

Mayor's Neighborhood Conference

Back to Basics, Block by Block

Mayor John Hickenlooper and City leaders will host neighborhood and community organizations in a day of community-wide networking and neighborhood leadership training on Saturday, August 1st at Coors Field. The conference agenda will include a lunch-time keynote address by Hickenlooper, presentations by local and national leaders on community building, workshops to address specific issues facing neighborhoods, small- and large-group decision-making sessions designed to define what strong neighborhoods look like, tips to identify effective strategies to promote neighborhoods, and opportunities for networking.

The conference will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. The goal is to encourage a shared vision for Denver's diverse neighborhood and community groups, allow for collaboration in building stronger neighborhoods, and lead 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 is working to engage residents in projects and plans intended to build community relations.
- Gaining practical tools for addressing a wide range of community and neighborhood issues.
- Networking with neighbors, groups, and City officials.

To accommodate participants appropriately, please register by July 24th. To register or for more information, contact Heather Barry at (720) 865-9103 or via e-mail at: neighborhood.conference09@denvergov.org.

Sign language interpretation is provided upon request with at least three business days notice at (720) 913-8484 TTY, (720) 913-8487 Voice, or e-mail Lorie Kosinski at lorrie.kosinski@denvergov.org.

City Council Budget Priorities

In one of the most difficult fiscal environments in current history, the Denver City Council is identifying key principles and priorities to support the complex decisions necessary during the 2010 budget cycle. Requiring efficiency and accountability in all City departments, maintaining core services, and aligning expenditures with the City's basic needs will be the focus for this year's budget.

The Council is reaffirming five areas of concentration where they will prioritize their leadership efforts in 2010:

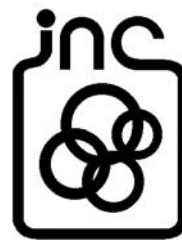
❖ **Economic and environmental sustainability** – Capitalizing on federal stimulus funding, the Council encourages economic development investments that will implement existing plans. Job creation should be the top focus as resources are directed in ways that will make the economy and environment sustainable for years to come.

❖ **Neighborhoods** – Strong recreation, library, and cultural opportunities take on renewed significance in tough economic times as Council strives to prioritize people over things and stabilize distressed Denver neighborhoods. Council supports efforts that foster community pride and

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The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



July
2009

www.
neighborhoodlink.
com/denver/inc

Denver Neighborhood
Connection

INC Member and Associate Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Member Organizations

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
Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods Inc
 Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Assn
 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
 Cranmer Park Hilltop Civic Assn
Crestmoor Park Homeowners Assn 2nd filing
 Crestmoor Park Homeowners Inc
 Filing One
 East Montclair Neighborhood Assn
 Elyria Neighborhood Assn
 Elyria Swansea/Globeville Business Assn.
 Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc
 George Washington Homeowner's Assn. Inc.
 Globeville Civic Assn #1
 Golden Triangle Assn. of Denver
Golden Triangle Museum District
 Greater Mar-Lee Community Org
Greater Park Hill Community, Inc.
 Green Valley Ranch Citizen's Advisory Board
 Hampden Heights Civic Assn
 Harkness Heights Neighborhood Assn
 Highland United Neighbors Inc.
 Hilltop Heritage Assn LLC
 Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc.
 Humboldt Street Neighborhood Assn
 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
SWIC Southwest Improvement Council/Westwood
 Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Assn
 South City Park Neighborhood Assn
 South Hilltop Neighborhood Assn
 South Jackson Street Registered Neighborhood
Southmoor Park East Homeowners Assn
 Stapleton United Neighbors
 Stokes Place Green Bowers HOA
 The Unsinkables
University Park Community Council
Upper Downtown Development Org
Virginia Vale Community Assn
 Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn
 West University Community Assn (WUCA)
West Washington Park Neighborhood Assn
 Whittier Neighborhood Assn

Associates

Bernie Jones PhD
 Bill Johnston
 Bonna Gayhart
 Cathee Fisher
City Council Pres/Dist 10
Councilwoman Jeanne Robb
Councilman Doug Linkhart
Councilman Paul Lopez
 Councilwoman Carla Madison
Councilwoman Carol Boigon

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson
Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann
Dennis Gallagher, Auditor
Denver Mayor's Office
Denver Water
 Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.
 FRESC
Gertie Grant
 Historic Denver Inc.
 League of Women Voters of Denver
 Leetsdale Cop Shop
 Morrison Road Business Association of Denver
 Rosy Griffiths
Stapleton Master Community Assn
 Stephen Griffin
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Subscriptions are free. Subscription requests and changes of address should be e-mailed to kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net. Articles should be e-mailed to the editor by the 20th of the month.

INC organizations should send changes to their president and delegate data 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 9:00 a.m. See this issue for location.

The INC Executive Committee meets monthly at 1201 Williams Street in the 19th floor meeting room.

RNOs are welcome to reprint the articles in their own newsletters.

neighborhood spirit such as block parties and street fairs. Similar to years past, an emphasis on coordinated Neighborhood Inspection Services remains critical.

- ❖ **A Well-Planned City** – Council has adopted numerous plans establishing a vision for a well-planned city and specific strategies and recommendations for achieving it. In hard times, it can be easy to lose sight of the vision. Council will strive to keep the vision in mind as they monitor actions to assure coordinated and fiscally efficient implementation of recommendations in the Strategic Transportation Plan, the FasTracks station area plans, Parks and Recreation plans, and others. The Strategic Parking Plan and the Solid Waste Master Plan evolving strategies will be scrutinized for coordination, financial savings, and accountability.
- ❖ **A Safe and Clean City** – Council recognizes that safety is basic to the quality of life in our city and it continues as a top priority for all districts. The continued investment of mill levy dollars in the maintenance of our public infrastructure is wise fiscal policy and keeps people working. Council will continue to do more with less as they work with neighbors and all departments to reduce graffiti.
- ❖ **Children and Families** – The Council will collaborate wherever possible to find efficiencies with Denver Public Schools, supports maintaining school and neighborhood health clinics in underserved communities, and will forward efforts that help preserve strong families and protect vulnerable populations.

Finally, the City's new Zoning Code will consume much of the energy and attention of the Council in the next six months. Setting an ambitious goal of adopting the new code by year's end, Council recognizes that citizens must receive adequate information and continue to give feedback about this effort. Passage will culminate years of study and input from thousands of residents on a new land use vision for Denver. The draft code and information on public meetings is available at www.newcodedenver.org

Delegates Meeting Recap

By Fran Rew

INC Chair, Karen Cuthbertson called the meeting to order on June 13th at 9:00 a.m. in the in the Colorado Free University's (CFU) meeting room in the converted Lowry Firehouse that also includes the John Hand Theater. Sally Kurtzman, with Lowry United Neighborhoods (LUN), gave a hearty welcome and invited INC to come back again to attend a theatrical performances at the John Hand Theater. Even though LUN is a new RNO, their delegates wore attractive LUN tee-shirts so that we could recognize the people who could tell us more about their area. LUN president Jay Clapper told us that, after growing up near a

Denver park, he enjoyed the design of walking and playing areas at Lowry.

Helen Hand, President of CFU, invited the INC to have their meeting at the CFU (FreeU.com). Helen is the sister of John Hand who founded the CFU in 1987 spawned from the Denver Free University (DFU). The original DFU represented the free speech movement that came out of Denver University to create an opportunity for people to be free to teach and free to learn without a formal university structure. CFU's different philosophy was that communities have within them the people and resources to solve their own problems. Hooking those people up enriches the community. Without creating an educational model, people propose affordable courses that they are interested in teaching. CFU started on Colfax and York. When Lowry opened for development, John Hand came over and turned this Fire Station into a satellite school, sold their Colfax location, and moved to the happy, vibrant, and beautiful Lowry location.

Heather Barry, the Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison, encouraged everyone to plan a special event in their neighborhoods for National Night Out on August 1st. She invited the delegates to call the coordinators in her office if they needed recommendations or support. Heather also informed the INC delegates that Coors Field was approved for their annual Neighborhood Conference on August 1st (see page one). This conference will include the option of a guided tour of Coors Field. The draft new zoning code is available online at www.newcodedenver.org and in the libraries. Citizen budget meetings are starting on Thursday. See www.denvergov.org for the schedule.

Kelly Brough, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, gave the delegates an update about the Denver City budget. Kelly responded to a comment that holding budget meetings in the summer makes it difficult for the public to attend explaining that the City Charter dictates the timeline and that it is equally hard on the budget team.

Kelly reported that the team started the 2010 budget in March of 2008 when there was a predicted three-percent growth for the General Fund (not the DIA Enterprise Fund or other funds). Out of \$896 million of recommended financial resources for 2009 General Funds, fifty-percent of this comes from sales taxes. Then the market went crazy with four months of slow down that could have been worse had the Denver Democratic National Convention not been in town. There were over 650 job vacancies in most City departments but not in police and fire that are overstaffed. First, Denver cut \$30 million, and then by December, faced more serious declines. Denver then cut another \$56 million by freezing pay, asking staff to take unpaid furlough days, layoffs, equipment not bought, consolidation, more efficiency operation, etcetera.

Denver's April 2009 sales tax figures are down 16.7-percent, over 13-percent down this year overall. This

decline is less than the state and regional numbers and is better than other large cities in the country.

Kelly explained that, this summer, the budget team is coming back to the City to ask for help making trade-off decisions. City staff is service-oriented and, if there are lay-offs, the service will suffer. We asked our workers; they prefer across-the-board cuts to layoffs. The City workforce is trying to come together to continue providing services. Call us regularly to share feedback so that we can know what we are getting right and wrong.

A question and answer session followed.

Q: Do you get any impact from the stimulus package?

A: Kelly answered that \$52 million of stimulus money is designated for Denver. This money may be used as a safety-net stimulus to help the unemployed.

Q: How about asking the communities to volunteer to do some of the work?

A: Other cities have asked their communities but not everyone responds favorably to this request.

Q: Do we have a list of programs that we could go through for prioritization or elimination?"

A: Yes. The book that lists all those programs is huge. There are 29 recreation centers in our system; some are very busy with many amenities while others have few amenities. When we made cuts in the past, we cut all the hours in the system. Is that the better approach or do we take a recreation center offline to save? It starts to focus in one area. If you live in the neighborhood, you would say "Heck no!" to closing a recreation center. If you do not live there you would say "Brilliant!"

Q: What about the stadium tax?

A: 15 groups are talking about extending the stadium tax.

Denver's City budget is posted online, with 75-percent of the General Fund budget going to operational expenses and 70-percent of the total City budget going to labor costs.

Q: One delegate asked the City to move from thinking of budget short falls as an either/or option to something in-between. For example, "What is it going to cost to create a citizens' corps, perhaps attaching to the greenprintdenver.org initiative to mobilize at a neighborhood level?"

A: The City would consider delivering services through sources that may not be from the City.

Kelly emphasized that the question of the policy for City budget reduction focused on whether to make targeted specific reductions or reductions across the board. She said there is a \$70 million gap. Where are the other \$40 million going to come from?

One delegate mentioned that the City Assessor Office records are not up-to-date and that getting these records up-to-date could potentially make millions of dollars for the City. Kelly responded that although this could help, property tax is but 7-percent of the City's total income.

Another INC member recommended that a city or state accounting office be authorized to investigate the potential for reducing unemployment and increasing sales tax revenue by creating a customized city or state version of the 75-year-old WIR Bank accounting system in Switzerland. The YouTube video about this system looked like a convincing tool to pull people out of hard times. Kelly responded that she did not know enough about this option to comment at this time.

After the agenda break, Marcia Johnson, Councilwoman for District 5, invited everyone to sign up for her e-newsletter. Marcia explained that at this time, only councilpersons have the new Zoning Code map to verify whether the map reflects the current district. She asked RNOs to designate a liaison to check these new Zoning Code maps with their councilperson to see if the map is correct, explaining that it is not always correct. No one is better for checking these maps than the RNO liaisons. (Editor's Note: Some draft maps are now available at www.newcodedenver.org/rezoning/page/the-draft-code-and-draft-map.)

James Mejia, CEO of Denver Preschool Program (DPP), and his two five-year-old daughters introduced the success of the DPP (dpp.org). The reasons that Denver residents voted for DPP include the following facts: 80-percent of brain growth happens between birth and 5 years of age. In 2009, one of three students is not ready for kindergarten. That readiness-gap widens with every school year. DPP succeeds at getting children to start on an equal footing.

Lower income families represent 65-percent of all the DPP participants. If Head Start were available, these families would qualify. Every family is eligible for a sliding-scale benefit based on the Qualistar rating of the program where your child is enrolled. If a program were rated zero-stars, the highest amount a family would receive would be \$57 per month. If it were rated three-stars, that family would receive \$87 per month. This gives parents a choice and provides a way to fill the gap between what they need and what they have.

DPP started in November of 2007 with 66 kids; now DPP has over 5,400 students. DPP started with less than 20 schools and now has over 120 throughout Denver. Many of the DPP students will enter DPS. By third-grade, DPP will compare their DPP students' CSAP scores with the scores of children who did not participate in the DPP.

DPP's Jan Thomas invited the INC delegates to go online or ask her for a DPP brochure, articles, and ads to include in their meetings, newsletters, and emails.

Robert (Bob) Musgraves, Executive Director of Historic Denver (HD), introduced us to HD's mission of preservation solutions to sustain and strengthen communities. Founded in 1970 with its first success saving the Molly Brown House, HD is an independent nonprofit

organization with over 700 members. Since then it has grown into an advocacy organization.

Bob explained that the intent of Amendment 50, which voters approved in the 2008 election, was not carried out. Instead of increasing the State Historical Fund through limited gaming revenues, it decreased historic funds and appropriated more funds for the State's community colleges.

Current HD activities include advocacy for the mosaic tiles along the 16th Street mall. HD is helping the City find the money and the best solution for preserving these tiles, using an advocacy instead of an obstructionist approach. The new Zoning Code as presently drafted will allow tall buildings in the Crestmoor and Hilltop neighborhoods; HD is not sure that that is a sensible approach.

Annie Levinsky, HD Deputy Director and Director of the Molly Brown House Museum, said that the Molly Brown House Museum (MBHM) has become a substantial tourist destination. In addition to offering tours seven days a week in summer and 6 days a week the rest of the year, the MBHM also offers educational outreach programs to schools.

Alice talked about a grant for a citywide historical properties survey. It is important because the approach to preservation tends to be reactive to an imminent threat instead of proactive. Using standing committees called neighborhood liaison committees, HD is looking to build a better bond with RNOs to let HD know what historic buildings matter to the RNOs.

Other HD programs include their Sacred Landmarks Program that has worked with nearly 50 landmarks including the Central Presbyterian Church that administers a homeless program.

The HD Education Program includes their Lego City program that asks children to design a city. Then the children decide where to build new structures over their old Lego structures

HD's newest program is their Denver Story Trek, an innovative bike tour enhanced with recorded information about each site. Visitors can get information about these sites from their cell phones.

Alice Gilberston, HD Director of Advocacy, told INC that a week ago, the State Historic Fund gave HD a grant, in partnership with the City of Denver, for a Denver historic survey. Out of Denver's 175,000 residential and commercial structures etcetera, 4-percent of the structures are historic. Not a lot is known about 95-percent of the 7,000 historic structures in Denver. Denver does not have

a budget for researching these historic structures. The reason this research has not been done is that, in the past, it was cost prohibitive but now, with Google Earth and other Internet connections, it is more cost effective.

After historic research, more information will be available to identify what is ripe for redevelopment. We do not know what has been lost in the city. Survey Los Angeles is planning to survey 900,000 properties by 2012. They are tying it into the development of their neighborhood plans.

Cari Jimenez, Community Resource Officer for Virginia Village Police District 3, reported on the crime statistics for Lowry saying that Lowry is getting hit hard with theft from motor vehicles. Karen Cuthbertson added that District 4's rate for theft from automobiles went up about 51-percent.

Parks Ad Contract Resolution: A number of INC delegates spoke up to say that they recognized the need for cities to pay for park maintenance but that advertising in parks was not their preferred option because it sets a dangerous precedent. In meetings with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department, several delegates expressed that they heard verbally, but not in writing, that a contract for advertising in City parks already existed. The delegates felt that it was not fair that they should have to battle every single move by the City toward privatization.

A motion was made to amend the INC Parks and Recreation Committee's "Parks Ad Contract Resolution" as printed in the June INC newsletter. After discussion, the Amendment failed with 9 in favor and 13 opposed. Mr. Ambrose offered a friendly amendment keeping in the name "Poo Free Parks" but taking Mr. Airy's name out. The vote on the INC Parks and Recreation Advertising Contract Resolution passed as amended 17 in favor, three opposed, and five abstentions.

Dog Park Statement. There was discussion about alternative means for raising revenue for City parks including perhaps raising revenue through dog permits. It was noted that other jurisdictions do not charge for dog parks. The INC delegates approved the Dog Park Statement printed in the INC newsletter with 18 in favor, none opposed, and six abstentions.

Committee Reports:

Zoning and Planning: Mike Henry, Chair of the INC Zoning and Planning Committee, encouraged every single neighborhood group to keep close attention to the draft of the new Zoning Code. Open the Zoning Code online one chapter at a time. There will be a discussion about general

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.

ideas and the environmental issues in two weeks. Mike said, "We have been studying this for four years. Please encourage your members and your zoning experts to participate."

Education Committee: Brad Zieg mentioned that eight more schools are on the chopping block. Let Billie Bramhall know if you are interested in the meetings coming up.

Public safety: Anthony Thomas is on the HALO Committee, awaiting the first meeting.

Transportation Committee: Nothing reported.

Dollar Dictionary Drive: INC has enough money to buy dictionaries for the third-graders in the Denver Public Schools but not enough to include a thesaurus. Donations are down drastically. We need \$8,000 to get both dictionaries and thesauruses. As in past years, the August INC meeting is reserved for labeling and packing books for distribution to schools. Check the INC website for updates on location.

Karen Cuthbertson and the Executive Committee members asked the INC delegates to ask, at their next RNO meeting, for volunteer grant writers to staff a proposed Grant Writing Committee to help write grants for next year's Dollar Dictionary Drive.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Executive Committee Recap

By Fran Rew

Karen Cuthbertson, INC Chair, called the meeting to order on Monday, June 8th, 7:00 p.m., at 1201 Williams Street. Other Executive Committee (EC) members present were Larry Ambrose, Ray Ehrenstein, Anthony Thomas, Penelope Zeller, and Brad Zieg. Also present were Zoning and Planning Committee Chair Mike Henry, Membership and Newsletter Chair Ken Beaudrie, Parks and Recreation Committee Co-Chair Katie Fisher, and Assistant to the Secretary, Fran Rew.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May EC meeting was passed by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: The May 31st ending balance for all accounts was \$26,022.79 with \$7,365.81 of this ending balance in the Dollar Dictionary Drive account.

Committee Reports:

Dollar Dictionary Drive (DDD): Steve Nissen, Chair of the DDD Committee, could not be present but sent a written report. The projected third-grade enrollment for the 2009 Denver Public School system is 5,989 students. Steve encouraged the INC Executive Committee members and delegates to continue to aim for the July financial goal for giving each of these third-graders a free dictionary and thesaurus this year.

In July, the EC will decide whether there is enough money to include a thesaurus with each dictionary. Based on INC's current inventory of dictionaries and thesauruses,

the INC DDD Committee needs to raise an additional \$4,983.72 by this July to be able to distribute thesaurus with the dictionaries. Send an e-mail to Steve at pennis-sen@cs.com with contact information for individuals and groups you think would like to receive a digital and/or a hard copy of the DDD brochure. Mail donations to Steve at P.O. Box 18347, Denver, 80218. The Executive Committee members have made their contributions of money and fund raising efforts. Steve encouraged us saying, "We can do it. YES WE CAN."

Education: No new updates.

Membership: Committee Chair Ken Beaudrie reported that there are 72 members, 16 being patrons and 26 associates, 12 being patrons.

Newsletter: No new updates.

Parks and Recreation (P&R): Co-chair Larry Ambrose reported on the committee's plans for a public hearing on the topic of the health standards for gray-water use for the lakes and irrigation systems in Denver's city parks. Adrienne Anderson, a former Environmental Studies instructor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, agreed to present reports of evidence of toxic waste in the gray water in use by Denver's park water system.

Larry invited seven different city, state, and federal entities to refute the reports of toxic waste in Denver's park water system and all refused to join a public panel discussion on this topic, claiming that they had already adequately addressed this concern online. As a result, P&R will temporarily abandon their efforts to create a bilateral representation for this topic and will accept Adrienne Anderson's offer to present these reports and include co-sponsorship for this public hearing by an additional concerned environmental group. The date for this public hearing will be set at the next P&R monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 16th.

Larry pointed out that Westward was quite thorough in representing the gray-water issue back in 2000 and 2002.

The P&R committee is working to establish collaboration with the INC task force members to create effective INC representation for the Denver P&R meetings concerning advertising attached to "Dog Pooh Bag Dispensers" in the parks. The primary question for this task force is to answer the question of having a "free or fee dog park master plan." The City is facing financial difficulties and is looking for ways to economize.

Zoning and Planning (ZAP): Chair Mike Henry announced an upcoming ZAP meeting on June 27th. The third draft of the Zoning Code Update is now online. Below the "View the Code" link are the individual article links. There is also a comment feature that the Zoning Department will be cataloguing and reviewing. The next ZAP committee meeting will be focusing on environmental sustainability.

Public Safety: The first H.A.L.O committee meeting has not been scheduled. Ernie Martinez, the Lieutenant in charge of HALO, has been out of town. The District Com-

mander gets priority for what is considered in the HALO committee meeting.

Transportation: No new update.

Old Business:

Audit: The INC Bylaws call for an annual financial audit by an INC committee of three appointed by the Chair. A question arose concerning whether this internal audit would be sufficient to enhance INC's success in applying for grants. INC Chair Karen Cuthbertson checked with two CPA sources and they both stated that the IRS Form 990 would be a sufficient document for seeking grants and that, based on INC's budget and internal procedures, a \$5,000 CPA audit was unnecessary. The INC Executive Committee approved using the IRS Form 990 documentation for grant submissions.

Membership Renewal: Calls have been made to request membership renewal and invoices have been sent out.

Web Site Redesign: Karen lost the INC web site sample that she had when her computer was stolen. Ken created a web design about three years ago and it may need to be modernized. Some suggest that it is an improvement over what INC has now; it will be considered for implementation.

The need to create distinct, identically formatted email addresses for INC Executive Committee members to clearly differentiate their personal correspondence from INC correspondence was discussed.

Economic Stimulus Oversight: Brad Zieg said that he would be attending these City of Denver meetings headed by Amy Mueller as INC's representative.

Bylaws: INC Secretary Dave Felice is coming back from vacation and will update the INC Bylaws.

Board of Adjustment (BOA): Citizen's Advisory Committee member Harriet Hogue suggests that the new Zoning Code will empower the zoning desk personnel to make decisions that may belong before the BOA. The EC's concern is that if the BOA is out of the loop, RNOs will never be notified.

Neighborhoods USA: Mike Henry mentioned that he had just been contacted by a neighborhood group in Commerce City that is a member of a national organization called Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) and recommended that INC should investigate joining NUSA. The Commerce City member told Mike that he had just returned from a national conference of NUSA in Washington State where 500 attended from all around the country and that 1,500 attended the previous year when economic times were better. The organization's website is www.nusa.org.

New Business:

Recommendation for a Grant Writing Committee: At this point, the option of having a Grant Writing Committee was proposed. It was agreed that the INC Delegates should be encouraged to form such a committee with the support of the Executive Committee members. Karen recommended looking at CANPO Denver's web site to check out their

options for grant writing. Brad recommended the Community Resource Center.

Donations to other Organizations: Mike said Debbie Ortego asked if RNOs and INC could help thrift stores with donations through their garage sales. ARC was her specific focus.

Upcoming INC Delegates Meetings: INC Chair Karen Cuthbertson gave everyone a handout about upcoming INC meetings. All meeting dates and topics are posted on INC's website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Athmar Park (AP) – Cinco de Mayo was relatively quite thanks mostly to the weather. AP is very glad to see the flashing lights installed on Alameda and Mississippi Avenues near our two elementary schools. It has been increasingly difficult to slow traffic to allow the kids safe passage.

Baker Historical N.A. – We have some graffiti issues but it has been reduced compared to some years due to people registering with the City for cleanup. No further up-dates on the Broadway Market Place or design center.

Ballpark Neighborhood – We are having a mixer on September 1st – Rockies versus Mets with beer and pizza on the rooftop at Premier Lofts, 221 Market Street. Pricing will follow.

Cherry Creek North N.A. (CCNNA) – With Michael Henry's assistance, two "good neighborhood agreements" were successfully negotiated with two Cherry Creek Business Improvement District restaurants/bars. The CCNNA annual resident party was held on June 11th at Cableland with 150 residents attending.

Lowry United Neighborhoods – Efforts to preserve historic Hangar 2 seem to have resulted in a small-scale development proposal that will offer a pedestrian-friendly dining area around the perimeter of the hangar. The landfill proposal is currently quiet but expected to resurface this summer. The Buckley Annex parcel has not been in the news for sometime but a committee is still developing design guidelines.

Overland Park – Lots of future developments are coming our way such as restructuring of the Evans/Broadway intersection and widening of Evans Avenue from Broadway to Santa Fe. Our yard-sale is set for September 12th. The Shattuck site (5.9 acres) has been purchased but we are not sure what is coming yet (hopefully a grocery store). Two plots in OPNA have been offered for community gardens and we are in need of development help and start-up.

Southwest Improvement Council (SWIC) – We are having a new team of neighborhood volunteers called the Trailblazers who will take back our community, block by block, from the gangs, taggers, thieves, rapists, sexual predators, vandal, and the like.

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) – The new Denver Public Library construction at town center was approved, the new recreation center construction begins this summer, the I-70/Central Park Boulevard interchange was approved with a bridge over I-70 including a bike and a pedestrian path, the block party day was a big success with over 40 parties on a Saturday in May, the second-year community garden is in full bloom with a new vegetable and compost project, and we have a Farmer's Market every weekend at Founder's Green.

Transition Denver – The Mile-high Business Alliance, the Denver Botanic Gardens, and the Living Earth Center created the Grow Local Colorado campaign. Mayor Hickenlooper proclaimed May 14th "Grow Local Day" and spearheaded a vegetable garden in Civic Center Park. Representatives from the campaign as well as Denver Urban Gardens, Slow Food, and Feed Denver planted the garden on May 28th. One of the goals of the campaign is to encourage 2,009 new gardens in 2009 and have 500 gardens registered as of late June. Register your garden at www.growlocalcolorado.org and learn more about upcoming events, films, and resources about growing locally.

University Park – The Annual July 4th Picnic, in front of Chamberlain Observatory (East Warren Avenue between South Milwaukee and South Fillmore Streets) will have a parade at 10:00 a.m., a VFW band, fire station pumper trucks – a good, old fashioned tradition. We have formed a committee to look at how the plan affects our neighborhood and conforms to our Small Area Plan.

Topic Walks

By Fran Rew

Do you enjoy walking in your neighborhood's urban parks? Would you like to invite other walkers and groups to share one-or-more-walking-group conversations with you and your neighbors on topics you would enjoy exploring together?

Now more than ever before, it is much easier for you to organize your own collaborative small walking-group-

conversation in your favorite urban park. Now you can go online and schedule or join an urban park walk on the free meetup.com registration site for topictalkwalks.com. Most walks are associated with a wide variety of before- or after-walk events that are sometimes related to the topic. Some of the events include a potluck picnic, snacks, a planetarium presentation, a garden tour, or a concert. Fran Rew volunteers to work with TTW Assistant Organizers to help them create the collaborative TTW walk of their choice.

Lead your own walking group conversation. Contact Fran at 303-321-1064 or info@TopicTalkWalks.com.

City Budget Input

Mayor's Office



Mayor John Hickenlooper is asking citizens for input on the City's 2010 budget. Attend the last scheduled budget meeting or complete the survey at

www.denvergov.org.

The City has taken a number of steps already to cut costs and find efficiencies including: reducing the size of the City's fleet; consolidating the City's payroll function; reducing the number of positions hired; scheduling furlough days; reducing pay increases for City workers; and centralizing finance functions. The City must trim \$70 million over the next 18 months to balance the budget.

For additional information or to share your feedback, send an e-mail to heather.barry@denvergov.org or call 311.

DPS Property Update

DPS

On June 18, the DPS Board of Education voted to begin a disposition process for four vacant facilities and a bus terminal in northeast Denver. DPS staff has begun a process to consider options for sale or long-term lease to institutional, commercial, residential, or mixed-use developers or other interested parties. DPS intends to begin a process of disposition with three former schools, now vacant properties: the Byers facility, the Gove facility, and the Remington facility.

For the properties approved for disposition at the June 18th Board of Education meeting, DPS will actively seek additional community input. Over the summer, DPS will host at least one community input meeting specific to each property. Area residents, neighborhood associations, elected officials, community leaders, and other stake-

holders will be invited to provide their feedback related to their neighborhood vision and ideal uses for each building.

Stakeholders will be notified of the community input meeting(s) in their area approximately two weeks in advance. They will receive either a mailed letter or an email communication that includes the meeting date, time, and location. Meeting information will also be posted in advance at www.dpsk12.org. For more information, visit <http://communications.dpsk12.org/initiatives/disposition-of-vacant-buildings/>.

State of the City Address

Mayor's Office

Mayor Hickenlooper invites you to attend the *State of the City Address* on July 14th from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Greek Theater in Civic Center Park. You are encouraged to take public transportation. However, if you do plan to drive, parking is free until 10 a.m. in the Cultural Center Garage at 12th and Acoma streets.

All-mail Ballot

City Clerk and Recorder

Denver Clerk and Recorder Stephanie O'Malley, spurred by fiscal constraints, announced that the November 3rd Co-ordinated Election will be conducted by mail. Conducting a mail-ballot election will cost less than a polling-place election. The November 3rd election ballot will contain school board races and, potentially, initiated ordinances.

Denver voters can assist the Elections Division's preparation for this mail ballot election by making sure that the address information on their voter-record is correct. To check their record, voters can go the Colorado Secretary of State's election website at www.sos.state.co.us and click on "Verify Your Voter/Ballot Status" or call 311.

Under a recent change in state law, ballots will be mailed to voters beginning 22 days prior to the election instead of 30 days as in past years. In 2008, 174,600 Denver voters voted by mail out of 278,224 ballots cast.

Recycler's Corner

Tom Strickland, Solid Waste Management

Grasscycle: Feed your lawn for free and make less trash; eliminate the bagging, hauling, and disposal of grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn. Grasscycling is the practice of leaving grass clippings on your lawn when mowing instead of bagging them. It is the natural way to recycle grass and provide your lawn with the valuable nutrients and water that it needs. Grasscycling can save you a lot of labor and you'll end up with a healthier lawn. Why grasscycle?

- **Make Less Trash** - Up to 37-percent of what Denver residents put in the trash during the growing season is yard waste composed predominantly of grass clippings. You can significantly reduce your spring and summer waste just by grasscycling.
- **Enjoy a Healthier Lawn** - Grasscycling is a great way to recycle valuable nutrients for free. Clippings break down quickly and slowly release nutrients like nitrogen back into the soil beneath your lawn.
- **Save Water** - Grasscycling can also help you save on your water bill. Grasscycling reduces the need to water your lawn as often because grass clippings are made up of more than 50-percent water that is returned to your lawn as they break down.
- **Reduce Your Work** - Grasscycling can drastically reduce the time you spend on lawn care by eliminating the hassle of bagging, raking, and disposing of grass clippings.
- **Save Money** - Grasscycling reduces the amount the City must spend to collect, haul, and landfill grass clippings.

You can grasscycle successfully!

- **Mow your lawn when it is dry**
- **Keep your mower blades sharp.**
- **Follow the "1/3 Rule"**- mow your lawn often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blade is cut and left on the lawn. Lawns are most healthy when left a little longer and mowed at 2½ to 3 inches.

You can Grasscycle with any mower. The mower collection bag should be removed to allow clippings to drop on the lawn. However, if for some reason your mower does not have a safety flap covering the opening where the bag fits into the chute, it is important that you purchase a retrofit kit from your hardware store. **If you use a landscape service, ask them to leave the clippings on your lawn.**

Grasscycling does not cause thatch; thatch is brown, spongy materials consisting of dead grass stems and roots, not the top clippings of the grass. Grass clippings break down quickly and can benefit the worms and organisms that help to maintain healthy soil. So why not try Grasscycling for a few weeks and see what you think. Your lawn will thank you for it! For more information on Grasscycling or other Denver Recycles programs, please call 311 or visit denvergov.org/denverrecycles.

Recycling Myth Busters: Learn the Truth. Part 7 of 12

There are a lot of myths about recycling passed along from person to person. We are here to explain some of those myths so you can be the best recycler possible.

Myth: Recycling should pay for itself. Cities get rich off the sale of materials.

False. It is a common misperception that the revenue generated from the sale of recovered materials should be enough to off-set the collection and processing costs and

even make a profit for a city. This is not true. Recycling is one option for managing waste and waste costs money. When a material enters the waste stream, whether trash, recycling, composting, or household hazardous waste, there is an associated cost.

In Denver, our goal is to keep the cost of recycling below the cost of trash collection and disposal. We are able to do this because each time we deliver a ton of recyclables for processing, the City receives \$33 per ton; however, every time we take a ton of trash to the landfill it costs us about \$13 per ton. This means the City is able to save money every time someone takes recyclable material out of their trash cans and puts it in a recycling cart. Consequently, less of your tax dollars are used for solid waste services.

Despite recent reports about the depressed market for recyclables (much as every other market has been depressed), there remains a demand for this material and market prices are slowly increasing in early 2009. Since recycling is a commodities market (that is the demand for recyclable materials is based on the demand for recycled content products), it is important to remember that recycling does not stop when you place material at the curb. Recycling is a closed loop system and consumers must purchase recycled content products to ensure the cycle continues. To help residents “close the loop,” Denver Recycles has developed an online service that allows people to share information about buying recycled products. Check out our “**Buy Recycled Shopping List**” at denvergov.org/denverrecycles and even post where you have found recycled-content products for sale.

Dollar Dictionary Drive

By Steve J. Nissen

HELP NEEDED! To achieve this year’s funding requirements, we need the support of all member RNOs. Our donations are down this year as are many non-profits but we hope you will take personal pride in this INC effort to get free dictionaries into the hands of all third-graders in Denver Public Schools. Please approach the directors of your RNO and encourage them to participate in this fund-raising with a donation as generous as your organization can submit. This is a team effort and we welcome players of all levels of participation. Our goal is to add your name to the following list of contributing RNO players. Of course, we cannot play without the second contributor on the list.

Alamo Placita Neighbors, Ballpark, Bellevue-Hale, CHUN, Cherry Creek North, Civic Association of Clayton, Crestmoor Park HOA (2nd filing), George Washington HOA, Greater Park Hill, Harkness Heights, Hilltop Heritage Association, Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point, Inspiration Point, Mayfair Neighbors, Stapleton Master Community Association, Virginia Vale Community Association,

West Washington Park, Bear Valley Improvement Association, and University Park Community Council.

A hearty thanks to all who have supported us so far. A special thanks to the Denver Kiwanis Foundation who presented us with a \$1,500 grant again this year. Contributions are welcomed from individuals and businesses as well and can be easily made, no postage required, on our secure website: www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc (click on Dollar Dictionary Committee). Mail-in donations are being accepted at Dollar Dictionary Drive, P.O. Box 18347, Denver, CO 80218.

Morey Middle School, at Emerson Street, 13th, and 14th Avenues, has been acquired again this year as the location for labeling the books. Labeling will take place on August 6th and 7th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; volunteers are always needed for this effort. We have a special request for able-bodied individuals who can handle heavy boxes of books as we unpack and repack them for processing.

Home Energy Use

By Mary Monaghan



Since 1997, Lightly Treading has been performing home energy audits throughout Colorado via a relationship with Xcel Energy. Lightly Treading would be happy to attend your RNO's meeting to educate your homeowners about energy use and describe steps that can be taken to reduce energy consumption, ultimately lowering utility bills while making homes more comfortable – even without changing the homeowner’s lifestyle. The presentation addresses topics such as insulation, lighting, windows, water heaters, furnaces, and much more. For groups of ten or more, Xcel Energy will sponsor the event. For smaller groups a fee may apply. For more information, please visit www.lightlytreading.com or call 303-733-3078, ext 305.

Mary Monaghan, Account Manager

Zoning and Planning

By Diana Helper

The INC Zoning and Planning (ZAP) committee met June 27th. Those present talked briefly about neighborhood concerns—other than those regarding environmental and zoning code issues to be discussed later. Luann Rudolph and Abel Chavez of CU-Denver’s Sustainable Urban Infrastructure program talked about using engineering and planning methods in their National Science Grant program. It will assist communities with greenhouse-gas foot printing using a holistic approach. It will model for future energy demands and mitigation and include on-the-ground projects such as creating electric power from waste material and

development of “green” concrete with less cement content. The “Realtor Project,” with help from ZAP’s Don Tressler, encourages home buyers and sellers to profit from green incentives and discount programs. The “Meter Project” demonstrates, via a read-out in your home, how much energy you are using and its cost. This information will be compared to the same prior period before you had a meter to give you this data.

Scott Morrissey, of the Greenprint Denver initiative in the Mayor’s Office, spoke of work underway giving citizen guidelines regarding energy and water use, recycling, rebates, and more. Referrals include websites for Greenprint Denver, Xcel Energy, and Denver Water. ZAP member suggested guideline information be distributed to RNOs, that there be follow-up reports after neighborhood “Blitz” programs, and that 311 be sure to have helpful information.

Dana Miller and Carol McFadden are of Transition Denver, part of a worldwide movement with offices in all fifty states. One of its programs is Grow Local Colorado, promoting registration of 2,009 gardens in 2009. The Platt Park area is active in Transition Denver. A committee meets the third Thursday monthly at 6:30 p.m. at the local Whole Foods on topics including recycling, conservation, trash, and such Zoning Code matters as garden space, “green” roofs, and attention to bike and pedestrian transport. This gives a voice for neighbors eager to Transition as a community.

James Bertini spoke about the effort to enable citizens to keep chickens and goats. Please visit denverbackyardfarms.org or denverbackyardfarms.com for more information.

Discussion of the draft Zoning Code (ZC) began with comments by Scott Morrissey about a study of the ZC to see just what it includes regarding solar access. Tyler Gibbs said the Planning Office is building computer models to test through day and year to determine solar access on varying lot types. Results must be available before the ZC can be completed. ZAP members stated that as the draft stands, there is less solar access than the present ZC allows. Differentiation between passive and active solar is needed. There were comments about new setbacks, alley size, maintenance of living things, apparent codification of illegal behavior, reality of power/water supplies for zoned future density, need for more open space to match more population, the need to track changes being made in the present draft, many comments regarding the new ZC maps, and the lack of sufficient time provided to study and work out neighborhood residents’ concerns.

ZAP will revisit the ZC at its August meeting. The next meeting of ZAP will be July 25.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

NAME	APPOINTER
Bollinger, Mark Mark_bollinger@dpsk12.org	DPS (Interim)
Copeland, Noel Noel.copeland@uchsc.edu	Garcia District 1
Done, Edward dp@edwarddone.com	Nevitt District 7
Elfenbein, Sharon elfs2@comcast.net	Boigon At-Large
Ewing, Mary maryewing@estreet.com	Robb District 10
Gilmore, Scott Scott.Gilmore@state.co.us	Hancock District 11
Holdman, Alexis a_holdman@hotmail.com	Mayor
Horn, Ellie Gray ernie92@earthlink.net	Johnson District 5
Kester, Elizabeth betsykest@aol.com	Mayor
Loshbaugh, Heidi G heidigloshbaugh@yahoo.com	Montero District 9
Navarro, Florence fnavarro@fs.fed.us	Mayor
Nguyen, Phuonglan pn_1973@yahoo.com	Lopez District 3
Ott, Richard L. ottlaw@usa.net	Lehmann District 4
Pryor, Keith Haydenpryor@msn.com	Madison District 8
Robinson, Dave daverobinson@ecentral.com	Brown District 6
Ross, Ryan ryan.ross@ccd.edu	Mayor
Sharp, Bernie bmsharp@comcast.net	Faatz District 2
Truwe, Dianne dtruwe@aol.com	Mayor
Watson, Darrell darrellwatson1@vzw.blackberry.net	Linkhart At-Large

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meets the second Thursday of each month.

Free Recreation for Kids By Alan D

Mayor John Hickenlooper and Kaiser Permanente President Donna Lynne announced today that Denver youth ages 17 and younger may use City recreation centers, including swimming pools, for free this summer. The City waived fees last year but was unable to do so

again this year until Kaiser Permanente offered a generous \$150,000 donation to help support the program.

Free admission begins Saturday, June 27th and will run through Saturday, August 15th. Standard fees will continue to apply for programs and activities that typically are offered at an additional charge.

Last year, the City offered free access to recreation centers and swimming pools from June 2nd to August 17th. There were 214,740 visits by youth during that time – an increase of 108,240 visits (98-percent) from the number of visits in 2007.

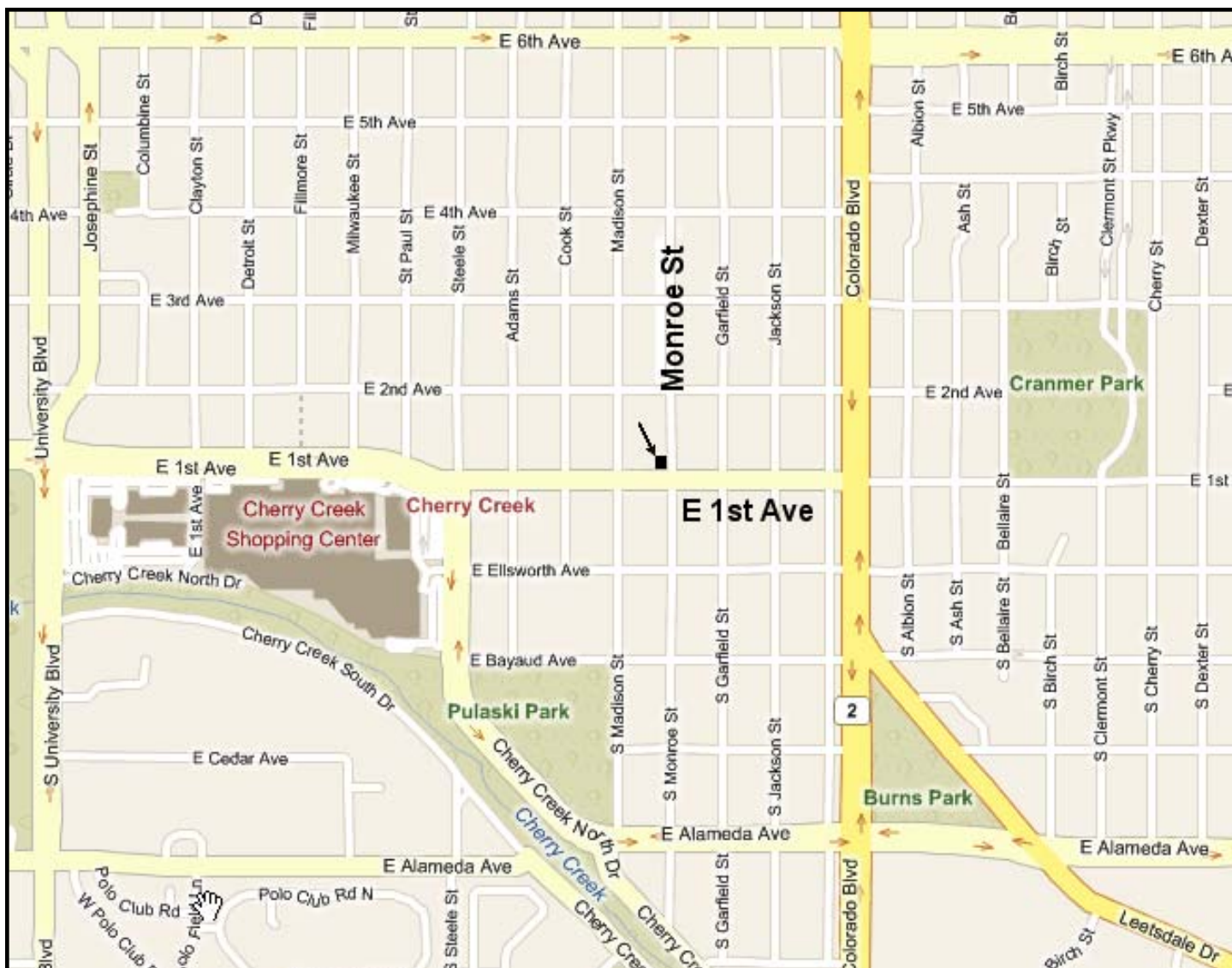


Area recreation centers offer a variety of summer activities including open swim, basketball, game room, and a Food Bank of the Rockies program that offers free food for families. Programs available for a nominal fee include “Hoopin’ with Hickenlooper,” baseball, t-ball, volleyball, and swim lessons.

Opening the recreation centers to all Denver youth this summer complements the My Place program launched in 2008. This program gives Denver Public Schools students the opportunity for a free one-year membership to their neighborhood recreation center. To date, more than 15,000 kids have taken advantage of that program.

Denver residents may locate their nearest recreation center by visiting www.denvergov.org/parks_recreation and clicking on “Recreation.”

Please use the parking lot immediately west of the building (the entrance is off of Madison St.). The gate automatically opens.



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
July 11th**
The public
is welcome to attend.

**Daniels Fund Building
101 Monroe Street**

See map on page 12

8:30 a.m.

Coffee and chat

9:00 a.m.

Welcome from Wayne New,
President, Cherry Creek North
N.A. and Councilwoman Jeanne
Robb

9:10 a.m.

Around the City

10:00 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m.

Alvin LaCabe, Manager of Safety

11:15 a.m.

Paul Kriescher, Principle and
Deacon Taylor, Director of Train-
ing Programs,
Lightly Treading
Xcel Energy Audits

11:40 a.m.

Committee Reports

Noon Adjournment

You can always view upcoming
INC meeting locations and get
information about presentations
on our website. Click on the
“meetings & more” link.
[www.neighborhoodlink.com/
denver/inc](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc)

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

P.O. Box 181009

Denver, CO 80218-1009

Officers/Executive Committee/Chairs

Karen Cuthbertson, Chair

303-936-9206

athmaratl@ecentral.com

Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn.

Bradley Zieg, Vice-Chair

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Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn.

Dave Felice, Secretary

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ABC Streets Assn.

Steve Nissen, Treasurer

Co-chair, Dollar Dictionary Committee

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Mike Henry, Chair, Zoning & Plan-

ning Committee

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Capitol Hill United Neighborhood, Inc.

Dave Webster, Chair, Transportation

Committee

720-941-8026

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