

# JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

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January 25th 2024 / 6:30 PM / HYBRID

## Introduction and Compassion Share

- Attendees broke out into groups and shared compassionate experiences in the community.

## DPD - Officer Kate Young and Officer AJ Pacheco

- [kate.young@denvergov.org](mailto:kate.young@denvergov.org) (720) 913-1248
- Crime Stats: For January the overall city crime stats are down 24%. Overland is down 42%. Property crime is down 60% and other crimes are up 20% - other includes crime like public disorder. More detail on crime stats for the city and the neighborhood can be found here at the cities website for [CRIME STATS](#).
- Reminder if you have complaints or want to report a homeless encampment, report at 311. D3 has a dedicated homeless outreach team but for them to be alerted to an issue, it's got to come through 311.
- Events:
  - District 3 Coffee with the Cops
    - **Wed February 7th from 10:00am - 12:00pm**
    - Nixon's Coffee, 695 E Louisiana Ave, Denver, CO 80210
  - District 3 CAB Meeting
    - **Wed February 7th 6:00pm - 7:00pm**
    - District 3's monthly Commander Advisory Board meeting at the District 3 Community Room, 1625 S University Blvd, Denver, CO 80210
    - This month they will have a speaker from Domestic Violence Unit.
    - Officers Kate and AJ will be on site early for questions and conversations.
  - Fundraising Event for Vests for DPD (*apologies for not catching the name of the event, OPNA will share more info to neighbors as we get it*)
    - February 22nd from 5-7pm at 315 N Detroit in Cherry Creek - Art sales proceeds will support funding for vests for DPD

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

- Email: [district7@denvergov.org](mailto:district7@denvergov.org) Telephone: (720) 337-7777
- Councilwoman Flor Alvidrez provided clarification on ethics complaints and she is working with the city officials to clear issues. If you have any questions or concerns you can reach out to the Councilwoman.
- **[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.
- **[Jewel Bridge](#)** - no update - Flor shared that lots of bond projects across the city are short funded. The city did receive some federal funding to bridge these budget gaps which should help get this project moving again. OPNA leadership has also reached out to the City's project manager for an update and will keep following up.
- **[Iowa Bridge](#)** - no update - similar to the Jewel Bridge, waiting on the federal funds to bridge budget gaps.

## The GoldFinch - *Daniel and Ian, proprietors*

- <https://goldfinchdenver.com/> - 1842 S Broadway #1030
- New upscale cocktails and small plates to open in old Euro Crepes Location. Will have local influence in their cocktails and wine options. Waiting on their liquor licenses which was approved in the hearing last month. Will open likely within 2 weeks of receiving final license paperwork. Will have DJs mixing music for Friday and Saturday nights and for brunch.
- Neighbors stressed the importance of concerns the community has had with some other social establishments, and ask that Goldfinch get to know the adjacent and surrounding residences in the area to build positive relationships to avoid problems that have occurred in the past with old hookah bar issues and other social establishments that were not good neighbors. Daniel and Ian reside in Overland and understand concerns are at the meeting today to meet neighbors in the community to be proactive.
- Stay tuned for a future OPNA social and Goldfinch coming soon!

## NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES -*OPNA President Jenn Grieving*

- To help understand what are the most pressing concerns or areas we should work as an organization Jenn broke attendees up into groups to discuss multiple topics. Groups then shared and summarized their discussion.
  - TRANSPORTATION: No communication with RTD - advocate for representation to attend OPNA meetings. Train to airport from Overland takes 2 hours with switching trains, not worth the extra time for most. Our neighborhood is geographically divided with major roadways - Evans and Santa Fe - how can we improve connectivity. More the Jewell bridge we need multiple points of connection. Bike/Ped path along Santa Fe was a HUGE improvement and we need more of this improved infrastructure. A more robust sound barrier than the current DDOT wood fence, which is unacceptable to most in the community. Sound mitigation is needed on the eas side as well. Sidewalk, curb and gutter is missing on blocks throughout the neighborhood. Solutions for multifamily and parking as tenants aren't paying for the parking, garages are empty, streets are packed.
  - MEMBERSHIP - COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH: Raising funds by following up with more businesses in the community. OPNA communicates well because we take action. Our strength is that we go high when others go low. We are a compassionate community. Divisive or contentious topics with high emotions have come up and we've compassionately come together to resolve and find consensus. Bylaws designed to evolve and need to with recent lessons learned and recognized gaps in our processes. Need to think about how we can make them better so when challenging issues come up we can rely on the structure of the organization and bylaws to navigate and strengthen as a community. Website is in need of a new platform as current is outdated. What are cannabis shops and businesses obligations in our community? If part of their licensure is on the value they bring to our community we have not seen benefits of this commerce in our neighborhood. Have OPNA biz window decals or recognitions so we are supporting those in the community that are supporting overland and have aligned values.
  - We will continue these discussions in coming meetings.

## TMC Zoning Appeal *Craig Arfsten* :

- In our December 17th newsletter, we informed you of an effort in the neighborhood to appeal to the zoning board regarding the way in which the TMC was approved. The appeal was filed and a hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 30th at 9 AM. The gentlemen who filed the appeal, Craig Arfsten of the 1400 block of South Clarkson Street. Craig as a Platte Park resident is concerned about the site and argued that the applicant lacked complete and required



## Community Announcements (open to anyone)

- Monthly Overland Social: This month Ronnie Crawford is hosting at Burns Family Artisan Ale House (former Dos Luces location). February 10th from 2-4pm.
  - Last few social events have been well attended despite the weather. Solstice had over 30 people. Come out and socialize with your neighbors. This is an opportunity to communicate outside the structure of formal meetings.
- Alley Security Lights - One neighbor who is concerned about the safety and added traffic in the alley with the new TMC has found some effective motion sensor lights at Walmart that they believe are a reasonable price. The fixtures allow linking up so that one one goes off the network will light them all up. If you're interested in knowing more we suggest coming to the next meeting so you can discuss this with other neighbors.
- MEMBERSHIP:
  - \$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:

Next Social month, day 6:30pm  
*at location*

Next Meeting month, day 6:30pm