

Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – March 26 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by President Mara Owen

Agenda

- Welcome Introductions
- Approval of February meeting minutes
- Treasurer Report
- Police Report
- Chris Nevitt's Office
- Compassion
- Arts and Venues - Lisa Gedgudas and Michael Chavez and Chris Zacher (45 minutes)
- Announcements

Business

- Minutes from February meeting approved as read.

- Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$594.05	
Deposit/Payments	45.00	membership dues
Ending Balance of	\$639.05	

- **Police Report**

Officer Sharon Avendano, our community resource officer (CRO), spoke to us about the neighborhood watch program and provided an information sheet. They can help to organize neighbors into a workable neighborhood network which can reduce crime. To request a neighborhood watch, call Sharon at 720-913-1248. For additional information please visit: www.denvergov.org/police.

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

Nathan presented President Mara with a letter of recommendation from Chris Nevitt's Office to be used when applying for grants with the Denver arts and venue. Nathan also gave an update on the parking restrictions by the light rail station. After review and listening to neighbors, a compromise has been reached where on the 2200 block of Cherokee, they will be adjusting from 1 to 2 hour restrictions. On the 2100 block, nothing changes. He also announced that Declaration Brewing, located in our neighborhood was recognized by Certifiably Green Denver for its' energy conservation in their beer brewing process. Check it out on Facebook here <https://www.facebook.com/CGdenver>

Paul asked about signage for the soon to be completed walking path by the river as he is concerned how to keep the bikes off. Nathan agreed to discuss outside this meeting. Jack – asked about more signs from public works around Evans Bridge. Nathan said they were only 30% complete on design.

- **Compassion**

Mara gave a shout out to Ray Ehrenstein for recently being elected as Vice President of the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC). Congratulations!!

Jack also announced that during the recent Equinox party, Casey Davenhill was presented a beautiful award for all the work she has done and continues to do for Overland Pond. Thank you Casey!!

- **Arts and Venues - Lisa Gedgudas and Michael Chavez**

Mara led into the talk by providing an update from our own Arts Committee which was formed last year where we applied for the "PS You Are Here" grant. The plan was to paint a mural on the Evans Bridge overpass. Out of 45 applications submitted, our proposal made it into the top 10. As only 8 were selected, we didn't make it last year. We continue to want to improve the walkability and beautification of the Evans Bridge. We are currently working on submitting a proposal to the Urban Arts Fund which specifically targets graffiti prevention. For more details see this link.

<http://artsandvenuesdenver.com/public-art/urban-arts-fund/>

Lisa Gedgudas is the Program Administrator for Create Denver which works to strengthen the overall health and vitality of Denver by supporting the growth and development of the creative sector, including artists and enterprises such as film, music, fine art, galleries, fashion and design. They also support finding affordable housing for artists. She also spoke about Imagine 2020 which is a cultural plan for Denver where we have not had one since 1989.

Peter – asked her to speak more about affordable housing for artists. She spoke about ArtSpace <http://www.artspace.org/> which works with up and coming neighborhoods and has conducted market surveys to try to find out where people might want to move. Space needs in Denver right now is focused on RiNo area.

Then Michael did a presentation on Denver public art and how it is selected. Denver has a 1% of construction budget for projects like library and rec centers over 1 million dollars must be spent. It needs to be completed in public space.

Ronnie asked – who is on the committee – response was that each project different and may consist of an artist, art professional, city council, public art committee, cultural affairs, architect.

You can find out more about the programs and maps at www.artsandvenue.com.

Chris Zacher then spoke about the Levitt Pavillion (<http://levittdenver.org/>)

Current timelines is that they will break ground around October 2015 with completion by 2017 of the Ruby Hill amphitheatre. The plan is for up to 50 free concerts per year coming from local, national and international musicians. This is a great opportunity for local artists.

Jack – asked about concessions? They will hold a Liquor license under their banner. Also will allow for local food trucks.

Jack – green component? Yes –

Ronnie – asked about the structure. The plan is for a permanent 35000 sq ft. facility which faces north west. Seating will be grass only.

Mara – asked about grass control and maintenance... There will be a seed tax to fix the grass.

Ray – asked about decibel levels? Chris insured use they will not produce shows with big decibels but more family friendly events.

Michelle Brown spoke about working with us on the art project for the bridge. Living in Athmar Park on the Levitt board she has commissioned to do murals with Spree and the Greenway

Foundation and has been working for many years to try to do a mural on the Iowa underpass. She is excited about the Evans bridge project and will help us in our proposal to Urban Arts fund.

- **Announcements**

- **River update from Michael Bouchard.**

The following email was sent by Michael Bouchard from Denver Parks and Rec regarding the river project:

Please pass on the following info on the River Vision projects at tonight's meeting. And I will put the April mtg on my calendar to present an update on Grant Frontier.

Overland River Work

- This work is going great!
- We anticipate completing the river scope by May
- We will be laying out the second jetty and constructing it mid april
- Once the jetty is complete, we'll finish the soft surface trail connection

Pasquinel's Landing

- Work will kick off at Pasquinel's April 1st!
- We will have a bike detour in place along Huron
- We anticipate completing the project by the end of 2015
- Included in Pasquinel's Landing will be additional planting of 65 trees and 67 shrubs along the new soft surface trail along Overland

Grant Frontier

- Estimated start date of June 1
- Work will be completed by June 2016
- I'll give everyone an update on the design at April's meeting

Ray spoke about the upcoming Candidate forum put on by the INC forum along with the Denver League of Women voters. It will be held on Tuesday, April 7 at Cameron United Methodist Church, 1600 S. Pearl St. Come out and listen to all the 9 candidates running for District 7 city council. See [www. http://denverinc.org/](http://denverinc.org/) for more details.

Anne McGihon, a candidate for Denver City Council District 7 spoke for a few minutes. Here is a link to her website for more information. <http://www.annemcgihon.com>

- **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.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Next neighborhood meeting will be on Thursday, April 23, 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.opnadenver.org>