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Next General Meeting

Wed., May 20 @7:00 – 8:30 PM
Montview Manor Penthouse
1663 Steele Street

Meeting Agenda

- Intro of Guests, Announcements
- Police Dist. 2, Q & A
- Vote-SCPNA Parking Resolutions
- Vote-SCPNA Boundaries
- New, Old Business Topics

SCPNA NEWSLETTER – MAY 2009

Thanks in abundance to Propaganda Labs and their Bluebird Beat.com for converting our articles into a beautiful Newsletter, and a big thank you once again to Saint Paul Health Center for helping with the printing costs! Please come to the May Meeting!

Newsletter Readers,

The two-page newsletter issue contains several brief articles—some of which are continued in a longer version at our web site, www.scpna.org, along with additional articles. Those unable to visit the web site may obtain the longer version by asking either an officer or their block captain for a printed copy.

Local parking and all its challenges will be a major topic at our May 20 Meeting. Please read about the meeting agenda and the recommended Parking Resolutions.

Also at the May Meeting, we'll vote on a proposal to change the Bylaws to broaden the West and North boundaries of SCPNA.

Finally, an adult bookstore will soon open at 3301-3309 East Colfax, next to the Bluebird Theater, replacing a similar business that closed. Consider joining current local discussion about desired alternatives, and about the unhelpfulness of a grandfather clause protecting such undesirable uses. Talk with your neighbors; write to your paper and your elected politicians; read and express yourself at our web site; consider pickets or what-have-you. One alternative use was the near-possibility of our own local grocery store!

-Jim Slotta

VOTE ON PARKING RESOLUTIONS AT MAY MEETING

At the January 21 SCPNA General Meeting, the Parking and Traffic Committee presented its final report after a lengthy period of investigation. The complete text of the final report is at the website: <http://www.scpna.org> Four Traffic Resolutions were adopted in March. Please be prepared for a discussion and vote at the May 20 General Meeting on these Parking Resolutions:

(1) SCPNA requests that The Bluebird District—including the two blocks north and two blocks south of East Colfax between York Street and Colorado Boulevard--be made a pilot locale for the Denver Strategic Parking Plan, for these reasons:

- To address the interdependent residential and business communities parking needs
- To prepare for Denver's imminent new Zoning Code
- To build upon the City's efforts through the Office of Economic Development's designation of The Bluebird District of Colfax as one of only five Pilot Districts

Wording is still being finalized for Parking Resolutions reflecting our neighborhood's felt parking needs in areas recommended by the SCPNA Parking and Traffic Committee:

(2) SCPNA will seek ways to reduce parking pressures from Colfax Businesses, East High School, and City Park events.

(3) SCPNA will request improved parking ordinance enforcement and police supervision in problem areas, at problem times.

(4) SCPNA will encourage full use of available off-street parking by both single- and multiple-family residences.

(5) SCPNA will support individual block efforts (not negatively impacting other blocks) to cope with extreme parking pressures.

(6) SCPNA supports the philosophy that residents have 'number one' but not exclusive priority for nearby curbside parking.

-Submitted by Jim Slotta

VOTE ON SCPNA BOUNDARIES AT MAY MEETING

Please be prepared for a discussion and vote at the May 20 General Meeting on an SCPNA Bylaw revision that would effectively change its North Boundary from 17th to 23rd Avenue and its West Boundary from Detroit to York Street. The revised Bylaw would read as follows:

ARTICLE I--THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The association represents residents, owners of real property, and persons doing business within that part of the City and County of Denver, State of Colorado, contained within the following boundaries: East Colfax Avenue on the south, Colorado Boulevard on the east, East Twenty-Third Avenue on the north and York Street on the west.

-Submitted by Jim Slotta

DENVER STRATEGIC PARKING PLAN

Over the years, Denver has used a case-by-case, piecemeal approach in addressing parking issues across the City. Now, Denver has retained a team of consultants to develop a comprehensive, city-wide framework for coordinating parking related issues. The Strategic Parking Plan will allow Denver to evaluate where the City is now and to plan for where the City will be as Denver continues in-filling and emphasizing multi-mode, sustainable, and affordable housing and transportation options. City planners anticipate parking becoming more difficult and more competitive in the future and want to get ahead of the curve in finding methods to address the parking shortage.

The second of three public meetings was held in April 2009. The goal of the Strategic Parking Plan is to find ways to maximize the usage of both on-street and off-street parking to 85% of all spaces, balance the parking needs amongst all stakeholders (business owners and employees, business customers, single family residents, and multi-family residents), and still provide a priority to residents within a residential neighborhood.

To accomplish this goal, the consultants are presenting a multi-step process of imposing ever-increasing burdens on parking. Examples of this are:

Commercial Areas

- Implementing time limited parking on the commercial street to encourage customer turnover and discourage employee parking in the prime spots in front of businesses.
- Once free, but time limited parking increases above the 85% utilization rate, move to a fee based structure

(i.e. parking meters or pay kiosks)

- Increase fees over time to keep utilization rates at the 85% level.
- Only once all these measures have been used and parking is still exceeding 85% utilization, begin the search for increasing supply through parking districts and public garages. (Everyone needs to understand that the cost of a parking stall in a parking garage is approximately \$30,000 plus the cost of the land).

Residential Areas

- If on-street parking usage exceeds 85%, the use of Residential Parking Permits become an option.
- Residential Parking Permits will not guarantee a parking space in front of a home. Even if business customers never parked on residential streets, there are not enough on-street parking spaces for every residence (single family and multi-family) in the neighborhood to have two on-street parking spaces.
- Residences are encouraged to use any and all off-street parking options if a guaranteed parking space is important to that resident.
- Residents need to understand that on-street parking is not free. The City expends general revenue funds maintaining, sweeping, and patrolling the streets. Those that use on-street parking need to be aware that those spaces are provided by a subsidy from all the taxpayers of the City primarily through sales tax receipts.
- Residential Parking Permits could be implemented throughout a neighborhood to allow for unlimited residential parking and time limited guest and business customer parking. The time limited feature would discourage business owners and employees from parking in the neighborhood.
- Once a time limit feature is no longer maintaining parking utilization at or below 85%, a fee structure can be added. This would take the form of parking meters or kiosk stations for visitors and guests.

While the study is in process, implementation of any new or expanded Residential Parking Permit programs is on hold by the City. Once specific recommendations are made by the consultants, the City will look for two or three test case neighborhoods to implement the recommendations and fine tune the Parking Plan. Since the Parking Plan must take into account all stakeholders and the Bluebird District is a case study for the Office of Economic Development, I would recommend that SCPNA (along with the Bluebird District and the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Congress Park) apply to be one of the test cases for the Strategic Parking Plan. By being one of the test cases, it would allow SCPNA to have a seat at the table and represent the neighborhood's interests as the Plan is implemented.

-Submitted by resident Rob Hunsley

**upcoming
events on**

colfax



Happy on the Hill Event

May 13th - 5:30pm
Free Food/Drink Specials
The Irish Snug

**The Denver Post
Colorado Colfax Marathon**

May 16-17th
Denver's City Park

Thursday, May 21
2ND A N N U A L

Debut of

The Electric Fountain
Denver City Park Pavillion
Free Food / Beverages
5:30-8:00 P.M.



**CHUN Capitol Hill
People's Fair**

Civic Center Park
June 6th - 10am to 8pm
June 7th - 10am to 7pm
FREE Admission!

Feast on the FAX

June 9th - 6pm
Taste samples of restaurants
between Colorado Blvd. and
Yosemite!

Happy on the Hill Event

June 10th - 5:30pm
Free Food/Drink Specials
Goosetown Tavern



**2nd Annual July 4th
East Colfax Super Block Party**

Saturday, July 4th 2009
6pm-10pm
Always Free
Stay Tuned this will be good!

CBID "On Colfax" Gathering

July 21st - 5:30pm
Fillmore Auditorium

Tasty Colfax

July 28th - 5:30pm
Sample the Restaurants
between York Street
& Colorado Blvd!

Sunrise Tai Chi & Fitness Walks

City Park
Tuesday Mornings 7:00-8:30 a.m.
June, July and August
West Side, Denver Museum of
Nature and Science
Always Free!

mark your calendars!

For more information, check the Events Gallery on www.MyColfax.org

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5 HOT TIPS FOR SUMMER PET SAFETY

1. Never Leave Pets Unattended in the Car During Hot Summer Months

Temperatures inside your car can reach over 120 degrees within minutes. Leaving your pet in the car for that quick stop to the store can be very dangerous, even if parking in the shade, since the sun will move and your car can become exposed to the hot rays.

2. Beware of Hot Asphalt That May Burn Pets' Paws

In the hot summer months, asphalt can heat up quickly and cause serious burns to your pet's sensitive paws. During the heat of the summer it is best to walk pets in the early am or late pm hours.

3. Pets Can Get Sunburned Too!!

Pets with light pigment skin and light fur are especially susceptible to the sun's scorching rays; ask your vet to recommend a pet approved sunscreen that you can apply to their nose, tips of ears and other exposed areas.

4. Make Sure Your Pet Has Access To Fresh Water and Shade if Left Outside

Older dogs, dogs with thick coats and dogs with short snouts, (pugs, bulldogs and Pekingese) are more susceptible to the hot weather, it is best to keep these dogs inside during the hottest part of the day.

5. Watch Out For Lawn Fertilizer and Insecticides

What's good for our lawns is not always good for our pets. If you suspect your pet of being poisoned by lawn chemicals call the ASPCA **1-888-426-4435**. If you know that your pet has ingested a poison, bring him/her into your vet immediately!

This Summer Pet Safety reminder has been brought to you by

The Pet Valet, Inc., #303-832-1985, your local pet sitting and dog walking company. Plan ahead and book your summer vacations now. Book by May 16th for Memorial Day Weekend and received 10% off your service!

-Submitted by Pack Leader Aubrey Schwenk, <http://www.thepetvalet.biz>

MISCELLANEOUS TIDBITS

New Block Captain 1500 Block Harrison - Lisa De Graaf (de_graafalisa@hotmail.com, 1589 Harrison) succeeds Chris Merman. Thanks to both Chris and Lisa for representing their block!

SCPNA Annual Garden Tour - Our annual neighborhood garden tour will be held in early August this summer. **If you are interested in either hosting or helping** with the organization of this fun social event, please call Mardi Mathers 720.207.1980 or OliveAnn Slotta 303.388.3388. The organizational meeting will be Monday June 1 at 7 PM at 1685 Steele (Slotta's).

Become SCPNA '09 Members Now - Thank you very much to those of you who are current with your membership. If you have not yet renewed, please deliver \$10--check or cash--to SCPNA c/o Dona Dodson, 1558 Madison St., Denver, CO 80206 or to your block captain whose legwork got you this newsletter.

-Tidbits collected/submitted by Jim Slotta

TWO SUMMER ANNUAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

(Councilwoman Madison announces Ice Cream Social at Fountain, Senior Tea.)

Spring is here and summer is coming with all its festivals and celebrations. District 8 has two for you to put on your calendars.

Last year, one of the most magical times of the entire DNC for me was the dedication of the Darlington Fountain in City Park. It was an evening of romance, nostalgia and combined sounds of the Denver Municipal Band that played for the original dedication 100 years ago with one of the most highly technical lighting wonders in Denver. I wanted to turn the magic of that night into an annual event in City Park and so, again, with the Denver Municipal Band, I'd like to invite everyone to **The District 8 Ice Cream Social** on Friday, June 5th, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm. Pack a picnic; bring the family and come on down to the lake for a beautiful night of music, colored lights and ice cream sundaes.

We encourage anyone with the inclination to dress in costumes of the early 1900's to do so and we might even have an area where you can dress up your large brimmed hat with feathers and ribbons for the occasion. We'll have more details for you next month but set that night aside!

We would also like to announce the date for **The 8th Annual King Trimble Senior Tea and Roses**. This is an annual event that was started by former Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth and has been continued by my office. This tea honors the life and legacy of former Councilman King Trimble and is a time for all seniors in the district to get together and enjoy each others company, music, lunch and a nice summer afternoon. This year it will return to its regular July time slot and will be held on Wednesday, July 22nd 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. More details will follow.

-Submitted by Jim Slotta from the April online City Council District 8 Newsletter

SCPNA Meeting Minutes-Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The meeting was held in the Penthouse of the Montview Manor at 1663 Steele Street at 7 pm. Approximately 50 people were in attendance, with about 40 vote-eligible.

Introduction of Guests/New Members & Announcements:

At 7:05 pm, Jim Slotta opened the meeting. Various new members introduced themselves.

Guest Presentation:

Britta Herwig is the new City Park Planner. Still learning the ropes (been working for the city for 8 years). She thinks City Park is a fabulous park and she is very excited to be involved. There are currently 6 contractors working on various projects in City Park: Projects include: 1) Repairing by the bandstand (reopen- Mid-April). 2) Irrigation by the zoo and south side of park. 3) Finishing the 5280 running trail (will be finished by the beginning of May). She suspects that they will have a party to celebrate this. 2 million dollars of bond money is to be spent in the park over the next three years! She's examining the circulation of the park (trying to figure out a good balance of parking/driving/biking/walking). She will return to the SCPNA for feedback and suggestions (she is leaving cards with her contact information). She also fielded questions from the group. Q: Do the contractors have to park in the park? A: Feel like it is reasonable to park near where they work. Q: Is the circulation money going toward entering the park? A: Not yet . . . looking into it. She has been following the email trail examining the traffic lights for crossing 17th Ave. Comment: Thanks for the improving the gates. Comment: I love the running trail . . . it's great. Q: Curious about the pelicans? Are they hurting native habitat? A: No, they are native and they are on their regular migration route. Q: Outhouses are in horrible condition.

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(March 18th Minutes cont.)

Can they be cleaned or replaced? A: The outhouses get cleaned up 2 to 3 times per week. Trying to maintain clean facilities, but it only takes one person to trash them. Contact Park Services to notify them if you see them needing servicing. A bathroom facility is being designed for the area near the ball park/Science Museum fountain and will hopefully be completed by Memorial Day 2010.

There was a reminder to participate in the vote tonight, you must be a 2009 dues paying member of the SCPNA. Dues are \$10/household.

Jim Slotta introduced the SCPNA officers.

National Read Across America Day was March 2, 2009: Jim Slotta circulated a note from a second grade class from Teller Elementary School requesting volunteers to read to them. Special thanks to Dan Rosenbluth and his wife, and Ken Chomic, and Don McCloskey.

Congresswoman Diana DeGette is meeting with various neighborhood associations. Saturday March 21 at District 2 Police from 9-10:30 AM.

There will be a meeting on the Colfax Bond Fund on Tuesday, March 24 5:30-7:30 PM National Jewish Health. They will be discussing the stretch of Colfax from Grant Street to St. Paul specifically.

Alicia Thorne introduced the procedure for Old and New business.

Sgt. Eric Knutson filling in for Amy Esten for the next couple months. Her number will reach him. One thing he wanted to hit upon is the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH. Is there a "Neighborhood Watch" block captain present? No hands were raised. He has not been able to contact any neighborhood block captains, so South City Park has no representation. Theft from motor vehicles has the highest number of crimes perpetuated. A woman volunteered to be a NW block captain . . . she has called countless times to report alleged drug activity on her street in front of her house. To be a certified Neighborhood Watch block 70% of the block needs to participate in formal training to gain certification. Improves communication among neighbors. Q: Who controls the park for speeders? A: Traffic and speed enforcement is an on-going battle.

Jim Slotta mentioned that he tries to promote the neighborhood watch but it will require a leap to get into the formal program.

Jim passed around a letter from Montview Manor thanking us for the contribution that SCPNA made to the building at the last meeting.

Discuss, Vote-SCPNA 2009 Budget Proposal

Jim Slotta requested members to refer to the newsletters circulating that contain the budget as proposed for a vote. The projected budget is based on 350 households. Jim Slotta requested Dona Dodson to make a motion for a vote.

Dona wants to take a poll to see how many folks would be willing to try to find a few other members to join. She is skeptical that we will be able to get 350 households, especially during an economic recession. We currently have 154 members representing 95 households. Somebody asked, "How many households are there in the neighborhood?" The answer is there are 1400 households in SCPNA (creeping toward 1700 households).

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(March 18th Minutes cont.)

Jim again requested somebody make a proposal for a vote.

Bonnie Clarke made a motion to adopt the 2009 budget as printed in the newsletter. Bonita Lahey seconded.

Oliveann Slotta asked, "When a condo association joins SCPNA, does each unit contribute to the SCPNA dues?" The answer is, "Yes."

Jim Slotta asks if there are there people willing to join the membership campaign? Alicia Thorne asks that it be an organized campaign as to avoid harassing the same people over and over again.

Sally Barton-Higgins asks, "Is there anyway to give the block captain a list of current members?" The answer is yes, we can get that data to current block captains. We will also post a list of block captains on the SCPNA website.

Ron Hunsley wondered if we will continue the existing practice where payment on certain line items on the budget were not paid out until the funds came in. He is worried about the liability of the newsletter costs. Jim suggests that we will cut the budget for the newsletter if we don't get the funds as proposed and only do a newsletter once every four months.

Lesley Millhouser requests an amendment to the proposal: Can we make cuts to each of the budget categories proportional to the total budget?

Concern raised by Alicia Thorne that we can do that, but then certain things, like the newsletter, may not be feasible. Jim Slotta says that we will simply be over budget (on certain items) if we don't get enough members. Another member wants to prioritize the budget items. Somebody complained that the details of the budget should be up to the officers . . . he requested a vote.

Final amendment: Total budget of \$3500 get reduced proportionally to the number of members we achieved (individual budget categories are prioritized according to the officers' discretion).

Call a voice vote: Majority voted Yes.

One voted no.

No abstainees.

Bonita Lahey, Member of Traffic and Parking Committee. Tonight we will only vote on Traffic Resolutions.

Resolution 1. That north-south stop signs be placed on the Cook, Steele, and Detroit Street intersections of 16th Avenue so that all streets along 16th Avenue have north-south stop signs, and that 4-way stops be placed every two blocks on 16th Avenue.

Bonita Lahey made a motion to vote on the proposal as written. Stan Griffith seconded.

Discussion: Somebody felt that the lack of stop signs is not a problem.

Several other people spoke up reporting that they have seen accidents or near accidents. There is much concern for the safety of children. Alicia Thorne encourages people to call police when they see traffic violations (because the report determines where stop signs get placed). Sgt. Knutson added that the traffic violations aren't publicly reported.

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(March 18th Minutes cont.)

Ron adds that there are examples in the city where the traffic patterns have been implemented based on the overwhelming data collected by the neighborhood members.

Hand Vote:

Yes: 36 No: 1 Abstain: 1

Resolution 2. That a traffic light be installed by the City on 17th Avenue at either Monroe Street or Garfield Street (preferably Garfield St), and reduce the speed limit to 30 mph on 17th Avenue between Colorado Boulevard and York Street, with enforcement.

Bonita Lahey made a motion to vote on the proposal as written. Oliveann Slotta seconded.

Discussion: Alicia Thorne wonders if the light is wanted for pedestrian crossing or to slow traffic? The answer is BOTH. Predominately for pedestrian safety.

Member JJ Folsom who is an Urban Designer has created a power point presentation on this issue. He suggests changing the language in the proposal to be a "pedestrian activated signal." Light is always green unless a pedestrian pushes a button to cross the street. Britta Herwig doesn't want SCPNA to hinge the resolution on whether or not Harrison or Garfield is a pass through to City Park. Committee Member Bonita Lahey stated Garfield because it is the only street from 1st to 17th Ave that Garfield doesn't have a traffic light. A Garfield resident is opposed to a traffic light on Garfield. Concerned that Garfield will be used as a thoroughfare to Colfax.

A "Pedestrian Refuge" is a raised median wherever there are pedestrian cross walks. JJ Folsom suggests there be two pedestrian activated lights (and pedestrian refuges) placed at Madison Street and Jackson Street.

He also suggests separating the speed limit on 17th Ave from the pedestrian lights.

Amended Resolution 2: Two pedestrian activated crossing lights (with refuges) be installed by the City on 17th Ave, one on Madison and another on Jackson Street.

Hand Vote:

Yes: 38 No: 0 Abstain: 1

Amended Resolution 3: Request to reduce the speed limit on 17th Ave from 35 mph to 30 mph (and enforced) between Colorado Blvd and York Street to be consistent with the rest of 17th Ave speed limits.

Hand Vote:

Yes: 36 No: 0 Abstain: 2

Committee Resolution 3) That bike lanes be installed on 16th Avenue with no parking on one side of 16th Ave.

Bonita Lahey made a motion to vote on the proposal as written. April Voas seconded.

Discussion: Ron Hunsley brings up the fact that there are concerns about parking issues and that this will not help the problem. Several neighbors agreed with this.

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(March 18th Minutes cont.)

Britta Herwig asks if the committee knows about the concept of 'Sharrows' (shared-lane pavement markings) that there are street signs to indicate bikes need to share the road with vehicles. Bonita makes the point that a parking resolution is coming at a later date (to make the one side of available for resident permit parking only). Somebody points out that 16th Avenue has too many parking signs to make it an effective bike route anyway.

Hand Vote on Committee Resolution 3:

Yes: 1 No: 37 Abstain: 0

New Resolution 4: Sharrows (for a bike-vehicle shared-lane) be placed on 16th Ave between Colorado Blvd and York Street.

Bonita Lahey made a motion to vote on the proposal as written. Sally Barton-Higgins seconded.

Hand Vote:

Yes: 36 No: 0 Abstain: 2

Jim Slotta introduced **Carol Boigon** Councilwoman-At-Large

She took the floor to explain that she is coming around to various neighborhood associations to discuss pedestrian lights on Colorado Ave. About \$1 million dollars to fix the lighting for pedestrian crossings (on Colfax, Montview, and 17th Ave, etc.) Because CO Blvd is a state hwy, it is difficult to address. SLOPE reduces visibility. Need larger lights, and to reengineer sidewalks. Bigger/larger lights require larger poles are old and need new mast arms at all three intersections. Probably won't start for another 4-5 months.

Old/New Business:

- Problem with dogs pooping along 16th Ave (and not picking it up). Can we put up signs? Or do some sort of enforcement? One solution suggested is to tie bleach bottles filled with plastic baggies on trees along 16th Ave.
- Oliveann wants to bring up the 2009 Garden Tours. If you are interested in being a volunteer on the committee, we welcome you! It is a lot of fun! Contact Oliveann Slotta.
- Molly Parrish is the volunteer coordinator for City Park Jazz. No meadows concerts this year . . . they will all be at the bandstand. Three volunteer positions available: 1) Take down the canopy at the end of the concert (8 pm). Volunteers get a T-shirt, free dinner (only takes 20 minutes). 2) Man the table is 5-8 pm selling t-shirts and collecting donations (in a jar on the table). 3) Take buckets around to collect donations during the intermission.

Bonita Lahey reminded people to come for the parking resolutions at the May meeting.

Lesley Millhouser made a motion to make a \$250 donation to City Park Jazz (in order to get acknowledgment in print). Nick Mancini seconded.

Hand vote:

Yes 21 No 0 Abstain 0

Meeting was adjourned around 8:40 pm.

--Submitted by Lesley Millhouser, from computer notes taken by Lesley and a tape recording.