

Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – August 25 2016

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

Business

Minutes from July meeting approved

Treasurer Report

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

Beginning Balance		\$ 6,406.55
Membership Deposit		\$ 50.00
Grants Received		\$ 2,500.00
Paid Grants		\$(2,201.58)
Ending Balance Per Bank		\$ 6,754.97
	OPNA Funds	\$ 957.00
	Grant Funds	\$ 5,797.97
Outstanding	Check materials M Owen	\$-
	Outstanding invoices	\$ -
	Unapplied Grant	\$ 5,797.97

Police Report

Jim Lopez is the new community resource officer (CRO) for District 3 which includes Overland park. He has been with the force for 20 years, a lot of the time in district 4 (Ruby Hill area). He left some brochures with his contact information. His normal working hours are M-F 8-4. In case of emergency, Call 911. Other issues, contact the dispatch. If you have other issues you want to communicate with him, you can use his email which he checks regularly.

CRO Jim Lopez
720-913-1248
Jim.lopez@denvergov.org
District 3
1625 S. University Blvd.

Non-emergency dispatch # 720-913-2000

Then he opened for questions.

Rob – concerned about cars and people south of Pasquinel's Landing park and also under Evans, and Florida and asked about policing around the park areas. Jim responded that with any homeless issues – email and let him know where as there is a process to relocate homeless.

Someone found in the Cherokee area, people sleeping in their car and wanted to know how to handle the situation. Jim said to please contact the police and do not try to handle it yourself.

Regarding Sunday night racing, and any noise complaints should be reported immediately in order to try to catch the offender in the act.

Denver Days Events Recap

Jack provided an update to the block party held during Denver Days. This was the first block party ever in the area and it was a huge success with 40+ people stopping by and enjoying ice cream and fellow neighbors. Music and dancing was also part of the fun.

Update on the River Vision project -Owen Snell (Project Manager for the Grant Frontier project)

Owen Snell, project manager for Denver Parks gave an update on the Grant Frontier project which started last fall and is a continuation of the river vision which includes Johnson's Habitat and Pasquinel's Landing. They have been working with Urban Drainage rebuilding the river banks and adding new vegetation into the area along the river while pushing the bike/ped trail to the back and expanding it to 12 feet wide with soft edge. Through added funds to the project, they have been able to also improve the underpass at Evans, making it wider and adding a retaining wall.

They just took down the outside pylons on the river bank and with the recent rain it immediately started to fill the secondary channel. The concrete jetty was poured 3 weeks ago. Terracing on hillside up from the river is related to the flood elevations. They have marked the 2 year, 10 year, 100 year flood levels. There are different play areas for older and younger kids where the equipment has just come in to be installed. The landscaper is finishing the eco playground / natural play area which includes step logs and a willow patch. The existing large cottonwood tree will be the gathering space area which will include picnic tables and an overlook. Montana City will be created with the foundation of the cabin and historical signage located between the parking area and the overlook. Some additional in stream boulders have been donated by fisheries. Ribbon cutting is currently scheduled for mid November. Also, with the remaining funds, they may be able to add a natural play area in Pasquinel's Landing.

When asked about restrooms? The existing port-a-lets will stay and they are repainting the existing closure. There are no plans for restrooms at Pasquinel's

Landing.

Jack – asked whether the interpretive signs that were there will be replaced? Owen said there is a plan for signage but was not aware of the existing signs. Jack will check further into this..

Eloise – requested more accessible trash cans in both parks.

Question asked about whether a permit was needed to hold Yoga Classes in the park for 10-12 people. As long as the classes are free, no permit is needed.

Cameron Brennon-Denver Public Schools Bond and Mill Levy and vote by the neighborhood

Cameron spoke about the 2016 Bond and Mill Levy (3A and 3B) school funding package designed to fit within and help fulfill the Denver Plan 2020.

The Denver 2020 plan can be found on the Denver Public Schools website found here

<https://www.dpsk12.org/>

Yard signs are available if interested. Here is the website: <http://www.fordenverskids.com>

Amy – from the DPS website you can search for a school to find out ranking and community engagement. Also, the 2020 plan talks about the performance goals.

Mara made a motion to write a letter of support from OPNA neighborhood. All were in favor with no opposed.

Overland Social

The next Overland Social is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th 6:00-8:00pm at The Overland.

Jolon Clark's Office (Council District 7)

Maggie was present from Jolon Clark's Office and had the following updates:

1. Public meeting for Harvard Gulch and Weir Gulch. Harvard Gulch Wednesday, August 31st, Harvard Gulch Rec Center - 5:30-7:30pm
2. They received word from Denver Public Works that they have earmarked some money for improving the Iowa underpass. The existing stairs have been patched. The improvements will not mitigate the flooding situation but would help improving the pedestrian walkway where they are hoping to become ADA compliant. Also looking to add art and more lighting. They are also continuing to look for funding for pushing the existing Santa Fe west side sidewalk to the other side of the berm by the golf course.
3. Regarding the transient homeless population they are trying to come up with a plan for services and housing. They are asking everyone to please keep an eye out for hot spots and notify thru email to Maggie or the police who are keeping a list of places to check. If there are environmental factors – i.e. trees growing over an alley creating a secluded spot, they can perform neighborhood inspections which may take some time but they can help.

She also mentioned that with "Bikeway on Broadway" they are testing the first section and it's going great.

Community announcements (open to anyone)

Mara announced that we may be able to do more painting on the bridge sometime in early October. Stay tuned.

Steve from Doctor Fix-It and Dan spoke to the group and after listening to all the feedback from the neighborhood, they have decided to stick with the original station area plan of limiting to a maximum of 8 stories for the proposed building site. They are thinking of proposing to start at the 5 story level and work up to 8 stories in a step fashion from south to north. Dan is getting ready to prepare the application for the city sometime next month and they are looking for our support.

Mara proposed that we handle this in another meeting and asked whether they might be able to show us some renderings of what it might look like.

Judy – thanked both of them on behalf of OPNA for taking the time to reach out to all of us and listen to all of our concerns.

Mara - There is another Block party – this Sunday, August 28th from 4-8pm on South Acoma Street between Warren and Illif. They will be grilling hot dogs and have music, lemonade and games. Bring any other grill items you want or something to share (sides / snacks / desserts)

Seana - from Sante business on Huron St. is excited to be a part of this community and welcomes everyone to come and check out their store. She provided 20% discount cards to everyone.

Compassionate things in our neighborhood (open to anyone)

We are a compassionate neighborhood.

Mara thanks Peter Kelly, former VP of OPNA and creator of our new OPNA logo, who after hearing that we were trying to raise funds for painting the bridge, sent a check for \$500. YAY! Thank you Peter!!

Ronnie acknowledged Mara and Andrew for arriving early for every meeting and showing up with hot coffee and water.

Jack acknowledged a neighbor who recently lost their partner and honored them with a memorial in the park. So long John. Happy trails.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm

Next neighborhood meeting will be on **Thursday, September 22**, 2016, at **6:30 pm** at **John Collins Church** 2320 Bannock St. Come join us and find out what is happening in our neighborhood.

Also, check us out on our **Website** and also to read the **minutes** from past meetings.

<http://www.opnadenver.org>

And like us on [Facebook](#)