



Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – March 23 2017

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

Business

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 February meeting

Helene - asked why in the last meeting there were no notes captured from the open discussion regarding the music festival. Mara responded that since it was an open forum format where everyone was given a chance to speak for up to 3 minutes which lasted for over 45 minutes, it proved to be very difficult to capture all the comments in a way that would be meaningful. Mara explained that in the future, she would recommend implementing video recording whenever there is open discussion. Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer Report

(reminder: annual dues are now due for 2017. \$10 per household, \$25 business.
Paid members are voting members)

Beginning Balance		\$ 4767.40
Membership Deposit		\$
Bank Fees		\$ (5.00)
Paid Checks		\$ (34.67)
Payments Outstanding		\$ (753.73)
Ending Balance Per Bank		\$ 3,974.00
	OPNA Funds	\$ 1,672.61
	Paint Money	\$ 2,301.39

Police Report and COP shop

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.

Presentation by Vicki Vargas-Madrid, Wildlife Program Administrator

Denver Parks and Recreation

Natural Resources Operations

Wildlife Hotline: 720-913-0630

www.denvergov.org/parks

Vicky who has worked in wildlife management for Colorado for 30+ years gave a presentation on the areas of focus under the area of natural resources. They handle weed management and weed control and have management programs for the following five types of wildlife that affect our area and the city of Denver: Geese, Prairie Dogs, Beavers, Bees and Coyotes. For example with the beaver population, they work to mitigate the damage around the rivers by painting trees with paint/sand mixture and wrapping trees in order to protect them. They continue to work on a bee

management plan, trying to save the bees by growing vegetation in city park greenhouses which supply the city with plants which will attract bees and butterflies. See the following [link](#) for more information and how to contact Vicky on wildlife issues.

Jack – Does the department only handle these 5 types of wildlife and no aquatic?

They do not handle anything aquatic.

Judy – was surprised to see dogs chasing raccoons? Raccoons have always been here. Being nocturnal you don't always see them. They like to get into trash and compost and also wood piles. Working to clean up the area will help to keep them away.

Ronnie – asked about the skunk population and relocation where he knows you are supposed to terminate them but can't do that? It is illegal to relocate skunks because they can be rabid so don't want to be moving from around. If you trap them, they should be euthanized. You can call pest control, cost \$200 and up to eliminate.

Jack – Asked what happened to the red foxes? The coyotes drove them off. Also mange which is a natural disease has been common in the past 4-5 years.

Rob – thanks for doing what you do. Any stories on animals that have never been here before? Not really. Occasional black bear, moose, mountain lions wonder into the city.

Amy – Question regarding pit bulls in Denver? They are illegal but she was not aware of what happens to them when they are taken to shelter. Jolon stated that can't be adopted out of animal shelter and are typically sent out to the Foothills animal shelter where they are tested for aggressive behavior.

Project brainstorming for 2017 and organizing tree planting

Mara opened a discussion of what are the things we might be interested in doing this year. Suggested tree planting? Another art project? She mentioned wanting to find out more about chicken coops which are now legal in Denver, where Vicky mentioned that urban wildlife do like chickens.

Andrew – is involved with the tree planting where he is getting further details thru Jolon. He is working on compiling a list of people that need trees and looking for volunteers. Rob and Amy are also working on this project. To help with the labor or if you know someone who needs trees please contact Andrew at agehauf@gmail.com.

Helene – asked whether the trees were for easement only? Jolon – working to find out if you can plant other than easement. June is designated for cleanup and tree planting where there will be a community building bbq scheduled for June 3rd. Watch for more details.

Amy – spoke about art and would love to continue to either paint the other side of the bridge or the medallions which are always being tagged. Also asked about the fence along the west side of Santa Fe. Since this is owned by CDOT would have to work thru them.

Mara - Grant Frontier park is another area for painting. The low walls along the river that mark the flood levels would be easy canvas and not require CDOT permission. Please contact Mara if you are interested to working with the Art committee who will try continue to discuss ideas and formulate an art plan.

Rob – Again on the lines of art pointed to the utility junction boxes as being another canvas, for example at the intersection of Huron and Evans.

Lucas – Another possible area is the underpass west of bridge which would benefit from clean up and possible art and lighting.

Jack – Would like to invite Owen Snell back to find out about signage for Grant Frontier Park and other signage which was removed during the river improvement project.

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

Jolon provided the following updates:

- Working on a possible candidate for "[PS You Are Here](#)" – Fairy doors installed into local business which add fun and whimsy to local foot traffic into the area. Meeting with an artist for possible installments on South Pearl street and South Broadway.

- [Vision Zero](#) – where he is currently on the task force. Engineers come out and do pedestrian count to determine whether there are places that don't feel safe and will issue warrants. There is a survey found on the website where you can click on your intersection and comment on it, whether it is a good intersection or unsafe.

Encouraged everyone to get involved with this important project which will improve pedestrian and bike safety in the city.

- Still on the bond list – Jewell pedestrian bridge and Iowa underpass and bike path. Encouraging public input and comment where he will send out information on next meeting location.

- Grant Frontier Park – ribbon cutting tentatively scheduled for May 15th

- CDOT exceleration. When they are done at Alameda – they will work on Evans and South. Planning on fencing upgrade and selling off unused land parcels.

Lucas - asked about Jewell entry on to Santa Fe? CDOT will only fix when they deal with Evans bridge, currently not on their list.

Judy – asked about dog park possibility? Maybe at Rosedale elementary? Jolon

asked her to send him an email to remind. There has been discussion on the topic but so solution yet.

Jolon.Clark@denvergov.org

- The next BID meeting discussion for this area is scheduled for – Monday April 3rd – at The Duffy Roll on Pearl Street.

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 April 12th - Acero 1446 S Broadway 6:30pm until...

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

Community announcements (open to anyone)

The **Equinox party** held at Grant Frontier Park was a success and a lot of fun where lots of kids were playing on the new interpretive playground. Autumn from parks and rec took some of us on a tour of the park down to the river. Ronnie took time to catch and release a few fish during the festivities. Thanks to Jack and Eloise for the awesome equinox cookies, grapes and limeade.

Morning Collective - Another new restaurant on Warren and Broadway soon to be opening featuring breakfast and brunch, chef from Snooze. Stay tuned for soft opening announcement.

Blueprint Denver wants to know: How should we address growth?

How will Denver address growth as our population continues to increase? Come be part of a [Blueprint Denver](#) workshop to help identify the best path forward for managing Denver's growth.

At our April 25 scenario planning workshop, you can join a "Blueprint growth strategy game" that plays out the implications of different patterns of growth. What are the tradeoffs for different population, employment and housing increases, and what are the tradeoffs associated with different growth strategies?

By creating priority transit corridors, exploring current and future growth patterns

downtown and in mixed-use centers, and envisioning new mixed-use centers, you will have an opportunity to help shape how future growth may impact equity and affordability, mobility, and access to recreation and other daily needs.

Blueprint Denver workshop

April 25, 2017

5:30 – 8 p.m.

West Leadership Academy at Denver West High School

951 Elati St, Denver, CO 80204

Blueprint Denver is part of [Denveright](#), a community-driven planning process that challenges you to shape how our community evolves in four key areas: land use, mobility, parks and recreational resources. Through four coordinated citywide plans, we will chart the course of the Mile High City for the next 20 years.

Subject: Park People Arbor Day Tree Sale - April 15 -- Fruit, Flowering, and Shade Trees Available

There's no better way to spend Arbor Day than planting a tree. The Park People's Denver Digs Trees program makes it affordable and fun through its Arbor Day Fruit and Yard Tree Sale, Saturday, April 15, 12-2 p.m. Trees purchased at this annual sale not only will beautify Denver's urban forest, the numerous fruit varieties also add to Denver's edible landscape and promote food equality. The sale is open to everyone, regardless of where they live, and will be held after the Denver Digs Trees program tree distribution on April 15.

Event
details:

What: The Park People's Arbor Day Fruit and Yard Tree Sale

When: Saturday, April 15, noon-2 p.m.

Where: City Park Greenhouse (2500 E. 23rd Ave., near 23rd & York, close to the Denver Zoo)

and Sloan's Lake Park (5055 W. 17th Ave., near 17th & Sheridan, across from Yates)

Cost: Just \$45 for bareroot trees and \$65 for balled and burlapped trees

Visit www.TheParkPeople.org, or call 303-722-6262 for more information.

The 2017 *Denver Digs Trees* program is made possible by the support of Denver's

Department of Parks and Recreation, Xcel Energy, Colorado Garden Foundation, Oz Architecture, and TKH Realty.

About The Park People: The Park People's *Denver Digs Trees* program helps residents cultivate greener, healthier, more livable communities. Over the past 30 years, 49,000 free and low-cost trees have been distributed through this program. Visit TheParkPeople.org for more information.

About Be A Smart Ash: All trees planted through *Denver Digs Trees* support the [Be A Smart Ash](http://BeASmartAsh.org) campaign, an effort to protect our City forest from the Emerald Ash Borer invasion that threatens to kill 330,000 Ash trees in Denver. That's one in six trees in our community! For more information on Emerald Ash Borer, visit BeASmartAsh.org.

Compassion and open comments

Mara – Thanked Andrew for helping out a neighbor, fixing their flat tire.

Ronnie – Commended Mara who is currently working on a Masters Degree and still manages to run OPNA. Thank you!

Jack – Recognized the homeless people who cleaned up the camps down by the river.

Lucas – Thanked Rob for mowing his lawn

Rob – Asked us to show him compassion by making the meeting quick due to march madness.

Amy – Loves how we are compassionate about animals and we work to create a safe space for animals.

Judy – shout out to Mara – working so hard with OPNA. Appreciate how she tries to be a good listener to all

Terry - Thanked whoever removed the offensive signs (was that you Paul?) from the utility [poles](#).

Sherry – appreciates everything that is going on in the neighborhood and that is very important and is impressed by such a wonderful compassionate group

Andy (from Levitt) – Showed compassion by letting a group of touring musicians stay at his house.

Helene – commented that at the public meeting at the golf course she felt bullied by someone that was for the festival. She reminded us that we live in a compassionate neighborhood and should be nice to one another. Terry - commented that she also felt bullied by someone who was against the festival. Mara - reminded us that even if we do not agree on everything, we should respect each other's differences and continue to be kind and neighborly and to continue to live with compassion for one

another.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Next neighborhood meeting will be on **Thursday, April 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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