



Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – April 23 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm by President Mara Owen

Agenda

- Welcome Introductions
- Approval of March meeting minutes
- Treasurer Report
- Police Report
- Chris Nevitt's Office
- Compassion
- Parks and Recreation - Michael Bouchard
- The Broadway & I-25 Station Area Plan - Beth Vogelsang and Chris Parezo
- Announcements
 - Urban Waterways Restoration Study

Business

- Minutes from March meeting approved.

- Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$639.05	
Deposit/Payments	10.00	membership dues
Ending Balance of	\$649.05	

- Police Report**

Officer Sharon and Tom, filling in for Tony were present to report that City wide there have been a lot of garage burglaries due to unlocked doors or leaving garage doors open. This is happening especially with detached garages where people jump over fence and enter thru unlocked door. They reminded us to keep a front porch light on and to lock your bikes even in the garage. The good news is that overall crime against people is down in the time period from Jan until now

compared to last year.

Casey Davenhill spoke about the Overland pond park incident which happened last July. She has worked diligently for 5 years to improve the park. With the shooting death prompted familial grieving and tagging at the entrance. She does know someone who knows the family affected and they want to work together on some form of commemoration. She will bring back more information in next meeting. She also spoke about the Colorado Crisis Services and provided flyers. For more information contact www.ColoradoCrisisServices.org

● **Parks and Recreation - Michael Bouchard**

Michael Bouchard project manager for the River Vision plan provided an update to the 3 projects in our area.

1. The Overland River stretch, or Schedule B goes from Florida to Pasquinel's landing. Completion is due by the middle of May which has included removal of the 3 foot dam and adding wetland benches with a boat shoot down the middle. They have added a new walking path with 2 sections remaining. Also one more concrete jetty will be installed across from Jewell Ave. by the water to launch boats. This falls in line with the future planned walking bridge. This project cost 3.6 million and with some cost savings they were able to do more work on the west side. They have also started re-vegetation and have hired a habitat restoration ecologist to oversee. Urban drainage is also involved in a pilot program adding water plants to the wetland areas.

2. Pasquinel's Landing is under construction now. The plan is to reestablish some of the land for the river and improve the amenities for the neighborhood, creating a secondary channel in the park. With a cost of 1.6 million, they are pushing back the bike path to the back of the park and adding a new Fitness zone. Note: Chandi with Parks for People is scheduled for next months' meeting to further discuss this feature.

Ronnie asked about ADA across the channel where there will be simple bridges which will allow access.

Terry asked about the playground which will have the same foot print as the current one but this 'pocket park' will only be completed in the second phase of the project dependent on funding and timing, hopefully by 2017. The parking will stay the same.

3. Grant Frontier is the last park in the chain. South of Evans down to the pedestrian bridge. June-July start. Cost of 3.5 million. It is a redesign of the entire park. Some trees have been transplanted to the back edge, planted closer to the existing ash in expectation of ash bore disease. The parking lot will be rotated and existing Montana City removed. Regional trail will be pushed to the back with terraces down to the river. Walls to represent flood levels. The large Cottonwood tree will stay in the middle with the park designed around the tree. There will be an overlook area, small plaza for gatherings. Steps down to river and a formal and informal nature play area. There will be a concrete jetty for access to the water. Montana City will be recreated as a deconstructed miner's cabin where you will be able to experience the footprint with lower walls and chimney. The wagon will be reused and new plaque will be installed.

Casey – asked about toilet facility? A new deluxe 2-holer port-a-potty will be built.

Ronnie – asked how to get from end of the neighborhood into the park. There will be a connection created from neighborhood into the park.

Note: The ribbon cutting for Johnson's Habitat is scheduled for June. Stay tuned for more details.

● **The Broadway & I-25 Station Area Plan**

Chris Parezo with Beth Vogelsang spoke about the upcoming Public Workshop for the I-25 & Broadway Station Area Plan.

Saturday, May 9, 2015

8:30am – Noon

Denver Design District

595 S. Broadway

Project Website:

www.denvergov.org/i25broadway

[303 589-5651](tel:3035895651)

This is the former Gates site and is the first meeting for viewing the site and discussing the possibilities for development. They are looking for input of what we want to see in the site. Mara will be stakeholder for Overland Park. The first

meeting will include a walking/riding tour of the site followed by discussion of what types of usages, open space, plazas, bridges, connections, etc.

Casey – expressed that pedestrian bridge most important.

Chris Nevitt – expressed the importance and need for East / West connectivity.

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

Chris spoke of the reconstruction of Broadway to turn it into a destination where different sections of Broadway have been improved. The Arizona to I-25 section is the last part which will go out to bid in May.

Tracey – asked about signals on Evans Bridge. He said that more improvements for the bridge are already in the public works queue.

Chris also said that it has been a privilege and pleasure to serve as City Council person for District 7 and has enjoyed working with such an eccentric neighborhood as Overland Park.

- **Compassion**

A big "Thank You" was given to Chris Nevitt for all his help with our neighborhood over the years. Listening to us on important issues and championing us toward continuing to improve our neighborhood.

- **Announcements**

- Mara was contacted about Public meetings concerning the South Platte, Harvard Gulch and Weir Gulch for the Urban Waterways Restoration Study. There will be a public meeting for Harvard Gulch on Wednesday, May 6th at Harvard Gulch Recreation Center. All are encouraged to attend. See full information at the end of these meeting notes.

- Kevin Dickson has volunteered to be the zoning committee chair. Please contact Kevin for more details on how to become involved. kevdictson@gmail.com

- Geoffrey Gregory from Decker Library announced Saturday, May 23rd 2pm Active Minds presents Marijuana in Colorado.

www.activeminds.com [303-320-7652](tel:303-320-7652)

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Next neighborhood meeting will be on Thursday, May 28, 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

Also find more information at the following link.

<http://www.opnadenver.org>

Open Letter from
Nora Neureiter

Mara: As president of your neighborhood organization, I wanted to let you know about a series of public meetings for the Urban Waterways Restoration Study. The purpose of this study is to identify restorative improvements to three major urban waterways in the City and County of Denver which include Harvard Gulch, Weir Gulch and South Platte River from 6th Ave to 58th Ave.

The restorative improvements will be based on achieving ecosystem restoration, flood risk reduction, and recreation. Partners in this effort include the City and County of Denver (CCD), the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

Lisa Zoeller and I are assisting with the public outreach process. The public process for this Urban Waterways Restoration Study will begin with a series of three public meetings, one near each of the study areas, to inform the public about the study, answer questions, and receive initial input.

These meetings are scheduled for:

Wednesday, April 29 at Fairview Elementary School in Sun Valley near the Platte River;

Wednesday, May 6 at Harvard Gulch Recreation Center near Harvard Gulch; and
Thursday, May 7 at Barnum Recreation Center near Weir Gulch.

All public meetings will be an open house format from 5:30-7:30 p.m., with a short presentation from 6-6:30 p.m. A flyer is attached for this first round of informational meetings. Although the information presented at all three of these initial public meetings will be largely the same, the Overland Park neighborhood might be the most interested in the meeting on May 6th at the Harvard Gulch Rec Center since most people attending at this location will have a particular interest in the Harvard Gulch.

A second series of public meetings will take place in the fall of 2015 to review alternative plans for each of the study areas and to collect public feedback on the

recommendations. A meeting in the spring of 2016 will seek public input on the draft recommendations for all three study areas.

The project web site is www.DenverWaterways.com, which will be operational in the next few days. The web site will be a good source of background and updated project information as well as an ongoing opportunity for public input for those who cannot attend the public meetings or prefer to provide input electronically.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would please share this meeting information with your community. Feel free to call, text or email me or Lisa Zoeller with any questions. My information is below and Lisa can be reached at [303 929 3848](tel:3039293848) or lisaz@zoellerconsulting.com.

Sincerely,

Nora Neureiter

Zoeller Consulting, llc

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