 303-798-9306

Subscriptions are free. Subscription
 information and changes of address for
 non-INC organizations and persons
 should be e-mailed to
kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net

Articles must be e-mailed to the editor
 by the 20th of the month.

INC organizations should send
 changes to their organization personnel
 to the membership chair at
kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net
 or 303-798-9306.

INC Delegates' Meetings are held on
 the second Saturday of each month at
 8:45 a.m. See this issue for location.

The INC Executive Committee meets
 monthly. All members are welcome.
 Call the Chair for time and location.

Civic Association of Clayton
 Colfax on the Hill, Inc
 College View Neighborhood Assn
 Congress Park Neighbors
 Cook Park Neighborhood Assn
Cory-Merril Neighborhood Assn
Crestmoor Park Homeowners Assn
 2nd filing
Crestmoor Park Homeowners Inc
 Filing One

Downtown Denver Residents Org
 Driving Park Historic District
 East Montclair Neighborhood Assn
 Eastmoor Park Condo Assn.
 Elyria Swansea/Globeville Business
 Assn.

Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc
 George Washington Homeowner's
 Assn. Inc.

Globeville Civic Assn #1
 Golden Triangle Assn

Golden Triangle Museum District
 Greater Mar-Lee Community Org
Greater Park Hill Community, Inc.

Hampden Heights Civic Assn
 Hampden South Neighborhood Assn
 Harkness Heights Neighborhood Assn
 Harman Neighborhood Assn Inc.
 Highland United Neighbors Inc.
 Hilltop Heritage Assn LLC
 Historic Montclair Community
 Association, Inc.

Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA
 Inspiration Point Neighborhood Assn
 Ivy Street Neighbors Assn
 Lowry Neighbors
Mayfair Neighbors, Inc
 Neighborhood Resource Center of
 Colorado

Neighbors and Friends for Cheesman Park

North City Park Civic Assn
 Overland Neighborhood Assn
 Park Forest Homeowner's Assn
 Platt Park Peoples Assn
 Ruby Hill Neighborhood Assn -
 RHINO

Sloans Lake Citizens Group
 Sloans Neighborhood Assn
 South City Park Neighborhood Assn
 South Hilltop Neighborhood Assn
 South Jackson Street Reg Denver
 Neighborhood
 SouthWest Improvement Council
 Southmoor Park Homeowners Assn
 Stapleton United Neighbors
 Summerfield at Indian Creek

Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc
 The Five Points Historic Assn
 The Unsinkables
 University Hills Neighborhood Assn
University Park Community Council
Upper Downtown Development Org
Virginia Vale Community Assn
 Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn
 Warrens University Community
 Council
 Washington Park East Neighborhood
 Assn
 West Highland Neighborhood Assn
 West University Community Assn
 (WUCA)
West Washington Park
Neighborhood Assn
 Whittier Neighborhood Assn
 Windsor Gardens Association

Associates

Bonna Gayhart
 Bow Mar Heights Improvement Assn
 Cherry Creek North BID
Councilman Doug Linkhart
Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann
Denver Water
Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.
 FRESC (Front Range Economic
 Strategy Center)
Gertie Grant
Harriet R. Hogue
 Hilltop
 League of Women Voters of Denver
 Leetsdale Cop Shop
 LoDo District Inc.
 Morrison Road Business Association of
 Denver
 Pam Schenkein
 Provence Townhouse Assn.
 Rosy Griffiths
 Stapleton Master Community Assn
 The Greens @ Pinehurst HOA
 Transportation Solutions
Xcel Energy

Executive Committee Recap by Larry Ambrose

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 10, at its usual location at 1301 Williams Street on the penthouse floor. There were eight (8) board members present.

The minutes were approved as they had been amended prior to publication in the INC Newsletter.

Steve reported that \$500 had been deposited in the Dollar Dictionary account. A contribution has been confirmed as being on its way from Xcel Energy. Steve had followed up on the Macys "Shop for a Cause" fund raising program and passed out a number of \$5 passes for board members to sell. The actual Macys sale will be on October 15 and those who are fortunate enough to have purchased the passes for \$5 (all of which will go to INC) will realize considerable savings from their purchases.

Larry reported that at a Sloans Neighborhood Association meeting he had told DPS Board Candidate and Brown Elementary School parent, Tony Curcio, about how the Principal at Brown, Suzanne Loughran, has not been willing to talk about why the school does not participate in the Dollar Dictionary program. Curcio has pledged to get her to respond.

Ken Beaudrie reported that INC has 73 NROs of which 14 are Patrons and 21 Associates 6 of which are Patrons. There was a discussion about billing, i.e., how or when to invoice. As it stands, a membership form is included in the Newsletter and those wishing to associate with INC or to join are expected to fill it out and send in a check. This will remain so until some other method is adopted. Dues are due after January 1 and those who have not paid up cannot vote in the March election. Mike Henry recommended that a monthly general membership meeting notice be sent via email (prior to the meeting).

ZAP – Mike Henry announced that there would be a discussion about the proposed Sidewalk Ordinance on September 15. He asked if the Executive Committee wants an update from the Zoning Code Task Force. The consensus was that the road show presentations around the City have been informative enough.

The Committee took note of a letter from Pam Schenkein.

Larry Ambrose informed the Committee that, at the March 2007 Community Forum, citizens had been promised answers to questions that had been submitted in writing but not asked publicly. A member of his SNA organization, Michael Kadovitz, had emailed CPD officials in August saying he had been waiting to see the promised answers for more than 6 months. After "checking into the situation" for several days, CPD's Julius Zasko sent Kadovitz the answers that were also forwarded via email as a

(Continued on page 11)

Delegates Meeting Recap by Larry Ambrose

The meeting was called to order on September 8 at 9:10 a.m. by INC Chair, Dave Webster, at the Capital Hill United Neighborhoods location in the Tears-McFarlane House at 1290 Williams Street. A welcoming statement by CHUN Executive Director, Drew O'Connor, informed the membership of the 3½ year, \$400,000 exterior renovation project for the Tears-McFarlane House. Mr. O'Connor also pointed out that over the past few years, CHUN as given out community grants of more than \$700,000. Go to www.chundenver.org for more information on CHUN and relevant events.

"Around the City," an information and exchange of ideas and a member/guest interchange, ensued for the next hour. Many neighborhoods reported on activities and issues of concern to their membership and germane to other neighborhoods, ideas what INC should or should not be doing were expressed, and City officials plugged their programs and agendas.

For the next hour, attendees were treated to a lively and informative discussion of the 2007 Infrastructure Proposals to be voted on by the citizens of Denver. The program was taped for replay on Denver's Cable Channel 8 (check for rebroadcast times). The presentation raising concerns about the bond issues was presented by Southwest Denver District 2 Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz. Denver Mayor Hickenlooper and his Chair of the Infrastructure Task Force, Adams County resident and Denver Attorney Frances Koncilja, made the arguments for approving all of the bond issues which will result in a 2.5 mill levy increase and add up to more than \$400 million in maintenance and capital improvement projects.

Southwest Denver's longtime neighborhood activist and former Denver Planning Board member, Jan Bell, who, along with others, fought valiantly against Xcel Energy's variance to the Ruby Hill View Plane Ordinance, thanked everyone from around the City for their support. Although losing the battle, the war will continue next year, she said, when the Mayor has pledged to put a proposal before the voters to bury electric distribution lines throughout the City. She also said the group was basically defeated early on in their negotiations when they submitted enough signatures to get a proposal for a General Improvement District (around Ruby Hill Park) on the ballot but were not told by the City Attorney's Office that they had not included \$15,000 in required fees until it was too late.

The October 13 membership meeting will be held at the District 2 Police Station.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Zoning Code Rewrite by Paul Kashmann

If you've ever turned to the Denver Zoning Code in an effort to obtain information or resolve a question regarding appropriate development in the City and County of Denver, you know that the unwieldy, multi-pound document is cumbersome to say the least. The chances of the average citizen being able to find the answer they seek are not very good.

Should that resident be searching between the lines, looking for a hint of vision as to what the authors of the document might have been trying to guide our city toward, some five decades down the line, the chances of success are even more dim.

Denver decided to grab the reins of its rapidly and haphazardly-growing turn-of-the-century city by creating its first Zoning Code in 1923. That fairly simple document was 25 pages long and contained 13 zone district classifications.

A new wave of growth in post-World War II Denver led to the first major redo of our city's primary zoning document in 1956. Following that rewrite, the Zoning Code had grown to 172 pages with the roster of zone district classifications growing modestly to 16.

Since that time, our once sleepy "cow town" has blasted onto the world map as a major metropolitan area. Without the benefit of a substantial reassessment over the past five-plus decades, and with no controls on the never-ending tsunami of stopgap alterations assaulting the document, the current Denver Code has swollen to a gargantuan 639 pages and now contains 44 basic zone district classifications and 14 sub-districts.

Making the document even more unsatisfactory is the fact that the basis upon which the code was formulated – traditional Euclidean zoning in which cities are divided into distinct geographic areas with land use strictly regulated within those areas – has fallen out of vogue as a zoning strategy.

With the old "building block" style of zoning now considered passé and ineffective, planners have rallied around a form-based (also called design-based) approach that emphasizes the aesthetics of prospective buildings over their use with supporters arguing that the character of a neighborhood can be maintained via physical characteristics, allowing more economic and social efficiency through a blend of building usages.

Denver's shift toward a form-based approach is most evident in the recent creation of Mixed-Use zoning districts, as well as the Main Street zoning adopted first along stretches of East Colfax Avenue in the Capitol Hill community.

Denver's body politic made clear its commitment to reform of the City's Zoning Code in the 1989 and 2000

Comprehensive Plans. By the time Blueprint Denver – an integrated Land Use and Transportation Plan written as a supplement to Comprehensive Plan 2000 – was adopted in 2002, the wheels were set in motion once again to provide Denver with a Zoning Code that would accurately reflect the goals of residents and businesses alike. In February 2005, a Zoning Code Task Force was finally established by Mayor John Hickenlooper and charged with that task.

At a recent meeting at South High School to update residents on the Task Force's work to date, Denver's Director of Community Planning and Development, Peter Park, explained that "The existing code developed in the 1950s had a start-over mentality. Let's not value what we have, let's reinvent the city. Blueprint Denver tries to undo that perspective. We have things worth preserving; now how can we do that while allowing for the necessary change that is a healthy part of any healthy city?"

Referring to Blueprint Denver's division of the city into Areas of Change and Areas of Stability, Park said "Some change may occur in Areas of Stability, but we need policies to stabilize the inherent nature of that neighborhood. In Areas of Change, we want to facilitate and encourage change appropriate with the goals of Blueprint."

Denver's Pop-Top Ordinance, Quick Wins, and Quick Wins II, all created to put the brakes on out-of-control growth in established neighborhoods, "created solutions for some neighborhoods and problems for others," according to Park. The new code, he assured those in attendance, would endeavor to be more sensitive to the specific context of the neighborhoods in which change would occur.

Lee Einsweiler, the lead consultant for the Task Force, further assured those in attendance that the new code, regardless of its ultimate content, would be much more user-friendly, preferring illustrative graphics over "lots of text." Embracing the form-based zoning approach, Einsweiler opined the current Zoning Code spends "too much time talking about use over form and standards."

Those concerned that there might be nothing in the new code to prevent liquor stores moving in next to elementary schools or adult bookstores popping up in residential neighborhoods can sleep easy. "We're certainly emphasizing form but we're not discarding use," said Zoning Code Task Force co-chairperson Diane Barrett. "The new document will most certainly have standards of use for each district."

The recommendations of the Zoning Task Force include creation of new zone districts, abolition of some obsolete classifications, and the renaming and redefining of some districts to better reflect their current use and control future development.

Einsweiler indicated there might be room in the new code for construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in some residential districts where they are now prohibited. "Some areas of the city may be right for ADUs. It can be a

(Continued on page 7)



Alamo Placita N.A.—Our annual Cottonwood Festival is on September 8 this year. A great time of food, fun, and socializing for neighbors and friends is always the focus of this event.

Baker N.A.—Some concern on a building that was torn down for parking was not in the historical district and it does not appear land capital is planned. Our Baker Blooms Gardens at 6th Avenue and Bannock Street has done very well and is looking for volunteers to keep it up.

Bonnie Brae N.A.—The 15th Annual Bonnie Brae Picnic took place on Sunday, August 26th. It appears to be one of the highest attended events in recent memory with nearly 200 people showing up over the 4 hours. There was a 3-piece jazz band that played for the neighbors; a face painter and balloon artist for the kids; hamburgers, brats, and other great picnic foods cooked and put together by members of our board; and topped off by ice cream and cake (thanks to Bonnie Brae Ice Cream and Belcaro KingSoopers). Eighteen different merchants in the Bonnie Brae area were kind enough to donate gift certificates for goods or services that we raffled off to the crowd. A gorgeous weather day made it a spectacular event!

Coalition to Save Civic Center—Newly formed, neighborhood based organization formed to bring attention to the issues surrounding the Civic Center Park. Our main focus now is returning the public's attention to restoring, cleaning, and preservation of the park.

Hilltop N.A.—On August 28, the 330 to 440 block of Elm Street held their 44th Annual Block Party. It was well attended, the weather was great, and children of 30-years-ago returned to visit. The Safeway store at 1st Avenue and Steel Street made their annual donation of picnic items and ice cream. We are still staying on top of construction that

continues to leave Hilltop messy.

Park Forest H.O.A.—The Annual Meeting to be held on September 25th will have on the agenda impending litigation of a residents civil rights complaint against Park Forest H.O.A.

Ruby Hill N.O. (RHINO) - RHINO is working to have the high-power transmission lines that, under current Xcel plans would pierce the Ruby Hill Park view plane, buried. We do not share Xcel's goal.

South City Park N.A.—A thorough update about City parks construction included four beautiful pictures of newly developed park areas. The report went on to describe a mass death of waterfowl from botulism. This mixture of good and bad information reflects life in a stable inner-city neighborhood like South City Park. Just as we "settle in" to a summer and fall of block parties, garden tours, and Halloween events that we are doing, we hear that a new investor of an undeveloped plot of the Mercy Hospital site wants to re-zone. Our multi-faceted role as a neighbor's association continues with both proactive and reactive tasks.

The Million-Tree Initiative—Tree-by-tree, the Mile-High Million. This program to plant a million trees by 2025, announced by Mayor Hickenlooper in July 2006, is part of GreenPrint Denver and is administered by the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. The program facilitates tree planting and serves as a clearinghouse for information for trees and volunteers in the metropolitan region ranging from Longmont to Boulder to Castle Rock and Bennett. The GreenPrint website contains a registration tree count, currently at more than 67,000 trees planted since 2006. Contact Chris Citron, Program Administrator, at 720-913-0620 or christiane.citron@denvergov.org.

University Park Community Council (UPCC) - The UPCC fall meeting is October 4. The "final draft" of the U.P. Small Area Plan will be presented. UPCC and UP school are creating a packet of information for new residents.

Westwood Neighborhood Advisory Council (WNAD) - The WNAD of the Southwest Improvement Council (SWIC), at our regular meeting, will come to a decision on the Hope Center application to build a homeless-shelter for men over the age of 18-years in Westwood.

Data Corrections

Keep INC informed of changes in your organization's president and delegates. Notify the membership chair at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net

Organizations and persons not affiliated with INC should also communicate their desire to obtain this newsletter or submit address changes to the editor at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net

PARKS FORUM

at
RED ROCKS

Saturday, October 13, 2007
9:30 a.m.— 11:30 a.m.



Free refreshments and music!
Peter Wernick (“Dr. Banjo” of
Hot Rize and Flexigrass Bands)

Celebrate the Denver Mountain Parks Legacy!
Share your ideas for the Denver Mountain Parks and
Jefferson County Open Space Master Plans!

Red Rocks Visitor Center Terrace at the Top Circle Lot
Information and map: www.denvermountainparks.org

Partners: Denver Parks and Recreation, Jefferson County Open Space,
Denver Theaters and Arenas, and Aramark.

(Continued from page 4, Zoning Code Rewrite)

great way to increase density while maintaining existing character.”

If accepted as written, the new code would change the existing R-2 zone district to R-TU (Residential Two Unit). This new district allows for “a mixture of single-unit ... and two-unit dwellings, similar to what has existed traditionally in many existing R-2 areas.... A variation of this zone district would permit the second unit to be detached, in a subordinate carriage unit that could be separately owned from the primary unit. It would also encourage retention of the existing primary structure with a new unit constructed separately ... to the rear of the property.”

ADUs also crop up in the new R-SU (Residential Single Unit) district that could replace R-0 and R-1 districts. The current draft states “The base R-SU district would permit one single-unit dwelling per lot but could be amended to allow an accessory dwelling unit above a detached rear garage in some typologies or in all R-SU zoned areas.”

A new R-TH (Residential Town Home) classification would correspond with some existing R-2 and R-3 districts permitting a maximum of six or eight attached units extending for no more than a half block and oriented to reflect the existing character of the balance of the residences on that block.

The new code goes into great detail on acceptable building forms for the new residential and commercial districts; discusses changes to the city’s process for reviewing plans, zoning applications, and variances; and refers to a new “Strategic Parking Plan” being devised that would “revise the parking ratios (number of spaces required), increase the options for parking reductions (including reductions that should occur near transit stations), improve the opportunities for shared parking, and provide for parking districts.”

The Task Force is hoping to get enough agreement from residents that they are on the right track to begin defining in more detail the district classifications and the standards that might apply in those districts. The current schedule calls for code drafting and evaluation through the end of this year and into 2008 with review and ultimate adoption of the revised document later next year.

While much work has been done on establishing a new framework for Denver’s development, the hard work of determining specifically what areas of the city will be redefined and how is daunting.

Barrett explained that when the code rewrite is complete “we’ll send a major language amendment to City Council. There will be a full public process including public hearings and Council will adopt the amendment to whatever extent they choose to do so. We’ll obsolete some districts, change some, and create some new ones. That does not affect any particular piece of property in the city. Only through a map amendment do you apply the code to

any specific piece of property.”

As to whether a citywide map amendment will be proposed or if it will be done on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, Barrett said “The Task Force has not addressed that yet. I’m sure someone in Planning has a game plan for how that will play out but we simply have not addressed that yet in our work.”

District 10 Councilwoman Jeanne Robb is a member of the Task Force. “I would imagine that there are some neighborhoods that will be anxious to look at some of the new tools we’re creating. Other neighborhoods might be very happy to be left untouched.”

Homeowner Resource

A new resource for homeowners called “Residential Construction Permits” has been placed on the City’s web site at www.denvergov.org/residentialpermits for residents seeking to undertake any home improvement projects. The site includes helpful tips for doing it yourself or selecting and managing a contractor, designing projects, avoiding lead paint hazards, utilizing renewable energy, and more.

Be sure to have your contractor pull a permit as the permit holder is legally responsible for compliance with the Denver Building Code. If you as a homeowner pass the exams in order to be able to seek permits for electrical, plumbing, and other specialized work, the inspection that comes with a permit will protect your investment and the safety of your family by verifying proper installation. Permits are also required by lenders as documentation that the work was completed properly.

Common residential projects that do not require permits are replacing plumbing or electrical fixtures with similar items, patching or replacing one 4’ by 8’ sheet of dry-wall or less, and refinishing a wood floor or installing a floor covering. Consult the web site for a complete list.

If planning any alteration to the exterior, even simple window replacement, be sure to check on your landmark preservation status. Before you begin designing your project, also check to make sure your proposed project is in compliance with your neighborhood covenants and homeowner’s association specifications. Neighborhood covenants and homeowner’s association specifications are not enforceable by the City in the permit process; permits are based solely on code compliance. If planning exterior additions, new garages, or other accessory structures, it is always a good idea to know your property’s legal description, zoning, landmark preservation status, relationship to parkway setbacks, and underground utilities location before you begin to design your project. This will help you to avoid delays in the permit and plan review process.

Julius Zsako, Communications Director
Denver Community Planning and Development

(Continued from page 1, Associations Lack Clout)
and understand what the notice means.”

Sometimes notices require a position. Does the RNO support, reject or have no opinion about the issue at hand?

But that’s not so easily obtained. Oftentimes, little is known of the full scope of a project or how a decision will end up affecting residents. RNO leaders can’t always turn to problem solvers such as Assistant Vice Chancellor Neil Drauss, who as the University’s community liaison, tackles a variety of neighborhood concerns. Instead, the RNOs often have little to go on or must grapple with inaccurate, incomplete or contradictory facts. That kind of environment breeds rumor, frustration and a feeling that neighbors’ views don’t count for much when city officials make decisions.

City staffers and elected officials strongly deny that, but acknowledge that the council’s obligation to look at “the big picture” sometimes trumps neighborhood concerns.

“If I listen to every laissez-faire developer, nothing would be safe,” says Brown. “If I listened to every screaming activist, nothing would be built. So I see my job as trying to balance that.”

That’s like loading bullfrogs in a pickup, he quips. “You get three in the back and try to load more and they keep hoppin’ out and hoppin’ in. It never stops.”

TAKING THE TEMPERATURE

Julie Connor, an unsuccessful District 7 candidate and former senior aide to past Councilwoman Kathleen MacKenzie, says RNOs provide an important “quick read” on how hot an issue is.

“Although [a council person] represents all the residents, you’re going to be most concerned about the population that votes. And the population that votes is going to be the activist population. And that’s what an RNO represents – the activist population.”

If elected officials are using RNOs to take the temperature of the neighborhoods, RNOs need to be able to record that temperature fast and take it accurately, says Sharon Withers, president of the Platt Park People’s Association.

“Education is a big part of the job,” says Withers, who allows that door-to-door contact often is necessary. “You have to hit them with the same message at least three times.”

Even then, framing the question is a struggle. “A lot of times people don’t understand the question on the table,” she says. “They think they have a choice that’s not there, that the choice is ‘no change at all.’”

People don’t like hearing that, she says, so they blame someone: city staff, elected officials, other neighbors, RNO leaders.

“After something happens, I hear: ‘Why did you let that happen?’ or ‘Why did you do that?’ Well, it’s not you, it’s us”

The trouble is that “us” doesn’t go door to door to

build political muscle. Most often, says WUCA’s Reusch, it’s RNO leaders on their own, scurrying through their neighborhoods “like Keystone Cops,” gathering facts, education, overcoming “waves of sentiment” and then struggling to affect an issue that may already have been decided behind closed city doors.

“We’re not always going to get what we want,” Withers allows. “But if we do our job, when we stand up we can say, ‘Yes, we know what the people want and we know who they are.’”

AN AD HOC APPROACH

Which is why Withers favors an ad hoc approach to issues. With a membership of about 350 households of some 3,200 in her group’s boundaries, she can’t hope to have a powerful block behind her on every issue. But if she and her volunteer directors engage the people most affected and galvanize them, the outcome may turn productive.

“So, when I stand before City Council, I can say to Charlie Brown and everyone else that we have this many members; this many attended our meeting; we distributed fliers six time to 300 homes; I got this many e-mails and this is the response of the people: They want this.”

“We really have to be careful when we represent opinions that we really do have foundation for it and it isn’t based on gut-level intuition.”

That means staying in touch with as many neighbors as possible, engaging them, encouraging them, even badgering them to join in – a job most easily accomplished with a healthy dose of fun. More than 500 people turned out for the Platt Park picnic in July and the RNO is planning a full slate of social events in addition.

“If neighbors have fun together, it’s easier to build some interest in these not-so-fun topics,” Withers says.

Fun also helps smooth differences.

“It’s a lot harder to yell at someone if you’ve been having wine and cheese with them the Friday night before,” she says.

Komen Race for the Cure

Please join State Representative Jeanne Labuda (House District 1) on Sunday, October 7, to raise funds to treat and cure breast cancer. The 2006 Denver Race was the largest Komen Race for the Cure in the country.

You may know that one in eight women will be stricken with breast cancer in her lifetime. What you may not know is that you can help these women and thousands of others in the fight against breast cancer.

On October 7th, I will be participating in the Komen Denver Race for the Cure in Denver with a great team of dedicated people. The women’s 5K run/walk starts at 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m. is the Co-ed 5K run/walk, and 9:30 a.m. is the family walk.

(Continued on page 11)



Shop for a Cause Saturday, October 13.

What is Shop for a Cause? This is a one-day shopping event at Macy's stores where customers get special savings if they have in their possession a "shopping pass" obtainable through INC. INC sells these \$5 shopping passes to the event. By purchasing a shopping pass, you can support INC's Dollar Dictionary Drive while enjoying a day full of extraordinary discounts throughout any Macy's store.

Where will this event be held?

At every Macy's Store nationwide.

Does Macy's keep a percentage of the ticket sales?

No. All ticket sale proceeds go directly to INC's Dollar Dictionary Drive. For the proceeds to benefit INC's Dollar Dictionary Drive, please order your "shopping passes" through your local neighborhood organization. Your organization will assure that you get the passes prior to 'Shop for a Cause' day on October 13. Shopping passes will also be available at the September and October INC Meetings or by calling Steve Nissen at 303-733-8524.

What are the special discounts?

Savings passes entitle the bearer to special savings on select merchandise throughout the store in addition to regular and sale merchandise specials. All day limited exclusion savings pass includes:

20% off* regular, sale, and clearance women's, men's, and kid's apparel and accessories; fine, bridge and fashion jewelry; bed and bath items; housewares; frames; luggage, china, crystal and silver; all kitchen and personal care electrics; and technology items.

10%* off regular, sale and clearance furniture, mattresses, and rugs.

*EXCLUDES: Cosmetics and fragrances, fine and fashion watches, bridge sportswear, Coach, Kate Spade and Dooney and Bourke handbags, designer and bridge shoes and handbags for her, Louis Vuitton, Martha Stewart Furniture, Ralph Lauren Furniture, Bridal Kits, All-Clad, all Waterford, Baccarat and Lalique. ALSO EXCLUDES HIS/HERS: Oval Room, 28 Shop, St. John, Lacoste, Impulse, Polo/Ralph Lauren, Lauren and Tommy Bahama. Not valid on Everyday Values, specials (including Morning Specials), Super Buys (including fine jewelry Super Buys), Macy's Gift Cards, special orders, previous purchases, restaurants, wine, or nonmerchandise-related services; on purchases from leased departments; or as payment on credit accounts. Discount will be deducted from the current price (regular, sale or clearance, as applicable). Cannot be combined with another savings pass or discount offers. Valid Saturday, October 13.

Do I need to have my ticket in order to receive the discounts? Yes. In order to receive the discounts you must present your ticket at the point of purchase.

Is the store open to the public?

Yes. Anyone can enter the store but only those purchasing a ticket are entitled to the special savings.

What if someone comes to the store and does not have a ticket? Tickets will be sold at all Macy's registers on the day of the event. However, proceeds from these in-store ticket sales will benefit Macy's designated national charities rather than INC's Dollar Dictionary Drive.

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

2007 Membership Application

INC is a consortium of Denver neighborhood representatives who believe that neighborhood organizations deserve a greater participation in city government and possess a shared vision that individual neighborhoods are stronger when they work together and learn from one another. **To join as a member neighborhood organization, the organization must be registered with the city as a Registered Neighborhood Organization. Log on to Denvergov.org for details. The names of Patron members and associates are listed in bold in our newsletter.**



Join as a voting neighborhood organization: Regular Member (\$35) ☐ Patron (\$75) ☐
See below to apply as an INC Associate

Organization name: _____
Address: _____
Borders: North _____ East _____
South _____ West _____

President's Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ President is a voting delegate: ☐
E-mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [] U.S. Mail [] Don't want newsletter []

Voting Delegate Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-Mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [] U.S. Mail [] Don't want newsletter []

Voting Delegate (if President is not a voting delegate)
Delegate Name _____
Address: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [] U.S. Mail [] Don't want newsletter []

Join as a non-voting supporting Associate : Regular (\$20) ☐ Patron (\$75) ☐

Organization Name: _____
Organization Address: _____
Agent's Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [] U.S. Mail [] Don't want newsletter []

Bring this form to an INC meeting or mail to:

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
PO Box 181009
Denver, CO 80218-1009

(Continued from page 3, EC Recap)

public service to INC members.

There was a consensus that the new format of doing “Around the City” first at the general membership meeting was a good idea but that it went on too long. The Committee agreed that one of the advantages to neighborhoods of INC is the sharing of information on issues of citywide concern. In reporting during “Around the City,” members should be encouraged to consider the relevance of what they are reporting to other neighborhood groups. Assigning issues to relevant INC committees would also alleviate the need to deal with them at the membership meetings.

The suggestion of making the 2008 National Democratic Convention the topic of the INC Dinner was discussed. It was decided that although some information about the Convention should be imparted at the Dinner, it should not be the main topic. Dave Webster is awaiting more information on a January date from Bill Mitchell of the DCVB. The location of Johnson and Wales University or Downtown is still to be determined. Committees are needed to handle awards, invitations, program, and other tasks related to the dinner.

The issue of whether INC should take a position on “granny flats” was discussed. Mike Henry explained that some neighborhoods are for them and some against. The ZCTF seems to be taking the position that granny flats are appropriate in some areas and not in others. A motion was

made “to table the granny flats issue until further progress is made by the ZCTF”. The motion passed seven in favor, one opposed.

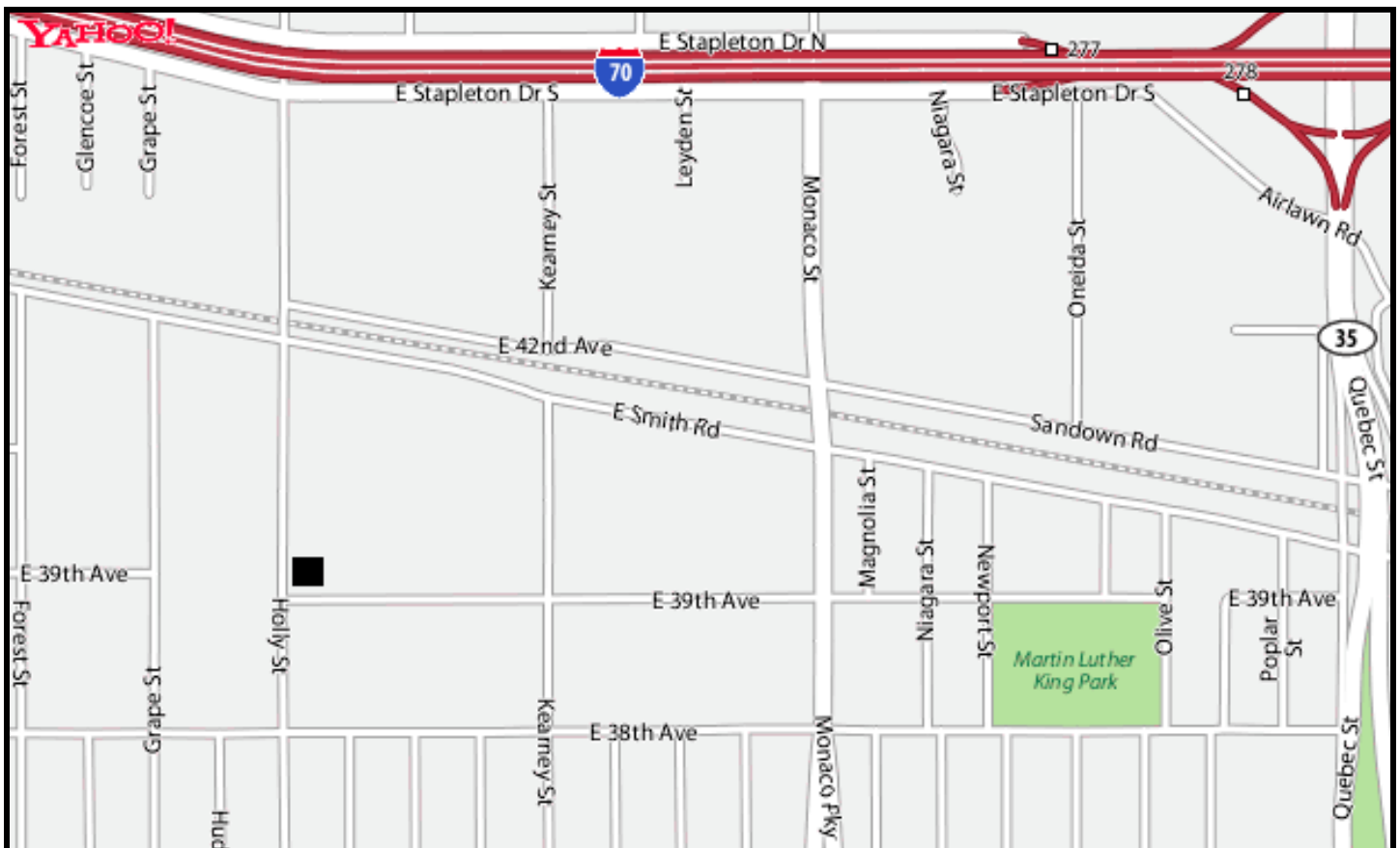
Dave Webster suggested a newsletter article about the fact that in 2009 all televisions sets will have to be high definition or a converter box will be necessary to get reception.

The next general membership meeting will be held October 13 at the District 2 Police Station. Topics will include the Full Housing Plan and the Homeless Plan.

(Continued from page 8, Race for Cure)

Join the fight by registering as part of our team or by supporting our efforts with a pledge contribution. The money raised through the Race will fund vital education, screening, and treatment programs for underserved women in our own community and support the national search for a cure.

You can register on-line at www.komendenver.org or by calling 303-576-8705. Register with team State Representative Jeanne Labuda. Thank you for your support!



The public is welcome to attend the meeting.

**Meeting Saturday
October 13th**
The public
is welcome to attend.

**District 2 Police
3921 Holly Street**

See map on page 11

8:30 a.m.

Coffee and Chat

9:00 a.m.

Welcome by
Ivy Street Neighbors

9:05 a.m.

Around the City

9:40 a.m.

Jacky Morales-Ferrand
Full Housing Plan

9:50 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m.

Debbie Ortega and Roxanne White
Homeless Plan

11:00 a.m.

Break

11:10 a.m.

Education, Zoning and Planning,
Public Safety, and Transportation
committee reports, breakout
meetings, and updates on issues.

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
P.O. Box 181009
Denver, CO 80218-1009

Officers/Executive Committee/Chairs

Dave Webster, Chair
720-941-8026

dj-jl-webster@att.net
Colfax on the Hill, Inc.

Charles Howard, Vice-chair

303-282-0982
ae5280@hotmail.com
West University Community Assn.

Al Habercorn, Treasurer

303-778-8087
ahabercorn@msn.com
Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn.

Larry Ambrose, Secretary

303-571-1744
Lda@earthnet.net
Sloans Neighborhood Assn.

Karen Cuthbertson, Delegate-at-large

303-936-9206
athmarpark@ecentral.com
Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn.

Katie Fisher, Delegate-at-large

303-744-3888
kfisher@iliff.edu
West University Community Assn.

Steve Nissen, Delegate-at-large
Co-chair, Dollar Dictionary Committee
303-733-8524

pennissen@cs.com

Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn.

Bradley Zieg, Delegate-at-large

303-329-0046
bradleyzeig@msn.com
Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn.

Ken Beaudrie, Chair, Newsletter &
Membership Committees

303-798-9306
kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net
Bow Mar Heights Improvement Assn.

Billie Bramhall, Co-chair, Education
Committee.

303-534-2272
bramhall1@msn.com
Golden Triangle Assn.

Cathee Fisher, Co-chair, Dollar Dic-
tionary Committee

303-333-3141
cathee@earthlink.net
East Montclair Neighborhood Assn.

Mike Henry, Chair, Zoning & Plan-
ning Committee

303-377-6609
Capitol Hill United Neighborhood, Inc.