



Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – May 26 2016

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

Business

Minutes from April meeting approved

Treasurer Report

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

Beginning Balance		\$ 3,896.55
Membership Deposit		\$ 10.00
Grants Received		\$ -
Paid Grants		\$ -
Ending Balance Per Bank		\$ 3,906.55
	OPNA Funds	\$ 907.00
	Grant Funds	\$ 2,999.55
Outstanding	Check materials M Owen	\$(1,733.46)
	Outstanding invoices	\$(525.00)
	Unapplied Grant	\$ 741.09

Police Report

No police present at this meeting

Denver Days block parties and neighborhood picnic

- Continuing the discussion from the last meeting on Denver days which is designed for neighbors meeting neighbors. The registration is open to anyone where Denver waives any park fees and will provide free blockades. Dates are from July 30th thru Aug 7th. A repeat of the Ruby Hill picnic is scheduled for Aug 6th where Ruby Hill president, Sharona is very excited to help host. We also talked about possible block parties during that week. Judy and Mara planning block party. Maybe Ronnie, Jack, Jim and Ray will plan something on their block. Here's a link to the official website. <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-days.html>

Delaware Project discussion and voting

Steve and Dan returned to our neighborhood meeting to continue the discussion of their plans for rezoning the Delaware block just north of Evans bridge. They have heard what we will not support and are asking what will we support? They referred to the Evans station area plan completed in 2009. See https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/646/documents/planning/Plans/Evans_Station_Area_Plan.pdf which calls for buildings topping out at 8 floors.

Ray – said he was opposed to the plan at the time where the group was set on keeping the profile low in this area. Ray is a proponent of the 12 story building. He wants to see developed a beautiful landmark building.

Jack – asked them to summarize what is the reason for 12 stories?

Steve – responded that Chris Nevitt was the first person they met regarding this area and his suggestion at the time was for it to be a key for transit station. The original plan was for a parking structure. They would like to see the zoning changed to CMX-12 which would increase the density around the light rails. He wants to leave a legacy.

Helene – asked what is your compelling reason? What is the benefit to the neighborhood. Would it be unique and not just another box?

Steve – said he went to talk with the owners of the other 5 story building just south of Evans. His vision is 12 stories and to keep his company in the bottom with apartments above but they cannot do the entire block due to one owner who so far has not gone along with the project. He said that they need our support to go to zoning.

Other questions ask were regarding parking and affordable housing. Parking plan is 1 per unit. Maggie responded regarding affordable housing, that there is no

requirement for rentals but there is with 4 sale units.

Ronnie – said 16 years ago he was even against 8 stories and would like to see 6 stories with ground floor retail. He is not against development and would also like to see developers working together.

Mara – again brought up the existing Evans station area plan, that the plan is what we need to honor unless there is some compelling reason to change it.

Jack – provided a mock up of the look and feel with 5, 8 and 12 stories in the location for everyone to get a visual on the effect of 12 stories next to the existing 5 story building south of Evans bridge.

Steve and Dan plan to go to the city in the next few weeks.

After much discussion, we took a Temperature reading of the group regarding how many floors might be acceptable to the area. The temp was

Cool for 12 stories,
Warm for 8 and even
Warmer for 5 stories.

Steve said he was hoping to get more input from the approximate 3,000 people living in OPNA neighborhood. He has listened to the feedback provided by those present at the last 2 meetings and will make his decision on how to move forward. If anyone wishes to contact them, their contact information: Dan Horvat dan@horvatarch.com and Steve Jusseaume stevejusseume@hotmail.com

Bee Safe Overland Park

The following quadrant leaders have been assigned to go out and ask the neighbors to refrain from using pesticides and herbicides in order to promote a Bee Safe neighborhood.

Southwest quadrant - Ronnie

Northwest quadrant – Helene

Southeast quadrant – Andrew

Northeast quadrant – any volunteers?

Mural proposal from Martin Friedman

Martin with The Division of Youth Corrections along with artist Bimmer Torrez came to talk about wanting to paint the support beams and junction boxes around Evans light rail station. Their budget, working with the state would be about \$500 for the paint but they would need money to pay the artist. Bimmer has been doing murals for the past 10 years and loves to beautify the streets. Bimmer is currently working on the gold line for RTD where there is something at every station. By adding paint, taggers tend to respect the art. Already the pillars they want to paint have been tagged. They presented a rendering of the art on the pillars and they are looking for support. The budget of \$4,940 – covers all the pillars up to 7 feet high. He can provide the scaffolding.

Mara – since we are talking about the RTD area, she suggested talking to our RTD representative. This might be a good candidate for the 'PS you are Here' grant?

Martin - they are also looking for big walls in the neighborhood.

Andrew - suggested on either side of the bridge ramp or under the bridge around the light rail.

Jolon - will look into more lighting in that area, maybe thru Cdot or xcel?

Judy Greek – what is their timeframe for the pillars? They responded that they can paint anytime.

Tracy – reminded us that our current grant money is for the bridge only.

Beth McCann, running for Denver District Attorney

Learn about Beth at www.mccannfordenverda.com (720) 507-7178

Lucky Vidmar, running for CU Chancellor

Learn about Lucky at lucky@VidmarForColorado.com (303)-570-3791

Jolon Clark's Office (Council District 7)

Jolon first thanked us for allowing him to be our councilman and then spoke of several topics around the neighborhood.

– Broadway hotel working together to raise private funds for improving the Iowa underpass which is a 2 million dollar project. Plan for better lighting, better signals, a mural by Michelle Brown. Improving the bike path which would be redone on the other side of the berm at overland golf course.

- Jewell pedestrian bridge – still working on bringing this to Brendan Hanlon, Denver's chief financial officer. He is hoping that it could be included in the 2017 bond.

- Ruby Hill Bike Park – plan to open July 23rd.

- Passed last Monday a resolution to add open public comment in city council. July 11th will be the first time that the council will set a time for listening to the public on any issues brought to them. The first meeting will be between 5-5:30 where anyone who comes forward has 3 minutes to talk.

- Sidewalk working group – working to address the sidewalk issues including repair and improving walkability.

- Emerald ash bore campaign kicked off and will begin educating the public. City park trees have already been wrapped. They are not yet infected, only trying to get public awareness. Currently the Emerald Ash bore has been found in Boulder and is quarantined from sending out firewood to surrounding areas. Denver is at risk. Please visit <http://beasmartash.org/> to learn more.

- Also promoting city wide composting, free compost and weekly recycling.

- Loves the train to plane (DIA). Here's a handy tip. A One-way ticket to the airport is \$9.00 and a 24 hour Regional day pass is also \$9.00 so if you are travelling both ways, maybe to airport to meet someone and return back on the train together, you might consider the regional day pass as the way to go smart.

Community announcements

- Hillary Hunter (hillaryhaselton@gmail.com) has been hired by some property owners in the area to help in rezoning in order to increase density. They want to reduce the current requirement to 4,500 sq ft which would allow more homeowners to build multi-family residential units (i.e. carriage house). Contact her directly for questions and further clarification.

- Eurocrepes party was a success, thanks to everyone who came!

- Greenway Foundation has agreed to be our fiscal sponsor so we can accept tax deductible donations!

Compassionate things in our neighborhood

Jack – we are one of the only compassionate neighborhoods. He is bringing this to the city this summer for further adoption. See Jack for more info.

Meeting adjourned – 8:20 p.m.

Next neighborhood meeting will be on **Thursday, June 23**, 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 on our Website.

<http://www.opnadenver.org>

And like us on [Facebook](#)