



INC Our Thirtieth Year of Service



Denver Neighborhood Conference

**Denver Officials Announce the June 28th Neighborhood Conference
Empowering Denver's Neighborhoods: Collaboratively Strengthening Our
Communities, Block by Block**

City and County of Denver officials will host neighbors and community organizations in a day of community-wide networking and neighborhood leadership **Saturday, June 28th, at Manual High School**. The conference agenda will include presentations by local and national leaders on community building, workshops to address specific issues facing our neighborhoods, small and large group decision-making sessions designed to define what strong neighborhoods look like and to identify effective strategies to promote them, plus opportunities for networking.

The day-long conference will encourage a shared vision for Denver's diverse neighborhood and community groups, allowing for collaboration in building stronger neighborhoods and leading to action on a block-by-block basis. This conference is for anyone interested in:

- Learning about the exciting things neighborhood associations and other organizations are doing to improve the quality of life in Denver's neighborhoods.
- Finding out how the City and County of Denver is working to engage residents in projects and plans intended to build community.
- Gaining practical tools for addressing a wide range of pressing issues.
- Networking with neighbors, groups, and City officials.

WHAT: 2008 Neighborhood Conference

WHEN: Saturday, June 28th, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Manual High School, 1700 East 28th Avenue

WHO: City and County of Denver officials

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

Neighborhood Resource Center

Institute for Consensus Action

Community members

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TO REGISTER: Contact Heather Barry at heather.barry@denvergov.org or at 720-865-9103. Please register by June 20. Please note that sign language interpreters and/or CART will be provided upon request with five business days' notice. Please contact Lorrie A. Kosinski, Sign Language Interpreter CI, CT, SC:L, at 720-913-8487, TTY at 720-913-8484, or lorrie.kosinski@denvergov.org.

The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



June
2008

www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc

Denver Neighborhood
Connection

INC Member and Associate Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Member Organizations

17th & 18th Lafayette St Neighbors
 Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn
 Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn
 Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn
Ball Park Neighborhood Assn
 Belcaro HOA
 Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn
 Berkeley Neighborhood Assn
 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 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
 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 South Neighborhood Assn
 Harkness Heights Neighborhood Assn
 Harman Neighborhood Assn Inc.
 Hilltop Heritage Assn LLC
 Historic Montclair Community Assn, Inc.
 Hutchenson Hills/Willow Point HOA
 Inspiration Point Neighborhood Assn
 Ivy Street Neighbors 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 Neighborhood Assn
 Park Forest Homeowner's Assn
 Platt Park Peoples Assn
 Rangeview Neighborhood Assn
 Ruby Hill Neighborhood Assn - RHINO
SWIC Southwest Improvement Council/Westwood
 Santa Fe Drive Redevelopment Corp
 Sloan's Neighborhood Assn
 South City Park Neighborhood Assn
 South Hilltop Neighborhood Assn
 South Jackson Street Denver 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

Bonna Gayhart
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
Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.
 FRESC (Front Range Economic Strategy Center)
 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
 Transportation Solutions



Denver Neighborhood Connection

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INC organizations should send
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 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 pub-
 lic is always welcome. Check the INC
 website for location and agenda.

Executive Committee Recap by Larry Ambrose

The meeting was called to order on May 12th, 7:00 p.m., at 1201 Williams Street. There were nine Executive Committee (EC) members present, Larry Ambrose, Paul Bennington, Karen Cuthbertson, Katie Fisher, Steve Nissen, Anthony Thomas, Don Tressler, Brad Zeig, and Penelope Zeller. Also present were ZAP Committee Chair Mike Henry, Transportation Committee Chair Dave Webster, Education Committee Chair Billie Bramhall, and INC delegate Steve Hildman.

The minutes of the April 14th, 2008 Executive Committee meeting were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer Steve Nissen reported that INC had a total of \$22,188.86 in checking and savings at the end of April. \$4,586.34 was in savings. The Treasurer's report was adopted by acclamation.

Billie Bramhall reported that the Urban Land Institute's first public input meeting regarding disposing of DPS properties would be Wednesday, May 21st. Karen sent notices to all non-INC RNOs urging them to attend meetings regarding schools in their areas. Billie believes the School Board will consider neighborhood concerns. Brad says the criteria will be highest and best use. Larry pointed out that this is probably the worst time to sell property.

Anthony asked whether COP Shops could join INC individually as Associate Members or as a group. Karen will research precedents and/or Bylaws.

With regard to Public Safety, Penelope said that DPD Districts were updating the INC Landlord Manual. Steve Nissen said that new legislation had passed this year that should be added to the Handbook.

Mike reported that the ZAP Committee would be hearing about a new concept of Community Improvement Districts (CIDs). They are supposed to be something like Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) but will involve neighborhoods. A film about TODs at Auraria is still in flux. A workshop scheduled for August 16th is open for constructive suggestions on how to have more productive meetings between neighborhoods, the City, and developers. A suggestion was made to have realtors involved. Barbara Lambert was suggested.

Karen pointed out that it is important to monitor what is going on at the new Justice Center. Billie will bird-dog this issue.

Steve Nissen reported that as of April 30th, the Dollar Dictionary Drive account balance was \$7,066.14. This is more than \$3,000 less than at the same time in 2008. A distribution location was still not firm but Morey Middle School is a possibility.

(Continued on page 10)

Delegates Meeting Recap by Larry Ambrose

INC Chair Karen Cuthbertson called the meeting to order on May 10th, 9:03 a.m., at Cameron Methodist Church at South Pearl and Iowa Streets. Platte Park Peoples' Association (3PA) President, Sharon Withers, welcomed the delegates. The main focus of the 3PA is to keep the family orientation and encourage them to stay in the neighborhood. Doug Farquar, also of 3PA, arranged for the use of the facility and thanked Flower Wraps, 1313 South Clarkson, for providing the refreshments for the INC delegates and guests.

Penelope Zeller of North City Park Civic Association presented a new approach that she has pioneered to stabilizing neighborhoods where foreclosures are taking place. Penelope read that the Denver Business Journal estimates there would be 9,000 foreclosures this year. The purpose of her system is to allow families who have lost their homes to foreclosure to stay in the neighborhoods where they have lived by helping them to find a home to rent. Often, those undergoing foreclosure do not have the money to move their possessions, they have to pull their kids out of school, there is a stigma to letting anyone know their plight, and they need a helping hand. Finding rentals for families in this situation keeps their kids in school and allows them time to repair their credit. The program is not for everyone but is rather for families where there is income, albeit not enough.

Susan Foley from the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, Division of Housing and Neighborhood Development, spoke about "Understanding Mortgage Foreclosures in Denver." The City has recently funded a \$180,000 foreclosure hot line. According to the study presented by Ms. Foley, the current foreclosure epidemic is not caused by poor economic conditions, "rather it is due to a proliferation of non-traditional loan products." Sixty-one percent of foreclosed loans originate with mortgage companies not regulated at the state-level. Most foreclosed loans have interest rates higher than 7%. Areas where Blacks and Hispanics live are disproportionately affected. Census tracts with higher than average foreclosure rates from 2000 to 2007 are more likely to speak Spanish at home, have lower average and median incomes, and have a larger than average household size.

The City's recommendations are to 1) mitigate the impacts of subprime loans through programs like FHA and the Mortgage Revenue Bond programs; 2) educate people that not everyone needs to own a home; 3) help homeowners to learn about refinancing options; 4) stabilize housing prices through purchase of distressed properties, create a loan pool to assist homeowners temporarily disadvantaged,

(Continued on page 10)

Zoning and Planning

The INC ZAP (Zoning and Planning) committee met May 17th. One of the candidates for RTD Board (District A), Bill James, gave a brief talk and answered questions. Other candidates will speak at future meetings.

On June 18th, INC will co-sponsor a forum on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Denver Community Planning and Development (CPD), and the Auraria Higher Education Center. An AIA documentary film will be followed by a question-and-answer session. The panel includes CPD Manager Peter Park, Councilwoman Judy Montero, INC member Pat Ayers, Urban Ventures President Susan Powers, AIA's David Daniel, and moderator Marilee Utter, President of Citiventure Associates. This event, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Auraria Campus' King Center, is open to all. Free parking is available at the Tivoli lot only.

Marcus Pachner and Henry Maloney of Shea Properties spoke about the redevelopment of the 30-acre former CU Health Science Center site between 8th and 11th Avenues, just east of Colorado Boulevard. The General Development Plan (GDP) was submitted to the City last February with construction activity due to start in January '09. Requested rezoning likely will be to Mixed Use and Planned Unit Development to accommodate residences, retail, and offices. Attention will be given to "green" elements, pedestrian and bikeways, and connections to neighborhoods and parks. Visit www.sheaneighbors.com to see images of the plans. Tina Axelrad of CPD explained that the City is in the process of updating Blueprint Denver, which currently shows this area as part of a "stable neighborhood." With the departure of the Health Science Center, this area has changed. As Blueprint Denver is updated, there will be opportunities for citizen review and comment.

Charlie Busch of Washington Park West Neighborhood Association spoke about the Open Space proposal for the Denver Design Center redevelopment that proposes counting as required open space sidewalks, intersections, and outside property (not a part of the site). The TOD Ordinance does not allow these elements to be counted toward the required 10% open space. The ZAP group voted 22 to 1 to express to the City its opposition to such a proposal for any TOD and to bring this topic to the INC general delegates' meeting June 14th at which time a CPD or Denver Design representative will be asked for its reasons to let sidewalks, intersections, and outside property count toward required open space. Meanwhile, information will be sent by email to those on the INC email list.

Jerry Arca of the LoDo neighborhood and Anna Jones, a private consultant who also serves on the Denver Planning Board, spoke on Community Improvement Districts (CID), a concept for a flexible tool to help neighborhoods assess residents and businesses of their own areas to fund

needed neighborhood improvements and services which the City does not have the budget to provide. ZAP members expressed concern that such assessment would be a hardship for some residents, and regret that the city cannot afford to meet some neighborhood needs. They worried that CIDs would set a precedent that encourages the City to cut back on its present improvement and services staff, but felt the CID is an interesting, complex proposal that bears further discussion.

Don Elliott spoke on his book *A Better Way to Zone: Ten Principles to Create More Livable Cities*. The book reviews the history and development of zoning, where it has gone astray, and how it can be fixed. This interesting, very readable book is available at Tattered Cover and at some Barnes & Noble stores, and at www.islandpress.org or www.abetterwaytozone.com.

There was general discussion about the scheduled meetings to talk about uses for closed properties owned by Denver Public Schools. It is important to attend these meetings.

Also noted was that many Xcel Energy neighborhood substations are being fitted with loud alarm and strobe light systems to forestall copper thefts. These systems surpass the noise and lighting ordinance limits, adversely impacting neighbors. A speaker will be invited to come to the next INC meeting to discuss solutions to this concern.

The ZAP subcommittee on registration/notification/participation meets on June 12th, 7 p.m., at 1201 Williams Street. The annual "Neighborhood Conference" is June 28th (see article on page one). ZAP will not meet in June; the next ZAP meeting will be July 26th.

Alert to Denver Voters

Denver voters should be on the alert for important mail from the Denver Elections Division that contains a form allowing voters to apply for a mail-in ballot or update their voter registration information. The mailing also contains background information on the decision to return to a polling place, the paper-ballot vote model, and key dates and deadlines.

Voters in Denver will have three choices of how to vote this year: they can vote by mail, vote at an early voting location, or vote at a combined polling place on Election Day. Voting will be by paper ballot this year. Voters who prefer a mailed ballot will see a new option this year: they can opt to be placed on the permanent mail-in ballot list thus eliminating the need to apply every year.

The form that is included in the mailing is imprinted with basic voter registration information so voters will know whether their registration information is in need of updating. It also indicates whether the voter is on the mail-in ballot list already.



Baker Neighborhood – Some progress is being made on the Broadway Market Place Future Plans for redevelopment. The lawsuit against Baker and the 4th Avenue Committee has been turned down. Baker lost its appeal on change of zoning on the Water Mall Phase II Project.

Ball Park Neighborhood Association – The Second Annual Security Summit will be on May 28th from 6 to 9 p.m. at Coors Field. The Good Neighbor Agreement with the Denver Rescue Mission was revised to reflect additional provisions of concerns in the neighborhood. Octoberfest will be in the Ball Park neighborhood again this year in the fall season.

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods – The annual Capitol Hill People's Fair will be June 7th and 8th in Civic Center Park.

City Park West – The neighborhood is being vitalized by new, young residents and couples with young children.

Denver Forestry – Fall street-tree planting applications are available on our website www.denvergov.org/forestry. If you have questions, call Kiki Romero at 72-913-0649.

Golden Triangle Association – Infill development continues.

Hampden South N.A. – On May 21st at 7:00 p.m., our Councilwomen Peggy Lehmann organized a very successful Town Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel. Unfortunately, Peggy could not attend; her husband passed away. Councilman Linkhart substituted for Peggy and Mr. Romanoff, Speaker of the House, was our honorable guest. The Professional Building located at 6850 East Hampden Avenue requested help from our Association. The Owner wants to replace the eroded handicap-walkway with a new elevator. The Plan had no proper clearance and the permit was denied. The appeal with our engineering help was successful and the building will receive a new elevator for the handi-

capped. The demolition of the existing Block Buster and India Restaurant has been completed. The foundation and underground utility work for the new Walgreen is in progress. The Association plans to change our communication from mailing to e-mail was very successful. As of today we have more than a hundred addresses assigned in our e-mail file.

Hilltop Cramner Park– Open house for newly built homes is on Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m. It is a great way to see the latest in home decoration and appliances. Foxes and pups enjoy Hilltop living in the sewer systems and the neighborhood respects them by keeping their cats indoors and their dogs on leashes. In Cramner Park, the sprinkler system is being replaced in Sundial Park and trees are surrounded by orange fencing. The original irrigation pipes were donated by Mr. Cramner but they have rusted away.

Mayfair Neighbors Inc. – Feast on the FAX will occur on Tuesday, June 10th from 5 to 9 p.m. Come sample some of Denver's finest hospitality cuisine and ambiance at popular neighborhood restaurants. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the day of the event. For tickets or information, call 303-321-3212 or feastonthefax.com. Also, enjoy a garden tour in Mayfair on Saturday, June 14th. For information, call 303-388-0321.

Mayfair Park – The Community Advisory Council for Buckley Annex had its first meeting last week regarding the new infill development. The Purpose of the Council is to make recommendations to the City on Design Guidelines and developer proposals.

Platt Park – Platt Park is having a picnic on July 25th. Nosh gelato while listening to the Denver Municipal Band. All are welcome.

Rangeview Neighborhood – Rangeview recently held its annual meeting. A unanimous vote to oppose Lowry Vista development and ongoing privatization of public land for high-density residential and commercial projects was passed.

SaveCityPark.Org – Public comments are due by May 23rd on the proposed alcohol policy revision by Denver Parks and Recreation. Comment on-line at www.denvergov.org/parks. Admission based special events policy meetings continue to study policy, fees, and park sites.

University Park – University Park is still abuilding. Apartments currently under construction will house approximately 2,000 with more to come.

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.



Groundwork DENVER

Wobbly ladders and sleepy spiders notwithstanding, Groundwork Denver had a successful Porch Bulb Project outing in the Sunnyside Neighborhood in honor of Earth Day 2008. On Saturday, April 19th, 15 volunteers swapped out 84 incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient compact-fluorescent bulbs (CFLs), more than doubling this small grassroots project's results. This seemingly small number for a half-day's work translates into a reduction of over five tons per year from Denver's overall carbon emissions. See www.porchbulbproject.org for exact results.

"The news of climate change is so overwhelming that many people do not know where to start," said Wendy Hawthorne, Groundwork Denver's executive director. "Simple, ground-level projects like this get people started making reductions to their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions."

About 300 porch lights had been identified for switching on the 3800 through the 4500 blocks of Alcott, Zuni, Wyandot, and Vallejo, so expanding this program citywide could reap ample benefits in cost savings and greenhouse-gas emissions reductions. This project is a tool for any organization that wants to work with its constituencies to save money and reduce emissions. Additionally, it creates opportunities to boost energy-efficiency actions.

The next Porch Bulb effort is planned for the Platt Park People's Association (3PA) neighborhood, in partnership with the 3PA Green Team. Porch Bulb outings are scheduled for the weekends of May 17th and May 24th with a goal of canvassing 520 houses and inspiring at least 100 homes to switch their porch light bulbs to CFLs. The 3PA Green Team also hopes to plant 20 new front-yard trees and sign-up at least 50 households in the Denver Recycles Program during the summer.

3PA's Green Team will also be hosting two composting events through Denver Urban Gardens. The first event is a workshop slated for Saturday, July 12th, hosted by Platt Park residents and Master Composters at 1590 South Emerson Street from 10 a.m. to noon. The second event, a composting and recycling demonstration, will be at the annual 3PA Picnic-in-the-Park on Friday, July 25th. For information, email gail.neujahr@gmail.com or call 720-261-4130.

The 3PA Green Team is a neighborhood group promoting environmental awareness and community action to create a healthier, cleaner, and more sustainable world. For information about 3PA's Green Team, visit www.3PA.org.

The Porch Bulb Project is a component of Groundwork Denver's Climate Challenge that was started by Denverites



Kevin Suchlicki and Sue Okerson. Groundwork Denver's mission is to improve the physical environment and promote health and well-being through community-based partnerships and action.

To partner with Groundwork Denver in your neighborhood, donate bulbs, or get more information about Groundwork Denver's Climate Challenge program, contact program director Julie Connor at 303-455-5600 or julie.connor@groundworkdenver.org, or www.groundworkdenver.org.

Homeowner Protection

Denver homeowners can take many important steps to protect themselves when undertaking a home repair or improvement project. Building permits are essential. The permit holder is responsible for compliance to the Building Code so have your contractor pull a permit. Permits add value to your project. In exchange for your permit fee, you obtain an inspection to verify that work was done correctly. Home sale and refinancing may be in jeopardy if it is discovered that permits were not pulled for construction work.

No permits are required for replacing existing plumbing and electric fixtures with similar items, painting, wall-papering, or installing floor coverings. New or expanded home openings for doors and windows require a permit. All proposed exterior alterations to properties within a Historic District require a permit. All new structures, or the expansion of an existing structure, require a permit. Drywall repairs to fire rated assemblies such as between an attached garage and home require permits.

Selecting the right contractor is critical; check out your contractor. Get references and utilize the Better Business Bureau. Avoid contractors demanding full payment up front without doing any work. Deposits are appropriate when you receive a signed contract. Homeowners should use licensed contractors to make sure qualified persons perform work. You can verify Denver licensing of a contractor at www.denvergov.org/building.

When planning a project that will alter the exterior of your home, examine houses in your neighborhood that have additions or renovations. Notice which additions compliment the original character of the house and neighborhood, which do not, and why they do not. A well-designed renovation respects the original design of the house and takes advantage of existing architectural features.

Be sure to have a written contract detailing the work to be performed, cost, and timeframe. Always get a receipt for payments to contractors. Make payments to your contractor only when you get something in return, such as materials delivered to your address. Never pay in full until the

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A Special Treat

The film, “Baker Blooms,” documenting the Baker neighborhood's garden project at the intersection of West 6th Avenue and Bannock Street will be shown at noon on June 14th at the Denver Water Three Stones Building facility (map on page 11). The 35-minute film will be the final item presented at the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation meeting that begins at 9:00 a.m. that morning.

The film was produced in 2007 by Jefferson Beck, son-in-law of Kathleen Wells, eldest daughter of Nell Swiers, to whom the film is dedicated. Adrian Brown, past president of Baker, will introduce the film and producer. The film features interviews with neighborhood residents and officials from Denver Health and other agencies as well as footage of the neighborhood and garden. Nell Swiers was one of the primary neighborhood leaders of the project. She received an award from INC shortly before her death in 2006. The film demonstrates how imaginative and hard neighborhood work, in cooperation with government agencies, can result in a tangible and beautiful benefit to a neighborhood.

Motion from ZAP

The INC Zoning and Planning Committee voted on May 17th to recommend the following motion to the INC Delegation for consideration on June 14th. Delegates should come prepared to discuss and vote upon this motion.

The Denver Design District (bounded by Alameda Avenue to the north, Broadway to the east, I-25 to the south, and the rail system to the west) is currently developing a General Development Plan (GDP) and Design Guidelines for consideration by the Denver Planning Board in conjunction with future TMU-30 rezoning.

The April 18, 2008 submission by the applicant to the Denver Community Planning and Development Department (CPD) asks for 1) a 15-year property-vesting schedule and 2) a large percentage of the required Open Space on public sidewalks and traffic intersections. INC should communicate to CPD and the Denver Planning Board that it opposes both of these elements because they would set a dangerous precedent and urges that they not be approved.

The motion follows:

- A. INC urges CPD and the Planning Board to require Open Space be defined in keeping with its original intent, as calm gathering places meant for relaxation and neighborly conversations. Open Space should not include space for vehicular traffic, traffic intersections, or public sidewalks. Additionally, Open Space should not be counted on property where the owner does not own the property.
- B. INC opposes extending property vesting rights beyond the 3-year period allowed by the Denver zoning code and state law.

Election Division Move

On Thursday, May 22nd, the Denver Elections Division traveled lock, stock, and voting machine to its new, larger quarters. The new offices are located at 3888 East Mexico Avenue, just west of the intersection of Colorado Boulevard and Mexico Avenue, one block north of the I-25 and Colorado Boulevard interchange. The 37,000 square-foot building on East Mexico Avenue will also accommodate the division's warehouse operations, currently located at 38th Avenue and York Street.

The new facility has much more space to accommodate more efficiently elections activities.

Block Party Fun

Plan neighborhood block parties now – They are more than just fun in the sun. Now is the time to start planning and organizing summer block parties according to the Neighborhood Resource Center of Colorado (NRC). To get the activities going, the organization offers “Party Paks,” including block-party certificates from Safeway, a “Good Neighboring Resource Guide,” a block map to fill in with names and addresses of each neighbor, and an application for a \$100 a micro-grant sponsored by Xcel Energy Foundation. Order “Party Paks” at www.nrc-neighbor.org or pick them up at distribution sites listed on the Web site.

“Block parties are more than just fun in the sun,” according to NRC Executive Director Sarah McCarthy. “We know that when neighbors get together in a fun environment all sorts of important things happen – like discussing neighborhood improvement projects – but, establishing and maintaining neighbor relationships is key for strengthening Colorado communities. That is why NRC has promoted block parties as part of our Good Neighboring Project since 1998.”

Many summer block parties occur during the Neighborhood Resource Center's designated Good Neighboring Month, which begins this year on July 4th and culminates on Tuesday, August 5th, the official date of “National Night Out,” organized by local police departments with community groups to enhance neighborhood crime prevention activities. For example, last year in Denver's Bow Mar Heights neighborhood, the Denver Police department's mounted patrol talked about their role in crime prevention during the National Night Out events.

The Neighborhood Resource Center of Colorado builds stronger and healthier communities by providing activities and information to residents and associations. These essential community-building strategies help re-establish neighborhood traditions and create lasting relationships among neighbors. Since its founding in 1993, NRC has served over 1,500 neighborhood associations and thou-

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The following topics were discussed at INC's May 12th meeting with Mayor John Hickenlooper:

INC Topic	Mayoral Response / Deliverable
INC believes that citizens and RNOs need to be more meaningfully involved in planning issues and we ask for the Mayor's help in facilitating serious discussion between INC and all City departments.	The Mayor will help arrange meetings with department heads once INC members have completed their current effort to formulate some "Best Practices" regarding roles and responsibilities of all participants in planning processes (including processes in Public Works, Community Planning & Development, and Parks & Recreation).
RNOs are required to receive notices of certain matters per Chapter 12, Article III of the DRMC. This requirement is not being met by some departments, as evidenced by the report provided by INC to the Mayor. RNOs who should be notified are not, and long delays (4-42 days) between notice creation and mailing are chronic. In addition, the various departments are not using a central source of record (i.e., GIS dept) to determine affected RNOs.	The Mayor will develop administration-wide policy regarding use of source of record for RNO notification. Further, understanding the effect of delay on the ability of RNOs to respond (particularly with notices that require response within 15 days), the Mayor will urge department personnel to mail notices in a timely manner.
Use of email notifications on an administrative-wide basis is long overdue, and would serve to render the above issue largely moot (as long as the email was sent in a timely manner).	The Mayor will develop administration-wide policy regarding the use of email notification of RNOs. Given that applications and supporting detail are often not electronic in nature, paper notification will continue.
Comitis Crisis Center is a homeless organization located on the Fitzsimmons Campus in Aurora and is experiencing financial difficulty. Should it close, there would be an influx into Denver of additional persons seeking Denver services. Can Denver do anything to help stabilize this organization?	The Mayor will review this situation and meet with principle stakeholders. The Mayor asked his staff to contact the Mayor of Aurora. Viable service providers in neighboring municipalities are important partners with Denver.
When will all the light bulbs in all administration buildings be compact fluorescent (CFLs). Also, most lights in the Webb building lights are on 24-hours per day. When can that change?	As of last month, all the lights in the CCOD are CFLs, but most bulbs were CFLs since before the Mayor took office. As for the Webb building, the Mayor is investigating ways of getting the janitorial staff out earlier (e.g., before 11pm) so that most lights could be turned off.
311 operators and permitting office personnel should be formally trained on proper and courteous customer service procedures, as personnel from both departments frequently frustrate and disenfranchise customers.	The Mayor would like documentation, with date/time/call or permit type, and will review these with the 311 and permit office department heads. Note: The Mayor did not respond to INC's request for formal customer service training. INC would like to request that these "front line" personnel receive formal – and ongoing – training.
The idea of having admission-based events in neighborhood parks should be abandoned, unless the people demonstrate their support through a ballot initiative as required in the Charter. The disruption to neighborhood life and parking problems are insurmountable. Alternatively, create event parks that have the infrastructure to accommodate such events and are sited appropriately, such as revitalizing the Civic Center and using the Carnegie Library as a Cultural Center with café/gallery/public exhibition space or purchasing Elitch Gardens.	The Mayor appeared to be in favor of this type of use in the park as well as commercial sale of liquor in parks, but stated that no final decision has been made. Purchasing a large parcel of land or an existing venue such as Elitch's to use as festival parks isn't feasible at this time. The Mayor will keep this solution in mind, should one present itself in the future. The Mayor will consider this use of the Carnegie Library as one of many possible uses. In addition to the Civic Center Conservancy, the Mayor agreed to include INC and other individuals who have been involved in the preservation of the Civic Center in the planning process.
INC acknowledged that so many city staff provide superior customer service as an integral part of their job description. Those named to the right represent only a partial list.	Recently departed Jason Longsdorf Donna Borrego Catherine Cox-Blair Joan Wilson Tina Axelrad Julius Zsako Cmdr Rudy Sandoval Cmdr Deborah Dilley Steve Gordon

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

2008 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, Delegates Meeting)

and step up housing code violations; and 5) develop a long-term strategy.

There followed a presentation by Regina Huerter, Executive Director of the Crime Prevention and Control Commission, that includes 14 members from the Courts, Probation, Corrections, City Council, the Police, the Manager of Safety, and 15 citizens mostly from the justice system, three of whom are at-large. The Commission has promoted the Drug Court and the Mental Health Court. Thirty-six percent of persons in jail have mental health issues. The Commission has promoted provision of services when individuals make the transition from jail back into the community and ongoing services when they are out in the community. Reentry includes programs for providing life skills, obtaining GEDs, and help with getting identification cards.

With regard to juveniles, the Commission had 13 recommendations about graffiti abatement. It is estimated that in Denver there are 8,800 adults and juveniles associated with gangs. It is believed that focusing on 11 to 24 year-olds will be the most effective way of reducing gang activity.

Community Corrections has two types of programs: 1) where those charged with crimes are on probation and live and work in the community and 2) where those coming out of prison are not put directly onto the streets but rather are helped to make the transition. Ms. Huerter estimates there are 6,000 who are released from prison into Denver or the Metro area.

Karen Cuthbertson reminded the delegates that:

- INC is again sponsoring a beer booth at the Peoples' Fair. INC will pay \$10 to each member RNO volunteer who works a 3-hour shift at the booth.
- INC is sponsoring a "Good Neighbor Agreement Workshop" on May 29th with Excise and License Director Awilda Marquez to help RNO members develop GNAs with applicants of liquor and cabaret licenses.
- INC and ULI are co-sponsoring a "Best Practices Workshop" on August 16th to develop processes and roles, responsibilities for city personnel, neighborhood residents, and the development community for meaningful participation in planning processes.
- The Mayor's Neighborhood Conference will take place at Manual High School on June 28th.

Education Committee Chair, Billie Bramhall, reported on a process whereby the DPS has contracted with the Urban Land Institute to recommend how to dispose of 12 closed school properties. There is a question as to how the issues "highest and best use" (maximization of revenue) or community interest will play out.

Zoning and Planning Chair Mike Henry said Karen Cuthbertson, Dave Webster, and he have had serious discussions about how citizens can be more meaningfully involved in planning issues (see "Best Practices Workshop"

above). Their next meeting will be June 12th. The ZAP Committee will meet May 17th. INC, the AIA, and Community Planning and Development are presenting a film about Transit Oriented Development on June 17th from 6 to 8 p.m. at the King Center at Auraria. A panel discussion using questions from the audience will follow.

Larry and Karen spoke about a language amendment proposed by Parks and Recreation to its Alcohol Policy, which would allow sales of alcohol by other than non-profits in "Festival Parks." After discussion, the following motion was passed 19 in favor with 3 abstaining:

"INC can not support the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation's proposed language amendment to its alcohol policy related to the consumption, serving, and selling of alcoholic beverages in Denver "Festival Parks" by for-profit entities inasmuch as the Department has not provided, to the public, detailed and relevant information and data regarding the motivation and need for the change, including the names and number of commercial event requestors, revenue projections, and cost-benefit analysis.

INC requests that the Parks Advisory Board urge delay of implementation of this policy change until such time as all the benefits and detriments of such a change have been thoroughly explored and publicly discussed."

(Continued from page 3, Executive Committee)

Co-chairs Larry and Don reported the first meeting of the Parks Committee will take place at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 13th, at Washington Park.

Larry reported that fresh issues continue to arise regarding what INC's email policy should be. Karen indicated she would give her feedback by the end of May.

Under New Business, Steve Hildman told the Committee of his dedication to Denver Public Libraries. Steve has been attending the Library Commission meetings on a regular basis and would like to apply for an appointment as a commissioner. An opening is anticipated this summer. Steve will check on the requirements for application and the Committee will follow up as appropriate in formulating a recommendation.

Karen encouraged members to find volunteers for the Beer Booth at the Peoples Fair, June 7th and 8, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. RNOs get \$10 per person per shift for each 3-hour shift covered.

Regarding information generated at previous INC Retreats, Karen will distill it into a "statement of directions" for further consideration.

There was a discussion about programs for upcoming INC General Membership meetings through October. The June 14th meeting at Denver Water will feature a film about xeriscaping a traffic island in the Baker Neighborhood at 6th and Bannock. July will feature Stephanie O'Mally at

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 6, Homeowner Protection)

job is complete, has been inspected, and the building permit has been closed.

Go "Green" to reduce costs and increase comfort. Planting more trees will provide summer shade and absorb more pollutants. Use light exterior paint colors to reflect heat. Change to lighter colored roofing shingles to reduce unwanted radiant heating of the home. Insulate the attic, basement, and crawl space. Heat loss from those areas accounts for 20 percent of the energy costs for an average home. Keep doors airtight by weather-stripping, caulking, and painting them regularly. Select ENERGY STAR qualified light fixtures, ceiling fans, and appliances. They meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy. If your budget allows, consider installing solar panels. At the date of this publication, rebates were offered for solar panels from Xcel and the Federal Government.

For additional information, please visit www.denvergov.org/residentialpermits.

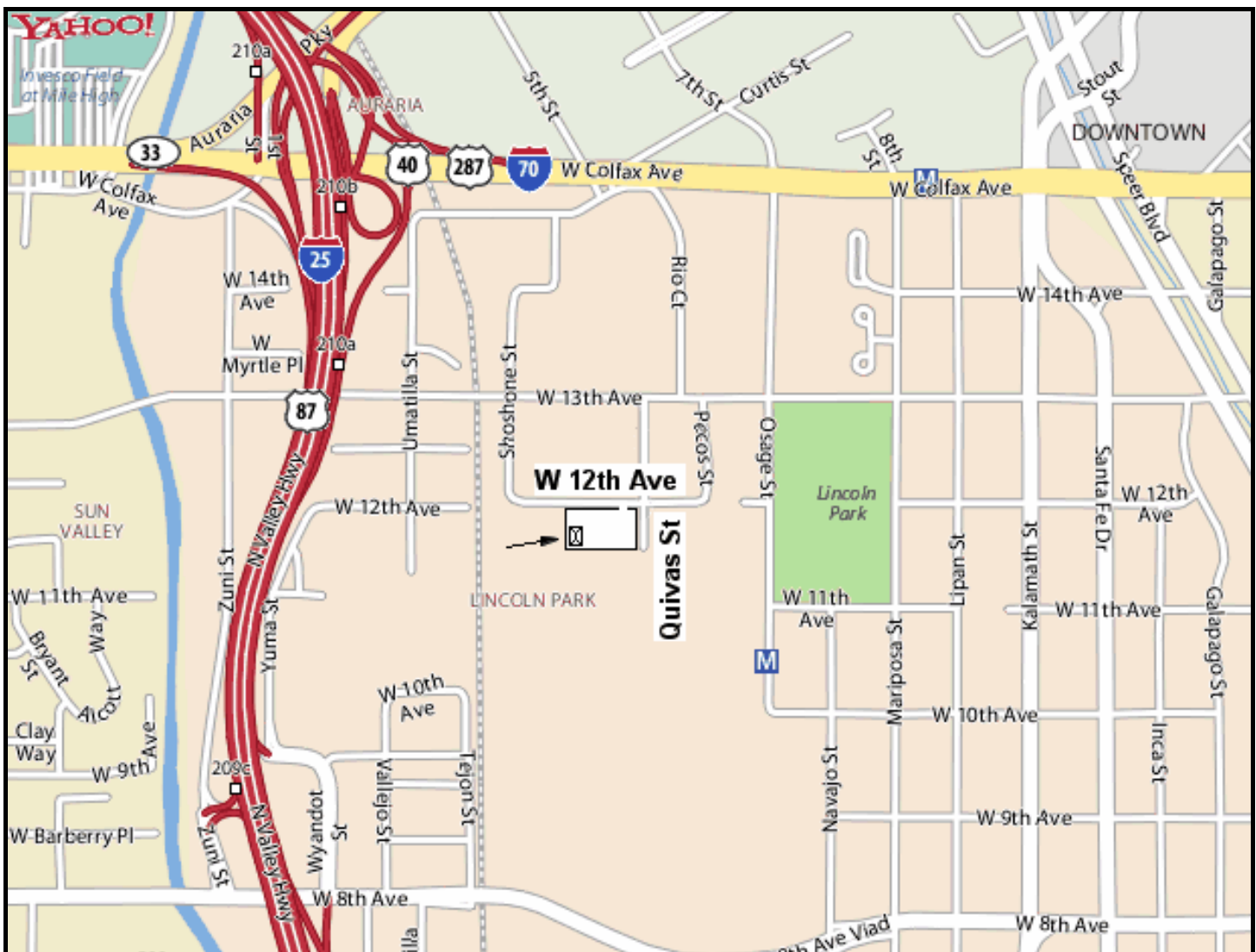
(Continued from page 10, Executive Committee)

the Heritage Club on South Monroe Street. There will be a presentation on Admission Based Special Events in the Parks when the City Task Force makes its recommendation, anticipated this summer.

The next Executive Committee meeting on June 9th will begin at 7 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10

(Continued from page 7, Block Parties)

sands of Colorado residents. The Good Neighboring project has sponsored about 20,000 block parties, encouraged over 700 block-to-block activities, and distributed more than 250,000 resource guides affecting about 500,000 Coloradans. For more information go to www.nrc-neighbor.org or call 303-477-0023.



The public is welcome to attend the meeting.

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

**Denver Water
Three Stones Bldg
1600 W 12th Ave**

See map on page 11

8:30 a.m.

Coffee and Chat

9:00 a.m.

Welcome from
Councilwoman Judy Montero

9:05 a.m.

Joe Sloan
Denver Watering Rules

9:40 a.m.

Fire chief Nick Nuanes
What's new at DFD

10:00 a.m.

Budget Director Ed Scholz
2009 Budget

10:30 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.

Committee Reports

Noon

Adjournment

12:15 p.m.

Special Treat
Jeff Beck presents
"Baker Blooms"

A 35-minute film about this wonderful project (see pg. 7).

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
P.O. Box 181009
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