



Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – July 23 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by President Mara Owen

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Approval of May meeting minutes
- Treasurer Report
- Police Report
- Jolon Clark's Office
- Walk Denver
- Denver Waterways Restoration
- RISO Partnership
- Denver Days Picnic
- Arts and Venues update
- Outreach/branding – Overland Logo
- Compassion
- Announcements

Business

- **Minutes from June meeting approved as read.**

- **Treasurer Report**

Beginning Balance	\$679.05	
Deposit/Payments	10.00	membership dues
	(100.00)	pending pmt to John Collins Church
Ending Balance of	\$589.05	

- **Police Report**

Officer Sharon – overall crime down 15% in Overland Park, still should watch bikes, garage doors, etc. Existing commander Montoya leaving District 3 – going down town. New commander, Dodge who was previously in District 3, is coming back and will assign new lieutenants.

- **Jolon Clark's Office** jolon.clark@denvergov.org

Jolon gave a big thank you to everyone. He officially took office on Monday, July 20 and was in city council academy for a week. He is excited to be working for us and specifically with helping to promote the beautification of Evans Bridge and also the pedestrian bridge over SF at Jewell. The river improvements are also very important to him. He introduced his staff which include David Richter who comes from Denver Parks and Rec and previously in District 1, Maggie Thompson who describes herself as a zoning and planning nerd and Anita Banuelos from Athmar Park, excited to be for the first time in the city council.

- **Walk Denver – Jill Locantore** jill.locantore@walkdenver.org

Jill from Walk Denver (www.walkdenver.org) gave a good presentation on how the organization has been working throughout the city to promote pedestrian friendly areas and walking neighborhoods. Some of the projects they have been involved with include “I walk Colfax” and Jefferson Park where for one day they demonstrated how you can transform a city neighborhood by adding plants and benches and signs and mapping to improve easier access to shops and businesses. They are currently looking for more areas to improve and are reaching out to several neighborhoods for collecting data. She introduced Kevin Carder who gave a presentation on the tool WALKscope (www.walkscope.org) which is an online tool for crowdsourcing data about walkability. Anyone can use the tool via a smartphone, tablet, or desktop computer to record information about sidewalk quality, intersection quality, and pedestrian counts throughout Denver, identifying gaps, and building the case for improvements. They are looking for our help in collecting data in our neighborhood and provided a tip sheet on how to use. Check it out and become a part of the data collection for improving walkability in Overland Park and the surrounding areas.

• **Denver Waterways Restoration**

Peter spoke about the Denver Urban Waterways Restoration Study which is a project specific to South Platte River, Harvard Gulch and Weir Gulch.

See <http://www.denverwaterways.com/project>. The last study like this was done 50 years ago and the current study has the following goals:

1. Ecosystem Restoration
2. Flood Risk Reduction
3. Recreation

They held their first public meeting where they presented a map of the waterways and asked for input. The next public meeting is scheduled for September 30th at Harvard Gulch Rec Center. All are encouraged to attend to learn more and have a voice in what is happening.

• **RISO Partnership**

Peter raised our awareness of a current plan to promote River South (RISO) partnership with the following possible members – Overland Park, College View, Ruby Hill - Godsman, and Athmar Park. Members would come together with a unified voice on common issues, for example... housing and transit planning. This would allow us as a collective to have a bigger impact on some the things that we would like to see happening in our area including the pedestrian bridge over Santa Fe and easier access to and from the light rail station. He asked the member whether there was any concerns with moving forward.

Jack – made a motion and Tracy seconded it with all in favor to continue to pursue the idea of RISO.

• **Denver Days Picnic scheduled for August 7th on Ruby Hill 6pm**

This is a combined party with Ruby Hill – Godsman – Overland Park.

Friday, August 7th, 6 pm at the Ruby Hill Picnic Pavilion. Bring a dish to share.

Fun and games for both kids and adults. Looking for volunteers. Please contact Mara at mkowen18@gmail.com. Motion was made and unanimously approved to contribute \$65 for the insurance of the party.

- **Arts and Venues update**

Mara said that we have not heard back yet from Arts and Venues about the Evans Bridge painting project but hopes to hear something soon. In the meantime, J.C. with EMW has agreed to be the receiver for supplies and possibly host a party for the painting crew. We are thinking of having a food truck and also looking for sponsors for meals for participants. Hoping to get underway maybe the beginning of September.

- **Outreach/branding – Overland Logo**

Peter presented some more ideas of logos. See below for samples and provide any feedback at the next meeting.

- **Compassion**

Paul Bodor was recognized for helping at Overland Pond where he assisted with leading 25 volunteers who came out to help with weed mitigation and mowing. Andrew Gehauf built a free library book house outside their house. Great way to promote more summer reading in the hood.

- **Announcements**

The Studios at Overland Crossing has approved our request to hold our monthly meetings starting in August. John Collins Church will continue to be the backup plan. There was a short discussion on changing the day of the meeting to the beginning of the month but decision was to keep it on the 4th Thursday of each month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

*Next neighborhood meeting will be on **Thursday, August 27, 2015, at 6:30 pm at The Studios at Overland Crossing.** Come join us and find out what is happening in our neighborhood. Also, check us out and Like us on Facebook.*

<http://www.opnadenver.org>