

## OVERLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

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Thursday, February 22nd 2024 / 6:30 PM / HYBRID

### Introductions and Compassion Action -*OPNA Board*

- With the small group neighbors introduced themselves and shared experience of compassion.
- There were approximately 12 neighbors present in person and 2 online.

### DPD - Officer Kate Young -

- Kate was not available for the meeting. She shared the following info to Jenn:
- Officer Pacheco has been moved to another unit and will no longer be a resource in our community.
- <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Police-Department/District-Stations/District-Three>
- Events:
  - District 3 Coffee with the Cops
    - **Wed 3/6 10:00am - 12:00pm**
    - Nixon's Coffee, 695 E Louisiana Ave, Denver, CO 80210
  - District 3 CAB Meeting
    - **Wed 3/6 6:00pm - 7:00pm**
    - District 3 Community Room, 1625 S University Blvd, Denver, CO 80210

### District 7 - Councilwoman Alvidrez's Office - *Flor Alvidrez*

- Councilwoman Flor Alvidrez's provided updates on multiple items below. Sign up for her newsletter here: <https://fs12.formsite.com/qD2eXl/sz2itecwwt/index> or email here: [district7@denvergov.org](mailto:district7@denvergov.org)
- Updates and info on the TMC - Information is combined here from both Flor as well as OPNA members of the GNA team.
  - Round Table meeting schedule on 2/27 at 5:30-7:00 at the Table Public House - RSVP required. See info on OPNA website or council member's social media. This is a great time to get questions answered. Feel free to send in advance. DPD will be in attendance to answer questions.
  - DPD will have a dedicated officer in this area and will be in attendance at the next

meeting to answer questions.

- Move in day for the first residents is anticipated to be March 6th.
- Jenn met some staff and learned that because of the delays in this site opening, the staff have the benefit of getting extra training. They will be the most trained team CVC has had on a new site. Some staff will be at the community round table next week as well.
- There is a list of donations needed that has gone out from the Mayor's team. Jenn stressed that while members of our community differ on options of this new community, we offer space at OPNA to share views, support initiatives that neighbors take on. Jenn also noted that we've heard concerns that others that are currently residing in Overland may need some support as well, why should we help the new CVC residents and why is CVC not providing all this? Jenn explained that what she learned is that the CVC has found working with the community on donations helps bring people together and they often find lots of support in the local community. That support offsets their costs allowing them to spend more dollars on helping more people, or providing more staffing. OPNA members are working with the city and CVC in helping to gather volunteers and donations. Things like houseware items are needed. There is a list going, you can sign up and donate at a level that works for you. For example they need 60 washcloths, you can sign up to donate 5, you don't have to donate all 60. They need volunteers to help with some set up and painting. If you are interested please let Opna know. We are getting a separate email list going to those that are interested in volunteering and donating.
- GNA is in progress. A draft should be available soon on the Find Solutions website. Neighbors shared updates. Currently waiting on some promises from the city to be added. Noted that the GNA is between the RNOs and CVC, the city can't legal sign on. However they are including a letter to be included in the GNA.
- There will be a new committee formed after the GNA is in place. It will be set up similar to the GNA group, and will meet regularly after the site opens to check in on what is happening, what is working and what isn't. It will be a communication line from the community to the CVC stuff.
- Site will open to 60 residents. CVC will have to negotiate a new contract to expand. Can't expand for the first 6 months. They will have to prove they have the ability to manage and staff a larger site.
- Question on how long people will reside in the community? It will all depend. The goal is for their stays to not be long, and to move people into more permanent housing. Some people might stay a day or two, some a month, some could be there the full time. CVC will work with each individual to provide a path of resources and support to help these folks into permanent housing.
- Jenn shared her understanding of how people will come to this site. When the city identifies an encampment - over 2 weeks the city will engage the people there and find

out how they can be helped, what resources they need, etc. After that, they sweep and they give people the choice to move on, or move into a micro community. Then the camping site is cleared and the city “fences the area” using geo tag technology to help reduce re-encampments by prioritizing concerns - issues etc... with a 24 hour response time is the goal since the site is swept. When a person chooses housing they come into a temp community, like the one that will be in Overland. Not being facetious - it's not glamorous living, it's similar to camp, it's fun for a few weeks and then it's not. Bathrooms are shared by all the community. Meals are provided 3 times a day and allow people some stability to recover from trauma, others may be immediately ready to get into permanent housing. Some may need longer than others. CVC intends to move people along.

- Question was asked on the zoning rules for the 4 year max use, when does the clock start. The group believes it starts the date the certificate of occupancy is issued.
- Residents will have to sign on to a community agreement, (like a lease agreement) that they will obey by the site rules and requirements. A copy of the agreement will be shared as a part of the GNA. the use agreement ONLY applies to behavior on the property.
- The GNA team understands that the city is committed to replacing the sound fencing on Santa Fe both North and South of Evans, on the west side. The GNA neighbors lobbied hard for a more robust concrete sound wall, but didn't go far as the city is already suffering budget cuts.
- Questions have been asked about a public tour of the new community. Flor has asked for this, but hope that at the meeting on Tuesday we will be able to see if this is possible. Neighbors noted that if possible to get pictures or video for those that won't be able to go, advocating that people fear the unknown and perhaps seeing the set of the community and how the pallet shelters look will help offer some assurance and understanding. Jenn shared that they did tour the manufacturing site of the shelters and it was helpful. They also visited another CVC community that was tents not shelters, and it was surprisingly quiet and that it was helpful to see how they are set up.
- **[NPI \(Neighborhood Planning Initiative\)](#)** for our community is coming. This process will address zoning on our entire neighborhood as well as adjacent neighborhoods like Ruby Hill, Athmar Park. It is an 18 month process.
  - Find out more on the process from the City's [PDF document on NPI here](#) or link above to the city website.
  - Note, there is a list of folks that OPNA has who have already expressed interest in being active in this process. An OPNA committee is in the works. If you are interested in volunteering and being a part of OPNA efforts organizing for this please email [OPNAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:OPNAinfo@gmail.com) and we will add you to the list.
- D7 and the Mayor's office are also hosting a business round table 3/6- more details on the OPNA

website and D7 website.

- Parks Legacy Fund Public Meeting - 2/28 5:30-6:30

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**Parks Legacy Fund 5-Year Plan**

**Join us for a virtual public meeting**  
and let us know your priorities for  
the future of Denver Parks and  
Recreation!

**Wednesday, February 28th**  
**5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

 *The meeting will consist of a virtual presentation  
and interactive live polling questions!*

To register for the public meeting, **visit [tinyurl.com/LegacyPlan2](https://tinyurl.com/LegacyPlan2)**  
Phone option: 720.928.9299 + Meeting ID: 824 6476 8526



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- Pop Up Denver is hosting pop up and temp retail shops on the mall. If you know of a small business that might be interested.
- Jewell Bridge - no update.
- Questions:
  - What city budget cuts could impact Overland? Flor doesn't have detail. Anticipate that parks cuts will be what we've seen in the past where some wild grass areas aren't mowed. Don't expect cuts to Harvard Gulch Rec Center, cuts to some smaller programs. Examples of small city projects like Renaming Parks program was cut, Office of Storytelling has cuts. Smaller special projects like that are hit the most. Can't say what specifically is being cut because this is the Mayor's department making these decisions. If there are city programs or projects that are vital to your community let Flor know. Its much easier for her to advocate to prevent cuts of things then it is to try to advocate to get funding back after they've had cuts.
  - Pop Up Dog Park or other way to activate spaces like under Evans bridge that have become an encampment hot spot? Note that this was discussed in the past with Jolon. Flor said this didn't come up in conversations during the transition, but she'd follow back up.

## OPNA Administrative Items:

- Treasury update - See report.

Beginning Balance		\$ 15,583.63
Member Deposits		\$ 141.24
Social Expense		\$ (25.00)
Bank Charge		\$ (11.00)
Ending Balance per Bank		\$ 15,688.87
	OPNA Funds	\$ 3,978.19
	D7 Support Funds	\$ 10,000.00
	ART Funds	\$ 1,710.68
Notes:		

- January Meeting minutes approved

## Community Announcements (open to anyone)

- Spring OVERLAND GROWS PLANT GIVEAWAY is coming soon. Mark your calendars for May 18th at 10AM. Volunteers needed. Further discussion coming as we prepare.
- Monthly Overland Social
  - March is Spring Equinox - mark calendars for 3/23 more details to come.
  - Discussed social with new community moved in, can we look at non-alcoholic events. Also maybe combine social with equinox this month.
- The Table will be hosting Coffee with a Farmer events. Check them out. Every Sunday.
- Levitt has published their line up for the year. - <https://www.levittdenver.org/free-concert-series#/events>
- New business shout outs: Molecule Effect in old Dairy Queen. Coffee shop. Gone for Good - new thrift store. Second Wind Sports will now be open 7 days a week, great used outdoor gear. Scream and Sugar Coffee shop and Horrid Gift shop, on Bannock, north of Evans, behind brutal poodle.
- MEMBERSHIP:
  - Membership is good for the calendar year. \$10/household
  - Venmo Account for OPNA Overland Park Neighborhood Association - @OPNA-Denver

Overland Park Neighborhood...  
@OPNA-Denver



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## **NEXT MEETING and UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**March 23rd Spring Equinox time t.b.d**  
***at location Grant Frontier Park***  
**Next Meeting March 28th 6:30pm**  
***at location t.b.d***