



Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – June 22 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:38 pm by Vice President Ronnie Crawford

Welcome and Compassion

20+ members and guests were present. During introductions, several acts of compassion were expressed and open comments. These can be found at the end of these minutes notes.

Minutes from May meeting

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as written with one addition from the last meeting where both speakers from Levitt Pavilion and Overland Music Festival agreed to support and contribute funds to the Evans beautification project.

Treasurer Report

(reminder: annual dues apply to the full calendar year. \$10 per household, \$25 business. Paid members are voting members)

Beginning Balance		\$ 4,044.00
Membership Deposit		\$

Paid Outstanding		\$
Bank Fees		\$ (5.00)
Ending Balance Per Bank		\$ 4,039.00
	OPNA Funds	\$ 1,737.61
	Art Funds	\$ 2,301.39

Police Report

CRO Jim Lopez

720-913-1248

Jim.lopez@denvergov.org

District 3

1625 S. University Blvd.

Non-emergency dispatch # 720-913-2000

Officer Lopez was not present at this meeting.

Rob: Asked to have someone follow up with Officer Lopez to request his presence in the neighborhood meetings as it has been a while since we have had any representative from District 3. Autumn from Jolon Clark's office agreed to follow up on this action.

Presentation by Alan Polonsky - Environmental Quality Division

alan.polonsky@denvergov.org

Alan gave a brief talk about the department he works in for the [water quality program](#) which includes training, water sampling of Denver lakes and rivers. He handed out a flyer specific to our own Overland Pond which is the only lake fed directly by the South Platte River. He told us that July is lake appreciation month and is looking to do something at Overland Pond. Maybe cleanup around the pond, have some educational program and boats to take out on the pond. Ronnie will coordinate with Alan and bring back information to the neighborhood.

Overland Pond

Background, Long Term Issues & Trends

- Overland Pond receives high nutrient concentrations from its source water (South Platte River) which results in excessive algae growth, primarily in the form of phytoplankton (small floating algae).
- The high algae growth contributes to poor water quality and clarity and potentially physically stressful conditions for aquatic life (elevated pH).

Developing Issues

The pond was renovated in 2013 through a project coordinated by the Greenway Foundation. The renovation included sediment removal, re-grading of the pond bottom, and reconstruction of the pier, amphitheater, and boat access.

Based on 2013 and 2014 monitoring results, the renovation may have initially contributed to improved water quality. However, depth measurements in 2014 suggest there was considerable in-fill of the newly created holes. The September 2013 flood events may have contributed to sediment deposition, which would account for that.

The outlet structure was replaced in November 2014 (see photo) with a flow through system which will assure consistent water movement through the pond (when its full). Improved conditions noted in 2015 (significantly lower phytoplankton activity, improved water clarity, lower pH and organic nitrogen levels—see figure below) may have been a result of increased water exchange.

The pump facility that diverts water from the South Platte River to Overland was to be replaced in 2015. This should not impact the source water quality.

Fish, Wildlife, & Habitat

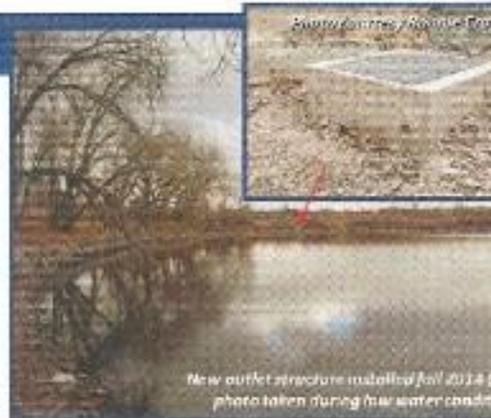
Fish: Over the past few years, Overland has been stocked with a variety of fish including bluegill, bass, catfish, and trout (the latter to support youth fishing events). While Overland Pond can sustain a healthy warm water fish community, it is marginally suitable for trout. The frequently elevated pH, warmer temperatures, and variable oxygen are often at levels which will physically stress trout.

Wildlife: Although the park is limited in size, when combined with the adjacent South Platte River corridor there is good habitat provision for wildlife and birds. Kingfishers, herons, and a variety of waterfowl are common visitors at the pond.

Habitat: Thanks to efforts by the Denver Department of Parks & Recreation, and the Greenway Foundation, Overland and the park have developed into an ideal natural area with quality wildlife habitat. It also serves as an environmental classroom for a variety of ages, and provides good recreational opportunities (fishing, wildlife viewing). The recently installed structures and pier supports provide some habitat structure for aquatic life.

Recommendations

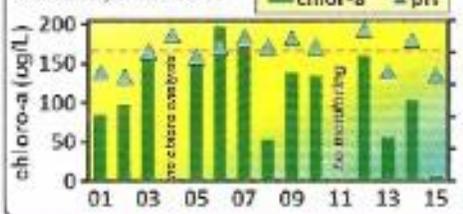
- Sustain healthy aquatic life structure by maintaining bank-full conditions.
- Enhance naturalized areas by connecting with AquaGolf and the South Platte River corridor.
- Continue stocking of predatory fish (bass) to enhance the zooplankton community which will feed on phytoplankton.
- Test non-chemical algae control alternatives such as ultrasonic waves and barley straw to control annual phytoplankton blooms and subsequently stabilize pH.



Location: 955 W Florida Ave
Surface Area: 1.7 acres
Max Depth: ~6 ft
Primary Source Water: South Platte River
Intended Lake Uses: Irrigation supply (indirectly), fishing, wildlife, aesthetics
Current Regulatory Issues¹: 1/ Conditions exceeding state water quality standards.

Updated March 2016; questions: alan.palinsky@denvergov.org

Fig 1. Chlorophyll-a and pH in Overland during major summer visits (2001–2015). The red dashed line indicates pH standard.



Then he opened up for questions.

Jack – goose poop and whether there is any effect? Geese were almost extinct in 1940s but are now very abundant. Goose poop may contribute to increased ecoli in the water but the main offenders include leaking infrastructure and the waste water treatment plant up river. The biggest challenge is to keep the ph level down.

Terry - Asked about the safety of tubing in the river? If you have any open cuts or are overly sensitive, then it is not recommended as there could be higher levels of bacteria. Do not drink any of the water and always wash your hands after contact. Having said that, Alan said he is planning to join the tubing party.

Rob – How does the golf course impact the river and lakes and would there be any additional impact related to having a Music Festival for 3 days? There is no water leaving the golf course and the pesticides and fertilizer which is used is applied appropriately so it's ok. Also, they have certified appliers who spray for weeds where his department makes sure they are doing it right. The pond on the golf course belongs to them and they are responsible for that. Regarding the festival, as long as there are enough bathrooms he sees no issue.

Jolon Clark's Office (Council District 7) <http://www.luckydistrict7.org>

Autumn (Autumn.bjugstad@denvergov.org 720-337-7777) from Jolon Clark's Office provided the following updates:

- GO Bond process. The short list now includes the Jewell Avenue pedestrian bridge and is currently in the Mayor's office. After he review, it will go to city council. Autumn urged us to write to council if you want to support this happening, Please send your email to the executive committee using this email address

2017gobond@denvergov.org

- Halloween Parade in District 7 on Broadway, from 3rd Avenue to Alameda planned for October 21st starting at 6pm.

See broadwayhalloweenparade.com Let her know if we want to have a float where the entry fee is free for RNOs.

- In the last District 3 commander's meeting, Officer Lopez wants to remind everyone to lock your doors, bike and car as over 50% of crimes are preventable.

- There have been a few neighbors who are concerned about the amount of duplexes being built in the neighborhood. As our neighborhood is already zoned for duplexes, the only way to change this would require activation by the entire neighborhood.

Jack – Evan's bridge was recently damaged by a car accident. Is public works involved to having jersey barriers to protect the pedestrians walking across the bridge? He has already reported this to 311 – Autumn requested that he send the confirmation number to Jolon Clark's office in order to further push this request.

Jim – announced that the next District 3 officer meeting is scheduled for July 11th. 6pm – due to July 4th holiday week.

OPNA History Corner, Jim Sample, lifetime resident of Overland.

Jim Sample told us the first story for the OPNA History Corner where his Grandparents moved to this area back in 1898 and ran a grocery store and gas station on Evans and Santa Fe. To view the full video of this story, please visit our website where you will find the link coming SOON.

We are looking to highlight a historical story during each meeting (5 minutes maximum time limit). Please contact OPNA to become a part of this interesting and important retelling and recording of our neighborhood history.

Overland Social

Overland Socials occur on the **second Wednesday** of the month: It is a chance to get together with neighbors and hang out at one of our local restaurants. The next social will be

Wednesday July 12th - Turtle Boat 2231 S Broadway 6:30pm until...

<https://www.theturtleboat.com/>

Since there is not much seating in this restaurant, the plan will be to order food and meet down in Grant Frontier Park for an evening picnic.

Watch for reminders on our Facebook page **Overland Park Neighborhood Association - OPNA**

Community announcements (open to anyone)

OPNA Tubing anyone? **The date is set for Sunday, July 2nd.** Ronnie is planning the trip down the Platte River, starting from the end of the light rail at Mineral, floating down to Evans. Contact Ronnie for more info falconcentral@gmail.com

David Ehrlich Update on Overland Music Festival

David gave an update on the progress of the music festival where they met with the Denver City Council Land Use Transportation and Infrastructure (LUTI) to discuss the contract which is in process. David thanked everyone for coming out to support the festival. The committee meeting went well and very positive. Where there are still some people against the festival, David is still open to sit with anyone to discuss any issues which should be considered and addressed. They are now putting more detail together on the non-profit component where they are planning to put together an advisory board which will include 3 representatives from Overland Park, 1 from Ruby Hill and 1 from Athmar park. Each community will need to decide on the representatives where the group will provide input as to where the money which comes into the neighborhood will go including non-profit and operational

Paul – Please explain the ticket pricing? 1 dollar for every ticket sold will come directly back to the neighborhood. Even comp tickets will include a charge that goes directly to the non-profit component of the payout which includes a sum which will go to Levitt Pavilion. The advisory board will decide what funds go where which can be small amounts towards many projects, or using the money to kick start a larger project.

Jack – Asked about what comes next regarding city council. Councilman Kashmann, in the last meeting, expressed that he wants to parse the contract

before it is in its final submission scheduled for July 10th. They are working on getting the contract to city council a week before the 10th but if there is not enough time, the public hearing may happen on the 10th, with the final vote maybe on 17th.

Paul – Asked about the contract and plans that affect us and how do they plan to improve going forward. There will be an informal group which will participate in process improvement process every year. This was recommended by the Mayor as a way to insure the communication continues to remain open and any new issues which arise will be addressed appropriately.

Compassion and open comments

Andrew - thanked Terry for accompanying him and participating with him in the meeting regarding Marijuana and community outreach.

Jack - commended councilman Paul Kashmann, Jolon Clark and David Ehrlich for their outreach to those who oppose the music festival.

Charlie - thanked the kind person who offered him a seat on the bus (first time ever!)

Ray - thanked Ronnie for bringing bees into the neighborhood and for all the lovely flowers in his garden

David - thanked the people who testified for the music festival in the city council meeting.

Autumn - thanked all the volunteers (around 90) who came out for the neighborhood clean up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Next neighborhood meeting will be on **Thursday, July 27**, 2017, at **6:30 pm** at **Overland Studios 2205 S. Delaware St.**, Denver, CO 80223 Come join us and find out what is happening in our neighborhood.

Also, check us out on our **Website** and also to read the **minutes** from past meetings.

<http://www.opnadenver.org>

And like us on [Facebook](#)

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