



Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – January 21 2016

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

Business

Minutes from October meeting approved

Treasurer Report

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

Beginning Balance Oct/15	\$674.50
Membership Deposit	\$ 50.00
Payments due(Ruby Hill Insurance	\$ (50.00)
Grants Received	\$3,000.00

Ending Balance per Bank 12/15 **\$3,674.50**

Outstanding – 1 check City of Denver	\$ 2,000.00
Check Michele Brown	\$ (700.00)
check materials Mara	\$(1,733.46)
Outstanding invoice	\$(1,825.00)
Unapplied Grant	\$ 741.54

Jeff Walker, RTD representative for our district

Jeff Walker, our RTD representative for District D, informed us of new fare changes going into affect. Local fare \$2.25 raised to \$2.60. When using a smart card, \$2.35. Also, announced the [Flat Iron Flyer](#) which is a new bus to boulder which is an express with new schedules.

Also, the new RTD Train to the Airport is scheduled to open on April 22nd where you will be able to take the C train from Evans to Union Station, walk to the airport line which will have 6 stops to arrive at DIA in 35 minutes.

This summer, the Gold Line will open which goes out thru Arvada and Wheatridge.

Paul – asked whether there is any plan for an elevator from the Evans station to the top of Evans Bridge. Jeff said that this has been brought up before and he will bring back to his next meeting. Considering the Ruby Hill improvements this makes it more of a regional request, affecting many surrounding neighborhoods.

Jack – Concerned about Art at stations and maintenance of existing art. Jeff responded that there is a line item for maintenance but budget is tight where some neighborhoods raise funds themselves to take care of the local art.

Takeaways for Jeff included

1. Elevator
2. Art maintenance
3. R line connection to Evans.

4. Shuttle to Ruby Hill

Helen Morgan, candidate for Denver District Attorney

Helen has worked for 22 years in DA office and is now running for Denver DA as an independent with big community focus. See <http://www.helenmorganforda.com/> for more information.

Denver Water

Eddie Hernandez from Operations Maintenance spoke about the project which just started in our neighborhood. With the improvements being done along the river at Grant Frontier, which includes a natural Amphitheatre, in order to accommodate, the existing pipe would have had to be lowered below the River bed. It was decided to replace the existing 6 inch pipe to 12 inch pipe and lay the new pipe on Galapago St. from Warren to Harvard. The plan is to lay the pipe then tie into the main, finishing with paving. Completion estimated in 4-6 weeks depending on the weather. If anyone has any questions during this project, please contact the foreman on site.

Karen Hinkle with Denver Digs Trees

Tony Hinkle, along with wife, Karen, are working together with Denver Parks and Denver Digs Trees to distribute free and low cost trees. Since Overland Park neighborhood has been identified as one of the "low canopy" areas in Denver, trees are offered to anyone in the neighborhood for \$10 each instead of the standard charge of \$35. You can submit applications at <http://theparkpeople.org>. You may plant in the right of way or anywhere in your yard. If you plan to plant in the right of way then a site inspection is required. They are offering 20 different species including fruit and shade trees. **The deadline to order is Feb 15th**. There will be some volunteers to assist loading and even planting for you, for an extra fee. They will be canvassing the area, leaving door hangers where they think it would be a good candidate for right of way trees. There is no limit to # of trees you can purchase as long as there is 20ft spacing between them and planted 10 ft. in from the curb. Distribution day is scheduled for April 16.

Police Report

Officer Sharon reminds everyone to keep garage doors shut. Also, don't leave items in cars where break-ins become more likely. Never leave cars running unattended. The issue of drag racing has been brought up again where the Lieutenant and Sergeant are aware and plan to be in the area on South Acoma on Sunday nights.

Planning for this next year, OPNA Goals

What we accomplished in 2015

- Communication thru new website <http://opnadenver.org>
- New OPNA Logo. See above!
- Painted Murals on Evans Bridge (phase one complete).
- Updated our Facebook page
- Media outreach – YourHub article about Platte river improvements and new [Pasquinel's Landing](#).

Goals and plans for 2016

- We are looking for participants, volunteers for many projects
- Finish mural on bridge. Phase 2 to begin in the Spring. Go onto our website to volunteer.
- Pursue possibility of Elevator at Evans RTD station.
- Continue pedestrian improvements on Evans bridge
- Find out more regarding Pedestrian Bridge on Jewell

- Increase Membership with businesses and neighbors. (Andrew volunteered to go out and talk to businesses)
- More signage – i.e. Welcome to Overland Park
- Other art projects – Green medallions on the bridge and area near the light rail. Dave wants to see more historical references in the art i.e. Potato Clark and first plane landing in Denver.
- Fund raising – looking for 501(c)3 sponsor.
- Apply for Sustainable neighborhood where we would work on projects to gain points including
 - Community garden
 - Bee safe neighborhood
 - Composting classes, water conservation. Xeriscaping, rain gardens, farmers market.
 - Solar garden.
- Promote more walkability.

Jolon Clark's Office (Council District 7)

No one present from Jolon Clark's office.

Ronnie's River Report (deferred to next meeting)

Announcements

- Neighbor Michelle Roberts – 720-280-7611 uopenmyeyes@gmail.com brought up the subject of a new development happening in the 2 empty lots in our neighborhood (705 W. Evans and 2081 Galapago) where the plan is to build two large buildings consisting of 2 units of business/office space and 28 apartment units up to 3 stories high. The concern is that this is too big of a development for these properties where traffic and parking could be a major impact in the area. Should you have questions / concerns, please contact the City Project Coordinator listed below

Olga Mikhailova | Project Manager
 Development Services Division
 Community Planning & Development
 City and County of Denver
Olga.mikhailova@denvergov.org

- Broadway Station Area Plan (Project Website: denvergov.org/i25broadway) The Broadway Station Area Plan is looking for more input from the public. Please go to denvergov.org/i25broadway for more details how to provide input on this developing project in our area.
- Jan 28th Broadway/Lincoln corridor open house ([Denver Moves](#))

Go check it out.

- Mara spoke of the meeting with the Ruby Hill neighborhood and Colorado Public Radio (CPR) and their current plans to move their headquarters to Ruby Hill. Mara is currently on the advisory board and we (OPNA) have agreed to write a Letter of support with Ruby Hill Neighborhood to approve the plans proposed by CPR so that they are able to move ahead with that project.

- Tracey mentioned that anyone over 60 that is interested in having their house painted to see her.
- Paul – made a pitch for 2 projects. 1 - wash the art on the Bridge and 2 – move the jersey barrier which is currently blocking our art at the top of the bridge. Any volunteers, please contact Mara or Paul.

Compassion

Big compassionate Kudos to Jack Unruh, our resident neighborhood art master who has created amazing posters for several neighborhood events including Winter/Summer Solstice and Equinox parties along with Bridge work and new Logo. THANKS Jack!

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Next neighborhood meeting will be on Thursday, February 25, 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 and Like us on Facebook.

<http://www.opnadenver.org>