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Next General Meeting:

Wed., July 16th @ 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Montview Manor Penthouse
1663 Steele Street

Meeting Agenda:

- Introduction of Guests
Brief Discussions-Including:
- Garden Tours in August
 - "Tent State University" Assembly in City Park during Democratic Convention
 - Resident Permit Parking for entire neighborhood
 - Neighborhood Marketplace Initiative for Bluebird District Businesses
 - City Park Maintenance
 - New Business Topics

SCPNA NEWSLETTER - JULY 2008

Thanks in abundance to Propaganda Labs and BluebirdBeat.com for converting our articles into a beautiful Newsletter, and to City Park Festival of the Arts for their ad. Also thanks to Saint Paul Health Center for providing the printing services!

Please join us for our July meeting (time/place/agenda are listed below). There will also be a drawing for a City Park Jazz T-Shirt!

Newsletter Readers,

With Summer officially upon us, the fruits of Spring are evident everywhere. During a recent visit, my dear cousin, Climbing Sun, recited a poem of his from memory, and has consented to allow me to share it here. May our involvements provide fruits for others.

- Jim Slotta

while picking fruit

consider the peach tree
she plunges into darkness
with ten thousand fingers
collects tarnished pieces of light
billows them up through her bones
like a fountain
fashions them into those perfect golden globes
then
when the right wind blows
drops them into our lives
like messengers
from places we forget to go

a mother's and father's body
forms a tree
its fruit
the suns and daughter moons
who spin across our days and nights
like jewels
on a never-ending necklace

look at your own life
if you find
one of those luminous strands
hung around you
know you truly are a tree
and know your fruits
are born
no different
from those who pick you

- Climbing Sun

AUGUST PROGRESSIVE GARDEN TOUR

We hope you were able to participate in the South City Park Garden Tour on July 1st. On Saturday, August 16, from about 3 to 8 PM, there will be a "Progressive Garden Tour" of about 8 different gardens in South City Park. Each of the gardens will be open for visitors for about an hour, with times staggered to overlap a bit. This schedule will allow our hosts to join the tour during times when they are not hosting visitors. Please stay tuned for more details, but meanwhile protect the date as best you can.

--Submitted by Jim Slotta

INVITATION TO A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY

Thursday, July 10th, 7:00 PM at Church in the City - 1530 Josephine

Come Learn About the Major Project for Redevelopment of the Church in the City land at Colfax and Josephine into a mixed-use apartment and retail project and the relocation of the Church in the City and its programs to the historic BMH Synagogue building at 16th Avenue and Gaylord. The St. Charles Town Company and the Church in the City and the Neighborhood Associations want neighbors to know about and ask questions about this major project. Cosponsored by multiple individuals & organizations, including South City Park Neighborhood Association.

TENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT CITY PARK

Denver Parks and Recreation is issuing an assembly permit to Tent State University, a group that plans to bring college students from across the country to Denver for an event at City Park, during the Democratic National Convention. After consulting with the City Attorney's office it was determined the event qualifies as an assembly event that would fall under specific provisions of the revised municipal code. The event is planned for each day between Sunday, August 24 through Thursday, August 28 with approximately 20,000 participants and will be located in the vicinity of the soccer fields southwest of the City Park Pavilion. August 23 & August 29 will be the set up and take down dates.

Since it is the policy of the city to uphold free speech and assembly on city property so long as no laws or rules are violated, the assembly permit will be issued to Tent State University. However, due to a number of concerns about the event that were identified regarding disruptions from amplified sound and access issues during the event, a number of reasonable conditions were placed on the permit to strive for an orderly and organized event without adverse impacts on park resources, activities and operations. The permit can be revoked if the conditions are not met.

Adam Jung, the event organizer for Tent State University, has met with city staff and offered assurances of their intent to fulfill these conditions and promote a positive atmosphere around the event activities. He is planning to meet with neighborhood groups as soon as possible and is very open to suggestions and comments on their plans. We will discuss this event at our July 16th General Meeting, and will try to have a group representative present. The web link for Tent State University is www.tentstate.org.

--Submitted by Jim Slotta, based on a message from City Park Administrator Helen Kuykendall

CITY PARK UPDATE: "GAME ON!!"

If you've walked through City Park lately (or almost anytime in the past decade) you're probably disappointed, discouraged, frustrated, or even outraged at the conditions you encounter. Dying grass, weed infestations, non-functioning lights, dirty tennis courts, weeds in the horseshoe pits, goose dung, mud and debris on the pavement, and water features that either don't work or are rarely operating are symptoms of a very sick piece of public property--property that has been entrusted to city employees to manage for the enjoyment and benefit

of the citizens. Have I mentioned Ferril Lake? Are you enjoying your park, citizens?

So what does the phrase "Game On" refer to? The game I refer to is the on-going (never ending) contest between citizens and park staff with regard to park conditions previously listed. The game goes like this: First, problems arise in the park causing an unsightly blight; then the response by park officials is to not solve the problem (and/or occasionally ignore or neglect the problem). Then, citizens complain about the problem: This is when the game gets entertaining. Park administration "Special Teams" spring into action to offer any number of reasons (citizens call these "reasons" by their real name: excuses) why staff is incapable of solving the problem. Some standard defensive strategies include: "We're working on it," "There's nothing we can do about it," "We don't have the resources," "The big project caused the problem," "That's not our job, so call someone else;" and "Be patient--nature works in mysterious (and very slow) ways." Recently, park administrators introduced a new tactic originally created by Condoleezza Rice: When asked about the algae on the lake, park officials said, "I don't think anyone could have anticipated this happening... Citizens, now desperate for victory, go on offense by "going deep"... we call our Councilwoman. Unfortunately, the "Hail Mary play" rarely works, as the Councilwoman responds with tried and true responses such as: "Call 3-1-1," "Be patient," or my personal favorite - "Maybe things will be better next year." The game ends when the citizens (poor losers that we are) give up, and drive south to enjoy a beautiful, magical fantasy land. No...not Disneyland... Wash Park..

Sometimes though, the game goes into overtime. Like when citizens such as our own Hank Wotli keep after the powers that be until progress is made. Hurrah Hank!! Hank called park administrators, City Council, Excel Energy, and the Mayor's Office to seek action (truly worthy of "All Pro" Citizen status). Hank's action further inspires SCPNA leaders to confront the City Park Alliance to urge them to get in the game, and to rally other neighborhood organizations to join with us, the "good guys." And who knows, we may even go to our never-fail secret play: "9 Wants to Know."

Stay tuned sports fans...this game ain't over 'til it's over.

And - if you think this is fun, TENT CITY is coming... GAME ON!

--Submitted by Roger Lawson, Assistant Head Coach, "The Fightin' Citizens"

COLFAX BLUEBIRD DISTRICT SELECTED FOR CITY AWARD

As part of the Denver Neighborhood Marketplace Initiative (DNMI) launch on May 1, 2008, the city of Denver's Office of Economic Development has selected the following five "pilot districts" to showcase the implementation of the Marketplace Initiative:

- **Morrison Road:** This district is located in City Council District 3-Paul Lopez. The boundaries are Morrison Road from Knox Court to Sheridan Boulevard.
- **Welton Street Corridor:** This district is located in Council District 8 - Carla Madison. The boundaries encompass Welton Street From 20th to 30th Street.
- **The Bluebird District:** This district is located in Council District 8 & 10 - Carla Madison & Jeanne Robb. The boundaries include Colfax Ave. From York Street to Colorado Boulevard.
- **Berkley/Tennyson Street Corridor:** This district is located in Council District 1 -Rick Garcia. The boundaries are Tennyson St. from 38th Avenue to 45th Avenue.
- **Cherry Creek North:** This district is located in Council District 10 - Jeanne Robb. The boundaries include 1st to 3rd Avenues and University to Steele Street.

An organizational meeting was held June 26; over

20 local business and property owners attended, including Jim Slotta and Rob Hunsley from SCPNA. We will discuss more details at our July 16th General Meeting.

--Submitted by Jim Slotta

COLORADO COMMONS UPDATE

You may have noticed that construction at 1601 Colorado Blvd. is proceeding at a breakneck pace. Trademark Communities, through its property management firm, Ross Management, is already leasing units at Colorado Commons, and hopes occupancy will begin this month. Trademark expects full occupancy by the end of 2008.

The four buildings on the north end of the site will be occupied first while construction continues on the remaining four buildings on the south end. Please continue to take construction concerns to construction superintendent John Ward, at (303) 319 2039.

Tricia Rood has joined Ross's team as the on-site property manager. She has been with Ross since mid-May, and brings eight years of experience in the affordable housing industry to her position. You can e-mail her at colocommons@ross-management.com. And you

(over)

The 8th Annual City Park Festival of the Arts Sunday July 20

best festival ever

Ferril Lake at City Park ~ 17th Ave at Steele

noon to 6pm

City Park Jazz to follow

3 stages

Laura Reed and Deep Pocket
Johnny Romero and Cuervo Nation
Heritage African Drum and Dance Troupe
Drum Circle with the Tai Chi Project
Denver Municipal Jazz Band
New Denver Orchestra
Railroad St. Jazz West
Sarah's Dream Group
Gracie and Blue, Inc
Mestizo dancers
Santemu Aakhu
Sarah Sings

100 of Denver's best artists

Free Hot Dogs from 12 till 2

CityParkFestival.org 720-205-6506



THE DENVER FOUNDATION



(Commons - Cntd.)

might even be able to catch her at the leasing trailer set up at the southwest corner of 16th and Colorado.

The overall vision for the affordable housing project was described in the January 2007 SCPNA newsletter (p.2), still available at <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/scpna/news.html>. Most of the project's 112 units are affordable housing rental units for families with 30% to 50% of Denver's average median income level. Twenty-eight of the units are set aside for households that have successfully completed the transitional housing program at Warren Village, and are qualified for permanent housing but still in need of rental assistance.

SCPNA hopes to work with Ross to arrange a "meet and greet" potluck in Colorado Commons' new gymnasium as occupancy approaches 100%.

--Submitted by Dave Lichtenstein

SUMMARY OF MAY 21, 2008 GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was held on a Wednesday evening--a change from Saturday mornings. 41 attended at Pinnacle I Tower, 2990 E. 17th Avenue, 7 to 8:45 PM.

Dave Felice, representing his web site, savecitypark.org, urged people to comment on the proposed liquor licensing for City Park.

All three candidates for District 8 State Representative were present. Candidates Matt Bergles--an educator, Cindy Lowery--a health care attorney, and Beth McCann--a holder of many public service positions, each told why they are running for political office, and described the election process. They agree about the need to change fiscal constraints like TABOR that prevent adequate funding.

Presentation: Opus Northwest representatives

Scott Menefee reported that sales of 110 of 160 homes had closed. This included 50 % of the Townhomes, 85% of Tower I, and 50% of Tower II sold. Sales have mostly been of the larger homes. Brendan Adams reported that construction of Tower II will top out at the end of July, with the skin completed by mid-August, and glass installed in September. The first residents will arrive in January. The Tower crane will come down mid-August, and there will be much less traffic after that. Both Towers have proceeded on schedule, with no on-job injuries.

Presentation: Police Community Resource Officer

Officer Amy Esten reported that people responsible for many recent local burglaries have been caught. The feeling is gang activity will increase this summer. A recent arson at 33rd and Holly was gang-related. There will be increased police presence at City Park Jazz.

Social Committee Chair Mardi Mathers reported on the planned July 1st Garden Tour. A second Tour is scheduled for August.

Vote: 2008 SCPNA Budget

The proposed budget, listed in the May Newsletter, calls for \$2,500 income (250 Member Households at \$10), and a \$1,500 minimum cash balance. Expenses include \$600 cash donations to other groups (\$250 already given to City Park Jazz). A discussion was held, followed by a motion to accept the budget as proposed and delay further donations until the Member goal is reached. The motion passed with 13 members voting yes, 4 opposed, and 4 abstained. Money that was sent by members for donations to specific groups will be treated separately from the budget, and sent on.

New Business Items

Five items were listed on a clipboard, and discussed with follow-ups suggested:

- (1) Residential permit parking. Park events and Colfax businesses cause SCP parking issues; 16th Avenue parking (see item (3) below) and traffic is a concern; also, the success of valued local businesses is important. A special parking meeting will be held.
- (2) High weekend noise levels from City Park. Speaker noise levels and direction need to be controlled; park management is an issue. This issue, and item (4) below, will be part of our ongoing dialogue with park officials. Key phone numbers will be published, encouraging direct calls to park leadership during incidents.
- (3) Parking difficulty for 16th Avenue households. Their only option is 16th Avenue parking, due to permit parking for cross streets. Guests of near-by multiple family complexes, and Colfax business customers, use many of the 16th Avenue parking spaces.
- (4) Deteriorating condition of City Park and Ferril Lake. Roger Lawson is heading up an effort to dialogue with park officials and other nearby neighborhoods to address issues.
- (5) Noise from Sengers on Colfax. Saint Paul (1500 Block) Block Captain Richard Gonzalez will research the problem between nearby neighbors and the business.

--Submitted by Jim Slotta, from notes taken by SCP resident Grant Grigorian