

Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – January 22 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by President Mara Owen

Agenda

- Minutes from October meeting
- Treasurer Report
- Police Report
- Chris Nevitt's Office
- Trash talk with Ronnie Crawford
- Introduction to the idea of Committees
- Announcements

Business

- Minutes from October meeting approved as read.
- Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$429.05
Deposit/Payments	65.00 membership dues
Ending Balance of	\$494.05

Tracey requested approval to pay the John Collins church \$100 for meeting usage during the year. It was passed and approved by members.

Tracey also asked whether OPNA would be making a contribution again to the Denver Dictionary Drive. It was agreed to wait for more details before committing.

- **Police Report**

Two new officers from the Impact team presented the latest Crime stats and map. In most categories crime is down. Burglary, theft, and vandalism are reduced but still happening. We mentioned at Overland Pond, spray paint and graffiti is again on the rocks leading to the parking lot. We asked them to look into patrolling that area. The officers reported that marijuana growing in the neighborhood requires a license. There is a specific police unit that works in that area. The officers urged everyone to report any suspicious activity in our neighborhood.

- **Chris Nevitt's Office update (Nathan Batchelder)**

Nathan reported that Chris Nevitt will be leaving office in July.

There are plans to repave Broadway between Mississippi and I-25 by the end of this summer.

As a result of our walkability efforts on Evans Bridge, changes are beginning to happen. New "Yield to Pedestrians" signs have been posted. Also planned is to replace the existing swinging signal light with a permanent mast pole. At that time, more signage for pedestrians may be added. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding Evans Bridge and safety, please contact Nathan at nathan.batchelder@denvergov.org. Nathan also mentioned the Ruby Hill Rail Yard is open again, weather permitting until late February.

- **Trash talk with Ronnie Crawford**

Ronnie attended the Sportsman Expo at the convention center where he was impressed by the how the trash containers were marked. Independent of the city, these trash cans reflect what is happening to the future of how trash containers are marked. Visit our Facebook page to take a look.

We now have composting service available in Overland neighborhood. The cost is \$9.95 mo, if paid annually, one month free, and is a service which can be combined with your neighbors. Large Item pickup now is scheduled every 6 weeks. The following link provides lots of information regarding Trash and Recycling. Check it out.

www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles

- **Introduction to the idea of Committees**

Mara presented the idea of forming various committees which would benefit our neighborhood. She read the following section of our current by-laws related to PROACTIVE INITIATIVE

Proactive initiative is what makes OPNA work. Informal ad hoc teams for specific projects (which may be supported by appropriate permanent committees) are always encouraged and deserve agenda time and vocal acknowledgement, as do efforts by individuals, organizations, and elected officials who further Overland as a community.

Committee Ideas included:

- **Sustainability** (community garden, Sustainable Neighborhood Network, safety, health and environment)
- **Development** (zoning, land use etc..)
- **Education**
- **Outreach** (membership, communication and involvement)
- **Arts** (OPAL, EBB and the mural projects)
- **Social** (events and community building)

Along with these initial suggestion of committees, other topics suggested for committees included the issue of the requirement of Flood Insurance which affects many houses within our neighborhood, idea of Farmers market / community garden and OPNA Website creation.

The topic of committees will be further discussed in our next meeting. Please contact us with your interest in any of these committees or with other ideas. See more complete details below these meeting notes.

- **Announcements**

- **Annual Dues** are now up for renewal. The annual dues for the year 2015 are the same as last year and are as follows:

Household - \$10.00

Business - \$25.00

Dues are used to fund charges related to meeting place and for various activities during the year. Only paid members are eligible to vote.

Please contact Treasurer Tracey Hardeman traceyhardeman@gmail.com to submit your dues and to be registered as an OPNA member.

- Ray Ehrenstein our representative to INC (Inter Neighborhood Cooperation) mentioned there would be a forum for all those running for City Council office put on by the Denver League of Women Voters. Channel 8 will televise.
- Ray also spoke of the Dictionary Drive which is an INC sponsored drive which has been going on now for 19 years where dictionary/thesaurus are given to all 3rd graders in Denver schools. The decision has not yet been made whether this drive will happen again this year and he is waiting to find out and will update at the next meeting.
- Ray also mentioned that the monthly INC meeting was successfully hosted this month by our own neighborhood at the Studios of Overland Crossing right across from the Evans Light Rail station. This was another great way to show off what we have to offer in our own neighborhood.
- Ronnie Crawford mentioned this year marks the 50th anniversary of the flood in 1965 which affected our neighborhood along with many others along the Platte River. Here's a [link](#) to an interesting article.
- Ronnie also mentioned for everyone to Like our Facebook page. Ronnie continues to provide an amazing photo diary of the river improvements as they unfold in the past few months.
- Denver Urban gardens has a Pre-seed and transplant program. Forms can be picked up at local Community centers. Sign up for seed packets and transplants. Forms must be in by end of January, pick up is in March. Go to www.dug.org for more details or call 303-292-9900.
- The following 4 of 7 candidates running for Chris Nevitt's office this spring attended our meeting and each gave a brief talk on who they are and why we should vote for them. For more information on each candidate, please contact them directly.

Jolon Clark – www.JolonClarkforDenver.com

Micki Langston – mikki4denver@gmail.com

Luchia Brown – www.LuchiaforDistrict7.com

Jake Viano – www.VoteForViano.com

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next neighborhood meeting will be on Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 6:30 pm at John Collins Church, 2320 South Bannock. Come join us and find out what is happening in our neighborhood. Also, check us out and Like us on Facebook.



Overland Park Neighborhood, Colorado

Do you know someone who would like to be on the mailing list? Please reply back to this email with their information. Also find more information at the following link.

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Overland>

Overland Park Neighborhood

Committees

We are looking for ways to involve more people in what makes our neighborhood great. Looking into our bylaws, we find that several standing committees are recommended for doing just that. The ideas below build off the committees that are suggested by our bylaws, but if you think of one that isn't on here or any way to make one better, just suggest it!

Committee Ideas:

- **Sustainability** (community garden, Sustainable Neighborhood Network, safety, health and environment)
- **Development** (zoning, land use etc..)
- **Education**
- **Outreach** (membership, communication and involvement)
- **Arts** (OPAL, EBB and the mural projects)
- **Social** (events and community building)

Each Committee would need:

A Committee Chair or Co-Chairs

This position is the spokesperson for the committee. They would be responsible for communicating with the OPNA members, the OPNA board, and organizing collaboration with other committees. The Chair sets meeting times and moderates the Committee meetings

Time commitment: The Chair would be asked to attend a few more meetings than the monthly OPNA meeting, so plan on about 2-3 meetings a month. This position will require the most amount of time, therefore splitting the responsibilities between two people might be a good Idea!

Required to be a Voting member of OPNA.

Officer

There should be about one officer for every 5 general members in a committee. Officers take charge of at least one time consuming or complicated task and make sure that it is completed. That could be a specific research, outreach in the neighborhood etc.

Officers are expected to attend every committee meeting, and to be the core of the committee, so plan on 1-2 meetings a month

Required to be a Voting member of OPNA.

Member

For people who are short on time, but still want to make a difference in the Neighborhood they can join a Committee as a general member. This would be the forum for people to voice thoughts on a more narrow topic than what is covered in Monthly meetings. No attendance would be required, just the opportunity to volunteer time and talents when people have them to spare.