



Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – February 25 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by President Mara Owen

Business

Minutes from January meeting approved

Treasurer Report

(reminder: annual dues are now due for 2016. \$10 per household, \$25 business. Paid members are voting members)

Beginning Balance Jan/16	\$ 3,674.50
Membership Deposit	\$ 222.50
Grants Received	\$ 2,000.00
Ending Balance per Bank	\$3,896.55
OPNA Funds	\$ 897.00
Grant Funds	\$ 2999.55
Outstanding – check materials M. Owen	\$ (1,733.46)
Outstanding invoices	\$ (525.00)
Unapplied Grant	\$ 741.09

• **Police Report**

Officer Sharon present. District 3 has it's own message board thru Nextdoor. The Speed trailer is currently out of commission so report any speeders to dispatch office. She reminded everyone not to leave valuables in your car. Even if putting things in the trunk – someone could be watching and may break in and pop the trunk. Also with Garage doors and gates, make sure they are closed all the way before driving off.

Andrew – reported there tends to be a lot of speeding just outside around RTD – 2100 block of S. Delaware.

Mara – asked whether there was any follow up to the presence on drag racing Sunday nights. Officer Sharon was not sure but would let us know next time.

She also told us, when trying to contact an officer, please call the station and leave a written message which tends to work better than calling and leaving voicemail. Also you can call and request vacation watch if you plan to be out of town for an extended period.

• **Paint the Bridge Art dates and Fundraising**

Now that there are murals on the bridge, that is just the beginning. We are determined to complete the entire bridge to continue to beautify the neighborhood and promote Walkability. We have already completed five 66 ft sections on the North side of the bridge. The next phase of painting will be to complete the area between the first and second section on the east (Broadway) side of the bridge. We

are planning for 3 weekends as follows

April 29-31 (Friday – Sunday)

May 6-8

May 13-15

Please sign up to volunteer here <http://www.opnadenver.org>

Andrew – talked about fund raising. Andrew, JC from EMW, and Rebecca Greek will be reaching out to businesses on Broadway looking for sponsors. We also have a GoFund site where anyone can go and contribute to the project. Here's the link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/dfmz7vp6>

- **Sustainability projects (Bee Safe Neighborhood, Compost and Community Market)**

We are currently applying with the city of Denver for becoming a sustainable neighborhood. Looking for the neighborhood to Bee Safe, Compost and work on creating a Community Market and possibly a Community Orchard. If interested in any of these projects please contact Mara mkowen18@gmail.com.

- **Ronnie's River Report**

Ronnie, along with John Davenport, installed temperature sensors on the river around the Florida Bridge to collect data for Colorado Fish and Wildlife. They are trying to gather facts to see whether the area is sustainable for fish. He also reported that lately things have been great on the river.

- **Michael Bouchard- River Vision update**

Michael provided an update for Grant Frontier park which is the last section to be completed on the river through Denver Parks and Rec. He showed the plan and explained how they are currently in the process of moving the parking lot and pushing the bike/ped trail to the back and carving out the middle. They are building a secondary channel and island along with environment friendly play spaces. There is also the plan for an historic area. Michael showed a picture from current day where you could see the area for the bridge connecting to the island and where the terracing is starting to happen. The existing old Cottonwood anchors the community area underneath where the trail runs.

Since this is the last project on the river, they have been able to push more money into this project - \$180,000 more. Because of the extra funds, they will be able to complete a new underpass under Evans the same as they did under Florida. Also they are now planning for a secondary stairway down to the jetty. They will continue to look for more ways to spend the money? Right now they are on track to finish Grant Frontier Park by Oct 2016. Note that the new contact for the River Project is Owen Snell.

Mara S. – asked about what happened to the Kids playground at Pasquinel's Landing? Michael said that currently they are putting in 700,000 sq/ft playground area in Grant Frontier which is the priority. There was space designed to put back the playground into Pasquinel's but it was not included in the original completed plan. It was asked whether the additional funds from Grant Frontier might be considered an option? Pocket park – maybe?

Also it was brought out that at Pasquinel's – there is concrete but then dirt at the end on the walk area? Michael said they will come back and complete the concrete.

Michael also spoke about Ruby Hill and the bike course currently under construction which is projecting a June opening. He showed site photos where there are several challenging trails and plans for wood decking added for jumps. There will also be an area of the bike course which is designed for younger kids. Ribbon cutting is planned and will be announced to the neighborhood so all can attend.

Jack – asked about the Platte River gravel path and whether they will remove the tree that keeps lowering over the trail. Michael said they will plan to review it and attempt to trim it in such a way that it will not have to be completely removed.

Regarding the road behind Overland Pond Park – the road was closed due to too much illegal activities

occurring. The long term plan is to remove the asphalt road leading to Santa Fe and re-vegetate the area so there will no longer be a way to drive thru the park.

- **Jolon Clark's Office (Council District 7)**

Maggie was present from Jolon Clark's office and provided updates on various topics including Short term rentals – there are some proposals for zoning update and possibly licensing requirements. Information is available on the city website.

City is also in the process of reviewing the odor ordinance which affects nearby industrial areas. They are working with the environmental health department to making it more stringent. Currently they will consider a hazard if they receive 3 complaints in a 12 hour period. They want this changed to 15 days to allow for more opportunities for people to report any issues. Please call 311 to report or better, enter a complaint thru 311 online. Please include your information or you can contact Maggie directly and she will represent you. **Maggie Thompson Phone: (720) 337-7777** maggie.thompson@denvergov.org

City has selected a contractor to complete the final section of Broadway – North of Louisiana to I-25 - starting in March. It is a 500 day project with nightly closures so be aware of and try to avoid this area. When the project completes, it will be better for cars, buses and provide new turn lanes.

Maggie recommended for everyone to get on the email list for District 7. Follow this link to sign up <http://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-council-district-7/news-events.html>

- **Karen Hinkle, Denver Digs Trees**

Karen is a volunteer for Denver Digs Trees who has been helping with canvassing areas for trees with a focus on making Overland Park neighborhood a green spot. If you have found a hang tag on your front door, then it has been determined that you have room for a tree. You can still get on standby list.

She also spoke about becoming a volunteer Community Forester by taking 5 Saturday classes with the Park People and the city. This starts on March 12th. You will learn all about trees, planting, health and caring for your own trees and neighbors trees. You can also become a Tree steward by just taking one class. See www.TheParkPeople.org and below for more details.

Be a Steward of the Urban Forest



Community Forester Classes Now Open!

- **Trees 101: March 12**
- **Planting & Health: April 02**
- **Pruning: May 07**
- **ID & Inventory: June 18**
- **Volunteer Leadership: July 09**

Just \$20/class. Last class FREE w/previous four

To register call TODAY **
303.722.6262

For more info:
www.TheParkPeople.org

** Class size is limited. Space tends to fill up quickly, so don't delay!

- **Announcements**

- **Awarded a Neighborhood Star from INC**

OPNA was proud to receive the INC Neighborhood Star award for the painting the Evans Bridge. The award was accepted by President Mara who agreed to bring it to the next meeting to show to everyone.

- **Seed exchange for March Meeting**

Proposed for the new meeting, please bring any extra seeds you have for flower and vegetable

planting which you can exchange and share with others. A great way to start planning for our own community garden.

- **Denver deserves sidewalks**

This is another project by Walk Denver where they are working on promoting better sidewalks. They are asking OPNA to write a letter of support. See their site here <http://www.walkdenver.org/>

This brought up the question of what has been happening in our neighborhood and others in Denver where we are seeing new sidewalk corners being installed which are ADA compliant. See <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/streets-and-sidewalks/street-maintenance-improvement/ada-pedestrian-improvements.html>

Maggie let us know that they also have a sidewalk working group to discuss next steps in improving sidewalk areas. They are looking at Englewood as an example which has added an optional monthly fee (\$6) with utilities which goes into a central fund where homeowners can call the city to come and fix any sidewalk issues. Currently in Denver, sidewalks are maintained by each individual home owner.

Judy – asked about street lighting and can we request additional lighting. One area of concern is currently around the light rail station. This can be also reported thru 311 or contact Maggie to obtain a form.

- **Broadway Station Area Plan (Project Website: denvergov.org/i25broadway)**

The full plan for the Broadway Station Area is now available online as of Jan 12th. Use the link above to check out the plans before the next meeting on March 2nd 3pm.

- **Denver Food Vision**

Under the direction of Mayor Michael B. Hancock Denver is creating the first of its kind strategic plan for the Denver food system. We have been invited to be a part of an interagency group working to support the planning effort and help organize community meetings in council district 7 to help neighbors provide input and direction for this plan. This starts with a community listening session sometime in May.

If you would like more information about the Denver Food Plan or these meetings, please
- See the Denver Food Plan website at <http://www.denvergov.org/FoodPlan>

- **Short Term Rentals** (feedback to STR@denvergov.org)

You can send back any feedback regarding this issue to the email link above.

- **Fitness Zone at Pasquinel's Landing Update**

We received the following note from Chandi Aldena, Project Coordinator for the Pasquinel's Landing Fitness Zone.

I want to provide an update on the fitness zone that we are installing at the newly renovated Pasquinel's Landing Park. I made a final selection of equipment based on the input from the RNO meeting I attended and we are moving into construction in the next few weeks! We anticipate construction taking place the first week of March and it should only take a few days to install all of the equipment.

- **Equinox Party - Saturday March 19, 1pm-3pm**

Save the date. Location – Pasquinel's Landing. Look out for flyer to be coming out with more details.

- **Compassion**

- Jack - Props to **Ronnie** for getting the jersey barrier out of the way of our walkability project on the bridge. It only took one phone call to finally get the job done. Bikers and pedestrians are happy to be able to cross again without having to jump the barrier.
- Maggie – recognized **Ronnie** as the ambassador of the river, acknowledging his story told on Facebook of him finding a lost, runaway boy and helping him to get back home.
- Maggie – also noted that she likes our neighborhood and thinks we are fun!
- Jack – commended **Judy Greek** who works at the Department of Human Services for contacting Martin Friedman with Division of Youth Corrections to begin talks with Mara on how to get more young artists involved in our street art walkability projects.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Next neighborhood meeting will be on Thursday, March 24, 2016, at 6:30 pm at **The Studios at Overland Crossing** 2205 South Delaware St. Come join us and find out what is happening in our neighborhood. Also, check us out on our Website.

<http://www.opnadenver.org>