

Presidents and Delegates Dinner

INC's Presidents and Delegates Dinner, judging from comments received, was a Success. On Thursday, January 29th, about 240 people from around Denver came together to recognize the efforts of neighborhood advocates during 2008. Neighborhood organization presidents, INC delegates, elected officials, city administration personnel, members of the Denver Police and Denver Fire Departments, and more enjoyed a wonderful meal and beautiful surroundings at the Doubletree Hotel at 3203 Quebec, generously sponsored again this year by VISIT DENVER, The Convention & Visitors Bureau.



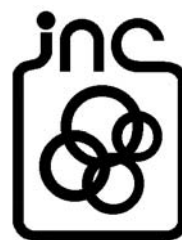
The dinner guests listened as Mayor John Hickenlooper recognized the importance of Denver neighborhoods and how his administration is working to ensure the residents of these neighborhoods can enjoy tranquility and peace, even as changes are incorporated. We also heard Paul Kashmann, pictured above, publisher of the *Washington Park Profile*, reflect on how citizen involvement has been a driving factor behind positive change in Denver (see the edited text of Paul's reflections on page 8).

The high point of the evening was the award presentations. The INC Executive Committee and the Dinner Committee met in early January to review the more than two dozen nominations we received and select the award winners (no easy task, with so many excellent nominees!). The following received Good Neighbor Stars: Joe Anderson, Ken Beaudrie, Velma Boe, Alisha Brown, Jan Franklin, Bonna Gayhart, Evelio and Lourdes Gomez, Ambrose Leinz, Bernie and Vi Karpinski, Sherrie Miller, Chris O'Connor, Roger and Susan Perdue, Corinne Polak, Linda Rea, Judy Schneider, Judy Schwartz, Barb Steinmeyer, Bill Winn, and Annette Woodward. INC's memorial awards winners were: Sarah Foster (Bill Gross Memorial Award), Diana Chapin Helper (Walt Kembel Memorial Award; with apologies to Diana for misspelling her name in the program), Margie Grimsley (Virginia Oredson Memorial Award), and Eugene Tepper was the first recipient of

Elsewhere in This Issue

Around the City	3
Police Stop Clarification	3
Zoning and Planning	4
TOD Area-Plans	3
Free Energy Workshops	4
Transition Denver	6
Residential Foreclosure	6
Letter on ZAP Motion	6
From the Chair	7
NI S Update	7
Paul Kashmann	8
Executive Committee Recap	10
Smart Parking Meters	11
Delegate's Meeting Recap	11

The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



February
2009

www.
neighborhoodlink.
com/denver/inc

Denver Neighborhood
Connection

INC Member and Associate Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Member Organizations

(2009 members are underlined)

17th & 18th Lafayette St Neighbors

ABC Streets Assn

Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn

Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn

Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn

Ball Park Neighborhood Assn

Belcaro Park Homeowners Assn

Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn

Berkeley Neighborhood Assn

Berkeley-Regis United Neighbors

Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Assn

Bow Mar Heights Improvement Assn

Broadway Partnership / MDLDC

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods Inc

Cherry Creek East Assn

Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Assn

Cherry Creek Townhouse Corporation

Cherry Hills Vista Community Assn.

Cherry Point Homeowners Assn

Civic Association of Clayton

Colfax on the Hill, Inc

College View Neighborhood Assn

Congress Park Neighbors

Cook Park Neighborhood Assn

Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Assn

Country Club Historic Neighborhood (CCHN)

Cranmer Park Hilltop Civic Assn

Crestmoor Park Homeowners Assn

2nd filing

Crestmoor Park Homeowners Inc Filing One

Curtis Park Neighbors

Downtown Denver Residents Org

East Montclair Neighborhood Assn

Elyria Swansea/Globeville Business Assn.

Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc

George Washington Homeowner's Assn. Inc.

Globeville Civic Assn #1

Godsman Neighborhood Org

Golden Triangle Assn. of Denver

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.

Hilltop Heritage Assn LLC

Historic Montclair Community

Association, Inc.

Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA

Inspiration Point Neighborhood Assn

Ivy Street Neighbors Assn

Lighthouse at the Breakers Homeowners Assn

Lower Downtown Neighborhood Assn (LoDoNA)

Lowry Community Master Assn

Lowry United Neighborhoods

Mayfair Neighbors, Inc

Mayfair Park Neighborhood Assn

North City Park Civic Assn

Old San Rafael Neighborhood Assn

Overland Park Neighborhood Assn

Park Forest Homeowner's Assn

Platt Park Peoples Assn

Plaza III Townhomes Association

Rangeview Neighborhood Assn

Ruby Hill Neighborhood Assn - RHINO

SWIC Southwest Improvement

Council/Westwood

Santa Fe Drive Redevelopment Corp

Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Assn

South City Park Neighborhood Assn

South Hilltop Neighborhood Assn

South Jackson Street Registered

Neighborhood

South Park Hill Neighborhood Org

Southmoor Park East Homeowners

Assn

Southmoor Park Homeowners Assn

The Unsinkables

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

Wyman Historic District Neighborhood Assn

Associates

Bernie Jones PhD

Bill Johnston

Bonna Gayhart

Cathee Fisher

City Council Pres/Dist 10 Councilwoman

Jeanne Robb

Councilman Doug Linkhart

Councilman Rick Garcia

Councilwoman Carol Boigon

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson

Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann

Dennis Gallagher, Auditor

Denver Health Medical Center

Denver Mayor's Office

Denver Parks and Recreation

Denver Water

Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.

FRESC

Gertie Grant

Harriet R. Hogue

Hilltop Association

Historic Denver Inc.

League of Women Voters of Denver

Leetsdale Cop Shop

Morrison Road Business Association of Denver

Palace Lofts Homeowners Assn

Pam Schenkein

Stapleton Master Community Assn

Stephen Griffin

Transportation Solutions



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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 at different locations. The public is always welcome. Check the INC website for location and agenda.

INC's newest memorial award, the Nancy Jackson Memorial Award, dedicated to Dollar Dictionary Drive cause. While the addition of this award means that Denver has lost a wonderful asset, her memory will live on through this award. The Mayfair Neighbors neighborhood organization (Nancy's neighborhood group) donated \$700 to the Dollar Dictionary Drive in Nancy's honor as a way to initiate this award. Denver is fortunate to have so many who are willing to volunteer significant time and effort to improve life in Denver even though most Denver residents will never know who effected the changes that now benefit them. We apologize that photographs of all recipients are not available.

The Dinner Committee (Karen Cuthbertson, Susan Morrison, and Kathleen Reilly) did a great job organizing the event with the invaluable assistance of Leah Brederick from the Visitors Bureau. It was a memorable evening.



Cherry Creek North – Over 50 Cherry Creek North residents volunteered to help the Salvation Army sort food and pack 900 holiday food boxes for needy families.

City-wide Transition Denver – City-wide Transition Denver is growing by leaps and bounds. The Transition Movement engages local communities in squarely facing climate change, peak oil and economic instability, and inspiring local resourcefulness and creativity in dealing with those issues. Check out www.transitioncolorado.ning.com for events and more information.

East Montclair N.A. – First Tuesday “On the FAX” meeting. All community members are invited. There will be a cash bar but snacks will be free at the 9th Ave Grill. They would love to have the First Tuesday on The FAX+ at their new restaurant located at 9th Avenue and Jersey Street - NEC on February 3rd from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.. Free appetizers and cash bar (Happy Hour ends at 6 p.m.). Spread the word!

Overland Park – We are engaged in transit-oriented development negotiations and development ideas. This year, OPNA will have our annual yard sale and picnic and start planning for an arts and crafts event to raise funds for OPNA. The widening of Evans Avenue from Broadway to

the Santa Fe Avenue bridge will happen in 2011 and we are anxiously watching for that. Our elections for officers are in March so we will see if the tiara is passed.

Platt Park People’s Association (3PA) - 3PA celebrated the holidays by working with the Old South Pearl Merchants Association on their Christmas event in early December. Platt Park members roasted chestnuts, served hot chocolate, and hosted Santa for the shoppers along South Pearl. A Holiday lights contest was held with the winner receiving an ‘esteemed mention’ in the Platt Park News.

3PA did a study identifying how many single-family, duplex, business, or multiplex buildings are within its boundaries. The vast majority of buildings are single-family, but a sizable minority are duplexes, triplexes, or the like. The board has decided not to take a position on down-zoning.

University Park – University Park has its snow-shovel-help system going again. Construction continues on huge apartments and more development is planned.

Police Stop Clarification

In November, INC reprinted an article on crime statistics issued by the Denver Police Department (DPD). The following sentences from that article raised questions from a reader: "Denver PD will never stop a car using an unmarked police vehicle.... Only marked patrol cars will make traffic stops; surveillance conducted on drug deals and traffic stops are never done by an unmarked car. The unmarked car must take along a marked car so there is no confusion." INC followed up with the Police Department and received the following clarification and further information regarding traffic stop procedures:

The original police article did not adequately define what constitutes an “unmarked police vehicle” so the reference to never making a stop in an “unmarked car” is ambiguous. The DPD employs three major types of vehicles: 1) **Marked patrol cars** that have full markings with over-head-lights and a siren. This type of police car is readily identifiable. 2) **Unmarked patrol cars** that the Gang Unit, the METRO/SWAT units, the patrol commands, SCAT teams, and highway enforcement may employ; these cars possess no decal markings but do have installed lights and a siren. Any of these may be used for a traffic stop. These cars are readily identifiable in that their lights and siren are built into the car, usually in the grille. They are usually plainly a police-type vehicle - Crown Victorias, Tahoes, etc. They are used to monitor traffic and crime situations stealthily. 3) **Soft cars**; that detectives use, have no markings and no built-in lights or siren. It is these unmarked vehicles that the original police article was referring to; they will not be used to make a traffic stop. These may be any type of vehicle from a subcompact to a pickup truck. You may see one with a portable, plug-in dome light on the dash or top of the car but this is used to control

Zoning and Planning

Dianna Helper

traffic at a crime scene, not for traffic stops. These cars are generally for complete stealth. If a surveillance operation employing **soft cars** desires to pull over a vehicle, they will call in a marked car for this purpose. This is done for both citizen and officer safety but also to retain the cover of the undercover officers involved. Be cautious if a vehicle possessing a simple, portable dome-light attempts to pull you over; this is the typical method of the police impersonator.

If you are ever in doubt that a car trying to pull you over is a true police car, drive to the nearest police station without pulling over or yielding to the suspect police car. If you have a cell phone, call 9-1-1 and state that a possible police impersonator is trying to stop your car. They will guide you to a safe location or have a dispatched marked car intercept you. Just remember to tell the 9-1-1 operator where you are and what city you are located. 9-1-1 on a cell phone may be received by a cell tower that is in a different police jurisdiction so be sure to clarify where you are. Take a route that is open, public, and well traveled. Obey all traffic laws in doing so.

If the suspect police officer gets out of the suspect car at a traffic light to contact you, note their uniform and equipment. Know what your local police officers look like. If the subject does not match, talk to them through your closed window and locked door. Tell them a marked unit is on the way. Stay on the line with the police dispatcher until you are contacted by an obvious police officer. When the light changes, drive away calmly following all traffic laws.

If the party tries to leave when told the police are on the way, try to get a good description of the party and their vehicle. Get a license plate number if possible. Relay this immediately to the dispatcher. Do not try to follow the suspect but note their direction of travel. Stay where you are until contacted by the police.

If the party stays at your door, follow the instructions of the police dispatcher. Stay calm. If the officer appears to be the real thing and is able to display a Denver Police Badge and an identification card, relay the name and badge number to the dispatcher who can verify their employment. Note the name of the jurisdiction on the badge and card. If no jurisdiction is indicated on either the card or the badge, be wary. If the suspect lacks either a badge or ID card, remain in your locked car. If there is a jurisdiction indicated, is it reasonable. Other adjacent jurisdictions may follow a car into Denver and perform a traffic stop. Out-of-state and out-of-metro-area jurisdictions will not make traffic stops as they must be in "hot pursuit" meaning they saw a violation and stayed with you in sight until they were able to make a safe stop or complete a rolling clearance before the stop.

If a gun is pointed at you, comply immediately but let the dispatcher know what is going on and keep the line open if possible.

Be calm and reasonable.

The INC ZAP (Zoning and Planning) Committee met January 24th. Copies of the ZAP 2008 Priorities were distributed for review. It was agreed that the priorities remain with the exception of one concerning noise impacts that has been addressed by the City. The INC Zoning and Planning Committee agreed upon the following committee priorities for 2009.

1. Continue to participate in, monitor, and share information with neighborhoods about Zoning Code Update.
2. Continue to work with the Community Planning and Development Department and City Council to implement the recommendations from the 2005 INC residential zoning and construction subcommittee.
3. Continue to advocate implementation of the Denver Strategic Transportation Plan.
4. Continue to monitor upcoming vacancies on Denver boards and commissions and task forces affecting zoning and planning issues and to recommend neighborhood-friendly members or prospective members.
5. Continue to monitor implementation of the 2007 bond projects.
6. Advocate for implementation of a comprehensive city-wide policy for the maintenance and installation of safe sidewalks.
7. Monitor noise impacts of construction in residential and mixed-use neighborhoods.
8. Advocate for implementation of INC recommendations from 2007 and 2008 for standardization and improvement of processes for citizen involvement in planning in all city departments.
9. Continue to advocate for the improvement of the Neighborhood Registration and Notification Ordinance and its implementation.
10. Encourage all neighborhood organizations to work with the city government to mitigate the many bad effects of foreclosures upon the surrounding communities and the individuals affected.

Two additions were made: 1) support for improvements in foreclosure situations and 2) a follow-up to INC's letter to Public Works concerning safety issues and creation of clearer understanding between neighbors and Public Works.

Mike Sizemore, Building Inspections Administrator for the Department of Community Planning and Development (CPD), told ZAP that as of this January 1st, a lot-verification survey by a state approved surveyor must be provided before a building permit may be granted. No longer does the department rely on the developer's figures. He said the department is more proactive in issuing citations and fewer complaints are being received. A process for faster action is in place. Inspectors are being cross-

trained to be able to provide a variety of inspections. This department combines the work of Neighborhood Inspection Services and Building Inspection and can be reached via 311. Rozi Horn, the new Supervisor of the administrative staff (seven others), has greatly improved the efficiency of the department. The staff meets weekly to discuss the 311 calls and work out any problems. NIS handled 60,000 calls in 2008.

Beth Truby of Denver's Office of Economic Development spoke about the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) efforts to buy and fix-up foreclosed property and to sell them to persons who are candidates for lower priced housing. They plan to coordinate with the Department of Parks and Recreation on properties near parks and gulches to improve the areas for residents and the public. NSP also counsels people who have lost homes to foreclosure or are in danger of doing so to try to get or keep them in their houses. For more info, contact beth.truby@denvergov.org or 720-913-1530.

Penelope Zeller spoke about the Post-Foreclosure Program for people who are not included in the NSP. Volunteers are needed to do research to launch this program. Please contact Penelope at 303-832-6421 or pzeller1@earthlink.net if you can volunteer to help.

CPD Manager Peter Park advised that, on February 11th, the Zoning Code Task Force (ZCTF) that is updating the City's present code will begin to review a draft of the new document. There will be area public meetings May through August followed by meetings by Council district; also input may be given via a website. It is hoped the new code will have City Council hearing and approval by the end of the 2009. Goals include environmental sustainability and reflection of the existing neighborhood character. CPD's Caryn Wenzara and Michelle Pyle helped present information on context-based and form-based zoning in six proposed neighborhood types ranging from suburban to downtown. Please plan to attend a meeting, read the new code, and convey your reactions to the ZCTF. There will be a presentation of the new code at the April 25th meeting of ZAP.

Stephen Griffin distributed a request to help find a group that will be engaging in deliberations, to be part of his PhD research project in the Human Communications Studies program at the University of Denver. Please contact Steve at 303-282-7296 or Stephen.griffin@du.edu for details.

ZAP adjourned after a quick around-the-city and a

run-through of this year's INC Song for the January 29th INC presidents dinner. The next ZAP meeting will be February 28th.



Above, Heather Barry, the Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison, presents Neighborhood Star Awards to the nominees at the Presidents and Delegates Dinner while Dianna Helper, below displays her Walt Kember Award.



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.



Sarah Foster is presented the Bill Gross Award by Chair Karen Cuthbertson



Finding ourselves in the midst of climate change, peak oil (the point in time where production peaks and discovery declines), and the uncertainty of our current economic crisis, a ray of hope arises. Across the world, a movement is gaining momentum with the force of a tsunami.

It is called the Transition Initiatives Movement and was initially created in 2005 as a college project by permaculture professor Rob Hopkins in Kinsale, Ireland. The assignment – create an energy descent plan in preparation for a post carbon society. A model plan was created with the aim of bringing a community together to explore the practicalities of rebuilding local resilience and reducing carbon emissions. The solutions involved a community's ability to meet its own needs in food, energy, and economy.

Three years later the vision of this project is spreading throughout the world, inspiring two hundred communities in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Japan, Chile, Canada, and the U.S.A.

The goal for Denver is to build resilience and sustainability at the neighborhood level by gathering together to establish caring and respect for one another, the earth, and

our environment. The vision includes, but is not exclusive to, growing, distributing, consuming, and sharing organic food locally; retrofitting homes for energy efficiency; re-skilling community members so that they might create local, socially responsible businesses and relationships; reducing carbon emissions by using renewable energy sources; embracing progressive, preventive health care; and incorporating emergency response plans. The group is working with many organizations to achieve this goal including Denver Urban Gardens, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Public Library, Let Us Rise, and Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation.

Transition Denver invites citizens, community groups, and neighborhood associations to participate in adding to and manifesting this vision in preparation for the monumental changes facing all of us in the 21st Century. The hope is to create a life that is sustainable, fulfilling, socially connected, and resilient. A first step might be forming a transition committee within every neighborhood.

To discover how Transition Denver might be of service in this endeavor or if you would like more information, please contact Dana Miller at 303-300-3547 or visit www.transitioncolorado.ning.com.

Residential Foreclosure



The Denver Office of Economic Development (OED) recently received \$25 million in funding to launch a Mortgage Credit Certificate Program to prevent foreclosures and spur the revitalization of neighborhoods impacted by foreclosure. The program, to be launched in May, is funded through \$15 million from Denver's Private Activity Bond capacity and \$10 million from the State of Colorado PAB capacity provided through the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

The certificate program will target homeowners with high-cost or sub-prime loans that are at risk of foreclosure. Additionally, the program will benefit purchasers of foreclosed homes that will be acquired and rehabilitated by the City through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). OED expects to assist approximately 180 households through the Mortgage Credit Certificate Program.

Created through the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, the NSP is providing Denver with approximately \$9.6 million to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight. Federal guidelines require that program funds be implemented in areas that have experienced the greatest incidence of residential foreclosures. In Denver, these neighborhoods include Green Valley Ranch, Montbello, and Westwood. Additional neighborhoods may be added to the program contingent upon additional federal

NSP allocations and the leveraging of funds with partnering organizations.

A Mortgage Credit Certificate provides residents with a tax credit for a portion of their annual mortgage interest. Unlike an itemized deduction, the credit enables qualified owners or buyers who owe federal income taxes to benefit from a dollar-for-dollar reduction of their tax bills.

From the Chair

Karen Cuthbertson

Happy 2009 to everyone! Here's hoping for a more prosperous, peaceful, and compassionate year. INC will continue to work for an improved partnership with the City administration, particularly regarding meaningful participation in planning projects across departments including Parks and Recreation, Office of Economic Development, Public Works, and Community Planning and Development to name a few. Following INC's and the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) very successful workshop in October, INC and ULI – with feedback from workshop participants and others – have developed several strategies and suggestions for furthering that participation. INC Executive Committee members and Committee Chairs are in the midst of scheduling a meeting with the Mayor and all major department heads to start that conversation. We will certainly keep you posted on progress as we will need many voices and ideas to craft these strategies into policies and procedures. I look forward to a very productive year.

NIS Update

Neighborhood Inspection Services (NIS) has reduced complaint response turn-around time for performing a field inspection after receiving a complaint. The average response time for performing a field inspection was seven to ten days in 2005, just four days in 2006, and three days in 2008.

NIS instituted contracted abatement of private properties that reduced wait periods for property clean-up from five to six weeks in 2005 to three to five days in 2006 during peak times. Contracted abatement response time continues to improve and the yearly cost of abatement was decreased from \$146,002 in 2007 to \$88,910 in 2008.

NIS has increased proactive inspections between 2007 and 2008. Citizen complaints about unmaintained property declined during this period. Proactive Inspections from January through August 2007 were 5,157 compared to 12,056 during the same months in 2008. Complaints fell in January through August from 14,508 in 2007 compared to only 9,567 in 2008.

You can now call about a property maintenance or usage issues seven days a week from seven a.m. to eleven p.m.! NIS has collaborated with the 311-system to expand

evening and weekend citizen information access concerning external property maintenance and use issues. Previously, NIS customer call service was available only during regular business hours, 40 hours per week.

New Alcohol Policy

The following are highlights of the new liquor policies and procedures recently adopted by Awilda Marquez, Director of the Department of Excise and Licenses:

- Posting requirement:
 - Posting requirement for new licenses reduced from 45 days to 20 days.
 - RNOs may request an extension to 45 days, which will be freely given.
- Attorneys:
 - Entry of appearance required for a licensed attorneys.
 - New section barring the unlicensed practice of law.
- Application documents:
 - New processing requirement for copy of the Fire Department occupancy permit.
 - Designated area may be modified at the Director's discretion.
 - Boundaries for RNO notification may be modified at the Director's discretion.
 - Findings will be made within seven working days (not 10 calendar days).
- Registered Neighborhood Organization notifications:
 - All notifications by e-mail to the two e-mail addresses registered with CPD.
 - RNOs will be notified when Applicants withdraw.
- Modifications:
 - Director determines whether a proposed modification is material or substantial. If substantial, RNOs will be notified. If not substantial, the modification will be approved.
 - New processing requirement for posting of material/substantial modifications on premises for 20 days.
 - A hearing will be scheduled only if relevant objections are received within 20 days.
 - Agreements between applicants and RNOs are encouraged.
- Special Event Liquor Permits:
 - The processing of all applications strictly requires 30 advance filing.
 - Ten-day posting requirement for a hearing on the 11th day or the next business day. If no objections are received, the hearing will be cancelled.
 - Parties have three calendar days to submit objections after initial decision.

Visit www.denvergov.org/excise_and_licenses to view the policies and procedures. Some searching is required.

Paul Cashmann Speech

(edited for publication)

My name is Paul Kashmann, and I am publisher of *Washington Park Profile*. For the uninitiated, we are a monthly publication covering the neighborhoods of Central, South-central and near Southeast Denver since October of 1978. As with INC, we recently celebrated our 30th birthday. Before I start, I would like to acknowledge my editor, Eileen Abbattista who is a great, great friend of INC and Denver neighborhoods in general; my associate Editor Dawn Spelke who, while a long time Profile veteran, is a relatively recent transplant from the suburbs, and burgeoning activist in the Overland neighborhood; and I also want to mention a good friend of all of you, Diana Helper, who has contributed her views of the University Park neighborhood to Profile readers for many, many years.

I want to thank Karen Cuthbertson for inviting me to speak this evening. If you are the *Denver Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, or the *New York Times*, then I guess your goal is to win a Pulitzer Prize. If you are the *Washington Park Profile*, speaking before a gathering of INC neighborhood presidents is as good as things get. I was raised in a family where community activism was viewed as an honor, a responsibility, and quite simply, a given. I spent endless evenings falling asleep in a corner at PTA meetings, City Council meetings and the like, and my children tell the same stories as I am sure do many of yours. I am truly honored to be here.

It is an interesting time to be the *Washington Park Profile*. Industry magazines now speak about papers like ours as “Hyper-Local” publications. I remember many years when times were especially lean and I would literally pray that God would make me the next *Rocky Mountain News*. In view of the state of daily publications in 2009, I am very pleased that the power upstairs new better and kindly relegated me to being simply one of the keepers of the flame at *Washington Park Profile*.

I would like now to get a little more serious and run through a brief lesson in what I like to think of as anti-activist linguistics.

For a while now, those of us who pay attention to neighborhood issues have heard the term NIMBY – Not In My Backyard. In recent years, we have seen the appearance of QUIMBY – Quit Urbanizing In My Backyard. Then there is BANANA – my personal favorite – Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone. Other more recent additions include CAVE – Citizens Against Virtually Everything; NOTE – Not Over There Either; and NOPE – Nowhere On Planet Earth. And, of course, the ever popular OBSTRUCTIONIST. No, blessedly not an acronym, just another insult.

These and terms like them – while admittedly somewhat cute in a small-minded kind of way – are the play-

things of those who have lost sight of the fact that our neighborhoods are not simply “development opportunities” for those who hide their greed behind the guise of property rights and civic concern nor are they test sites for the latest philosophies in city planning. Our neighborhoods are places where people live, not merely invest.

The trend of derisive name-calling aimed at belittling citizen activists is heard most frequently coming from DUDEs – that would be Developers Under the Delusion of Entitlement – when a profit making project is delayed, downsized, or derailed because those living in proximity dig in their heels at what they view as an unwarranted assault on their quality of life.

Lest you think I am too harsh here, be assured that I do not fault developers for trying to develop. It is what they are chosen to do, and they do it well. It is their *raison d’être* – their reason to live. We need them. I can not build a house, so if I want one built, I need a developer. But, while they attend to issues of their bottom line, I need to be sure that the home they build is attentive to the hopes and dreams I have about where it is I want to live. Developers play an essential role in our civic evolution. But let me say here, that in 30 years, I can tick off only a very short list of developers I have encountered who have truly structured their projects with community interest outweighing personal profit. It is just not the way the game is most frequently played.

And I do not fault City agencies and staffers for failing to instantly put their thumbs on every last threat that arises to neighborhood stability. Most usually, those who would protect us are understaffed, overworked, and doing the best they can in the time allowed. It would simply not be true to say our city workers are anything but critical to the protection of the quality of life we speak of so frequently and value so highly.

And last, but certainly not least, I do not fault neighborhood activists for refusing to be bullied, ignored, intimidated, sidestepped, deceived, or placated when issues come to the table that affect the future of the community they love so dearly.

The entire civic system is not unlike the classic three-legged stool. All three legs must be well positioned and strong to support the pressures that come to bear. In the civic arena, it seems that at varying times each leg tries to suddenly overwhelm the other two and tip things in a particular direction. But ultimately, for the stool to function properly, each leg must do its job in concert with the remaining pair.

Those who would resort to the anti-activist slurs I mentioned above should remember that no one cares about Elyria’s interests like the residents of Elyria. No one cares about what goes on in Congress Park like the residents of Congress Park. No one cares about Platt Park, Montbello, Highlands, Regis, or Bear Valley like those who call those communities home.

Our City planners are trying to create a city that functions well, but at times, what they see is good and essential for one part of town may have impacts that are not well received elsewhere. Developers, as mentioned above, are guided by profit margin at the bottom line. No problem with that. However, that need to adhere to bottom line demands often creates situations that do not mesh with neighborhood plans and dreams. Were it not for people like those of you who populate the rolls of INC, outside forces would be left to determine the fate of communities left without a first line of defense.

As Karen mentioned, *Washington Park Profile* completed 30 years of publication with last September's edition. The geographic location of the neighborhoods we continue to cover have always made it a popular area to drive to and through to home, work, shopping, and play. Thus we have faced innumerable growth-related issues pertaining to traffic, the conflict between commercial and residential uses in close proximity, and, of course, the never-ending progression of larger residential and commercial construction. We have Cherry Creek and the University of Denver in the heart of our boundaries and downtown Denver, Lowry, and the Southeast and Southwest suburbs on our border. Broadway, Colorado Boulevard, 6th Avenue, I-25, and Speer Boulevard run through us.

A quick perusal of our 360-plus editions turns up a veritable encyclopedia of occasions where neighborhood residents answered the call when projects arose to threaten the well-being of the place they call home.

Walt Kembel, who is honored by presentation each year of an INC award bearing his name, was not a NIMBY; he was a visionary when he first showed up in my office sometime in the 1980s railing that developers were going to tear down every home in his East Cherry Creek neighborhood (Harman). In my ignorance, and in light of his passionate outrage, I thought Walt was half nuts when we first met. Walt was surely a character but Walt was not nuts. In fact, Walt, who was to become quite a good friend, was right.

Deb Sanchez, whom we lost just this past year, was certainly not an Obstructionist. She was a modern-day Paul Revere when she and her Overland neighbors refused to stand still for a plan to permanently entomb a mountain of radioactive wastes at Shattuck Chemical Company that was an obvious threat to public health and that originally received the A-OK from both the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the E.P.A. – the agencies charged with preserving that very public health that was under siege.

Early on in *The Profile's* history in the late 1970s, Denver's transportation plans included building a bridge across Cherry Creek that would have made Alameda Avenue a thruway from Aurora to Golden. Were it not for a coalition of a half-dozen South Denver neighborhood

groups, large portions of South Denver might look considerably different today.

In the 1980s, the South Central Improvement Association formed an alliance with CHUN – Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods – to urge reversal of some of the one-way streets that crisscross the area. City traffic engineers feared gridlock on the streets and no way for traffic to make its way to and from Downtown Denver. A compromise solution saw some streets reversed and the gridlock fears proven groundless.

The neighborhoods surrounding the University of Denver have worked tirelessly for decades to see that this wonderful civic asset was able to grow and evolve without becoming the University that ate Denver. Compromises on traffic patterns, parking, and land use bear the imprint of community participation.

Over the years, residents across the City have gone to battle with both the City and Denver Public Schools to see that impacts to our neighborhoods are not forgotten when the shifting attitudes toward our public school system create a surplus of space in our classrooms and closures are considered. Neighbors in the Washington Park East community began the fight for preservation of the historic Washington Park Elementary School at Mississippi Avenue and South Race Street in the spring of 1979 when it was first threatened with closure. They avoided that outcome at the time but DPS eventually abandoned the building in later years and for nearly three decades, an ever-shifting group of residents continued to work to see that the eventual reuse of the building would honor the facility and continue to contribute to the hopes and dreams of the community. If you have not seen the outcome, you should drive by Mississippi and Race when you have the time.

Think of that – those residents passed the torch of civic involvement on that project from neighbor to neighbor for almost 30 years. Mayor McNichols – who was our chief executive in 1979 – has passed on. Federico Pena has gone from private life to eight years in the City and County Building, to a Presidential cabinet post, and back to private life. Mayor Webb spent a dozen years in the City and County building from 1991 to 2003 and now Mayor Hick-enlooper carries the torch. A legion of City planners and planning philosophies have come and gone over that time. But through insistence, persistence, and eventual compromise, a solution was reached that should serve the neighborhood well in the decades to come.

Denver's southeast light rail line was once slated to run down Buchtel Boulevard instead of assuming its eventual alignment in the I-25 trench. Public input was critical in that issue as well.

Neighbors all along the Broadway corridor have met hour after hour, month after month, year after year to discuss the Broadway Marketplace at Alameda and Broadway; the Denver Design Center at Center and Broadway; the rescue of the Mayan Theater at 1st and Broadway; and

most recently, the future redevelopment of more than 50 acres of ground that once was home to Gates Rubber Company. I will state without a doubt that their involvement has resulted in better projects for the community at large than would have been built if the neighbors had been excluded or chosen to remain silent.

And there is bad news on the horizon, folks. For those of you who are aching for an evening off to read a book or putter around the house, it does not appear you are going to have any time off any time soon.

Looking into the future, there is at least a triple threat of challenges that will demand your attention in addition to the usual day-to-day details.

The long awaited Zoning Code Update should be complete sometime in the next year or so and, along with it, changes in either title or substance for zoning categories covering probably every piece of property in our fair city. Since the planet often halts its spin when a rezoning is proposed for even one single piece of ground, I am pleased that it will be you folks who will have the task of shepherding those changes through the public comment process and eventual City Council votes. I will simply get to report on the carnage.

Secondly, as the Baby Boom generation continues to age, there will be an accelerating demographic shift that will truly test our City's ability to provide the services needed for a rapidly growing – and changing – senior population. Statistics show that there are now more people alive over the age of 65 than have ever lived to that age – in total – in the history of the planet. And that number will be increasing dramatically over the next decade. And this is a new breed of senior that is not settling down to die, but gearing up to live an active, involved third age of their lives. How to make Denver a city in which seniors will want to continue to live will be a challenge for all areas of City government from Public Works to Social Services to Parks and Recreation, RTD and beyond. New philosophies speak of intergenerational communities rather than traditional age segregated senior developments. They talk of universal architecture that accommodates all ages and physical abilities rather than homes with six front steps and doorways that would not accommodate wheelchairs. It will take strong work from all three legs of that stool we talked about earlier to make such a transition.

Thirdly, as residents of Planet Earth, we will participate – either willingly or kicking and screaming – in a change from our previous gluttonous, carbon-based way of living to one of alternative energy and alternative lifestyle. Buying local, growing local, and all manner of energy conservation will require civic participation and grassroots buy-in at least as much as city legislation.

So, with those challenges in mind, I will close by thanking you all for your hard work and urging you to remain vigilant. In the oft-repeated but still inspirational words of sociologist Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a

small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Executive Committee by Larry Ambrose

The meeting was called to order by Karen Cuthbertson on January 12th at 7:00 p.m. at 1201 Williams Street. Other Executive Committee (EC) members present were Larry Ambrose, Katie Fisher, Anthony Thomas, Don Tressler, Brad Zeig, and Penelope Zeller. Also present was Zoning and Planning Committee Chair Mike Henry, Transportation Committee Chair Dave Webster, and Presidents Dinner Committee members, Susan Morrison and Kathleen Reilly.

Susan Morrison and Kathleen Reilly reported on the Presidents Dinner. Guest speakers for the program will be Mayor John W. Hickenlooper and Paul Kashmann, Publisher of *The Washington Park Profile*. Susan has identified a vendor for the plaques; however, she will attempt to get another competitive bid. Names will be engraved on awards. The cash bar starts at 5:00 p.m. Nametags will be color coded to identify non-INC members; this will enable the Executive Committee to talk to them about joining INC.

The Executive Committee voted on the awards for the 2009 President's Dinner. Heather Berry will present neighborhood Stars. Steve Nissen will present the Nancy Jackson Award. Karen will make the other major award presentations.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2008 meeting was made and seconded. The motion passed by acclamation.

The December ending balance for all accounts was \$14,199.86. The Dollar Dictionary year-to-date balance is <\$1,571.29>. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made and seconded. The motion passed by acclamation. Larry made the point that Denver Public Schools, as an organization, has not recognized the Dollar Dictionary program for the contribution it has made to the welfare of its students. He suggested that the Board of Education be approached to make sure they were fully aware of the work INC and the Dollar Dictionary have been doing over many years. Larry will speak with Board member Mr. Jimenez and Mike will speak with Ms. Kaplan.

Transportation Committee Chair Dave Webster reported that he has asked everyone to make suggestions as to what the Committee's objectives should be.

Zoning and Planning Committee Chair, Mike Henry, reported that Neighborhood Inspection and foreclosure experts would present at the January 24th meeting. A preview of Zoning Code Task Force plans will be also be previewed.

Parks and Recreation Committee co-chairs reported that the Committee will meet in January to discuss the idea of presenting a workshop/symposium on the change-over from potable Denver Water to non-potable water for irrigation in the majority of Denver parks. There have been questions raised in the community regarding the sources and safety of the water being treated and used. The Committee will be asked to research and educate the INC membership regarding this important issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Larry Ambrose, Secretary

Smart Parking

"Smart parking meters" that accept credit cards, debit cards, and coins are being tested in Denver and your feedback is needed! The new meters are solar powered, wireless, and accept Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards as well as nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar coins.

The "smart meter" pilot will last about six months. After the pilot period is complete, the smart meters will be evaluated based on common-sense factors including ease of use, efficiency, durability, and reliability.

Essential to the pilot is receiving feedback about the smart meters from the drivers using them. Tell the City about your smart meter experience by taking a quick survey online at www.DenverMeter.com or receive a hard-copy of the survey by calling 311. This is your chance to be part of the future of parking in Denver!

Input received from the survey will provide clear information about the public's real life experience with the smart meters; that is fundamental when considering implementing a new parking option on a citywide basis. The smart meters also communicate with the ROWE meter technicians by sending alerts when a meter is jammed, near coin capacity, or has a low battery, creating a more nimble and effective department.

The smart meters have a digital display screen, which allows ROWE to change the message according to the circumstances. For instance, the display may read "No Parking – Street Sweeping," saving drivers a citation. On Sundays and holidays when parking is free, the display may read "Free Parking Today" and the smart meter will reject payment.

During the pilot, the meters will be installed on ten blocks in the downtown area. The meters will only be installed on one side of the street to allow drivers to choose if they would like to pay at the smart meters or at the traditional coin only meters.

Also, available by request is a list of where the meters will be installed, a map of the locations, and a picture of the smart meter.

Delegates Meeting by Larry Ambrose

INC Chair Karen Cuthbertson called the meeting to order on January 10th at 9:01 a.m. at the John Collins United Methodist Church, 2320 South Bannock Street. Host Kathleen Sandy, President of the Overland Park Neighborhood Association, welcomed the delegates and guests. The neighborhood is concerned about Transit Oriented Development, the neighborhood needs a grocery store, and could use a recreation center. Councilman Chris Nevitt was unable to attend and sent his regrets.

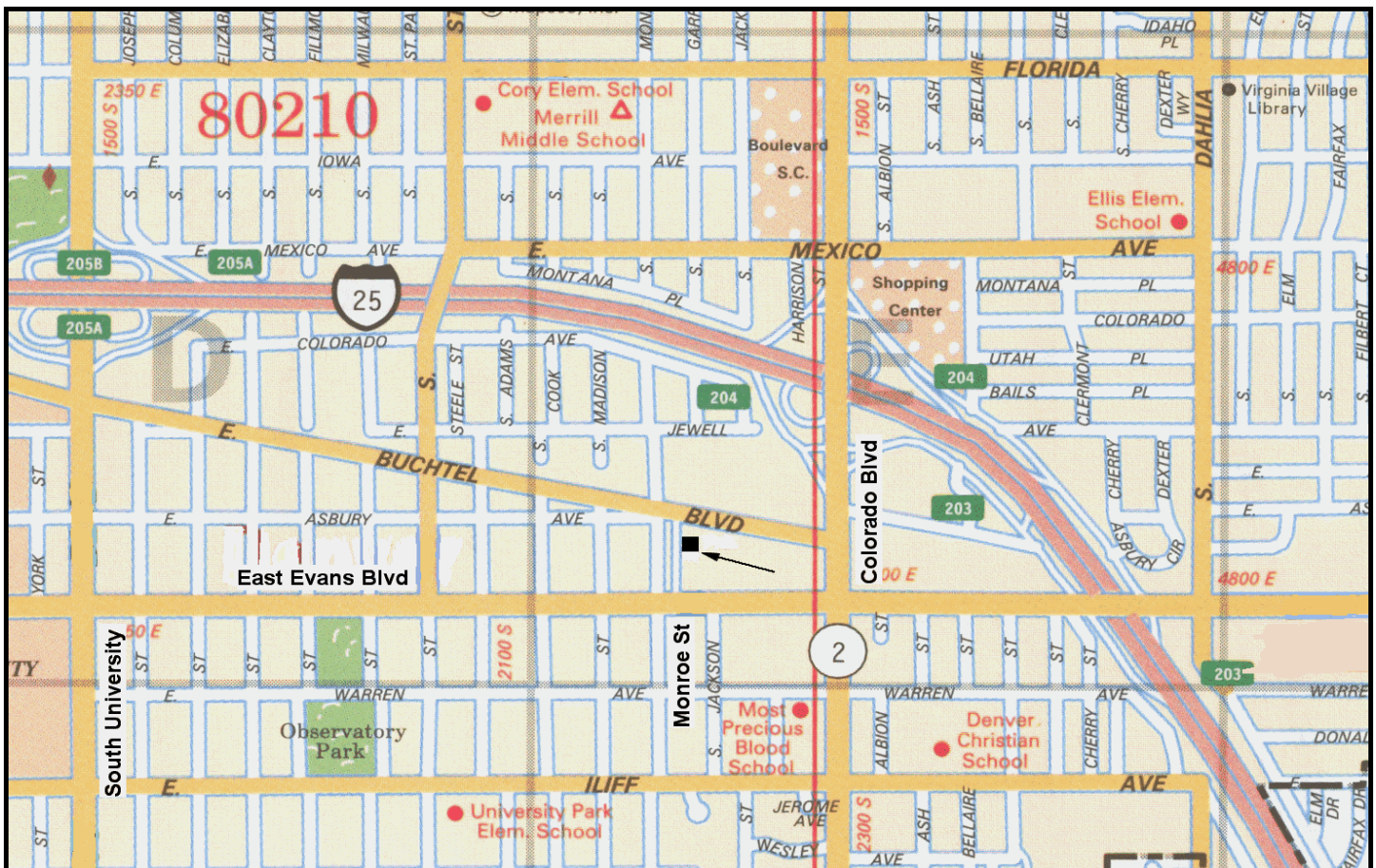
The Denver Police Department's Vice Control Bureau handles drugs, prostitution, ticket scalping, liquor enforcement, massage parlors, internet sex crimes, meth labs, and marijuana growers as well as all undercover operations. Bureau Captain Bill Nagle said the entire staff was committed to the DNC but is now getting back to "normal" operations. He reported that methamphetamine problems have leveled somewhat but changes in supply, cost, and demand are likely to spur growth. Captain Nagle indicated that nightclubs are acknowledged as a problem. There was a question about a specific club. Capt Nagle noted that some club owners do not follow Police Department rules for off-duty officers to operate inside clubs but that many clubs' guards are well-trained. He reported that some undercover officers do go into clubs from time to time. Mike Henry made the point that neighborhoods are "fed up" with nightclub problems. The Captain said enforcement is likely to get stricter but he could not disclose details. A club's responsibility ends at the premises doors, he said, and it is hard to get club owners to control activities outside clubs.

Mike Major, Director of 311 Operations, believes the service is improving City services by better tracking resident concerns and sending information directly to appropriate agencies. Major is a 37-year veteran of call-center operations. However, 311 is the smallest and most complex job he has had because, he said, progress is measured by "citizen-relationship."

Major is "amazed at the number of calls the City gets every year." The 311 system gets 600,000 calls and overall city contacts are 2.8 million. The system provides a better mechanism to track such numbers and the content of interest. Denver is one of 62 cities with such call-centers that were started 2006. Twelve more are likely nationwide by end of 2009. The goal of 311 is to answer questions or make the proper referral on first call. They now cover police non-emergency and Neighborhood Inspection Service calls. They are adding Denver Motor Vehicle, traffic engineering, right-of-way enforcement (parking), snow removal, and water quality and eventually hope to include City and County Courts (400 calls per day).

Dody Erickson, Deputy Manager of Parks and Recreation, spoke about draft recommendations that are aimed at "strategic alignment" of services in 29 City recreation and community centers. The Department hopes to offer "improved service and activities" she said, and collaborative partnerships would make centers more accountable to the community by focusing on youth, teens, seniors, and the physically disabled. Recommendations from community meetings could result in revised fee structures and levels of service. Four community meetings are being held

Respectfully submitted by: Larry Ambrose, Secretary



February 2009

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

2009 Membership Application

INC is a consortium of Denver neighborhood organizations 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 [☐]

Included in our payment is a \$ _____ donation to the Dollar Dictionary Drive

Bring this form to an INC meeting or mail to:

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

**Meeting Saturday
February 14th**
The public
is welcome to attend.

**The Heritage Club
2020 S Monroe St
See map on page 10**

8:30 a.m.

Coffee and chat

9:00 a.m.

Welcome from
Councilman Charlie Brown
and Bill Winn, University Park
Community Council

9:10 a.m.

Around the Neighborhood

10:00 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m.

Dr. Jamie Van Leeuwen,
Dir - Denver's Road Home
and Patricia Wilson Pheanious,
Manager of Human Services

11:00 a.m.

Robert Bond
Denver Digs Trees

11:30 a.m.

Committee Reports

Noon Adjournment

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

Officers/Executive Committee/Chairs

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Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn.

Paul Benington, Vice-chair
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Sloans Neighborhood Assn.

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Co-chair, Dollar Dictionary Committee
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tee

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ning Committee

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Capitol Hill United Neighborhood, Inc.

Dave Webster, Chair, Transportation
Committee

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Dj-jl-webster@att.net
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