



## Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – February 24th, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by President Mara Owen

### **Approval of January meeting minutes**

- Minutes were approved.

### **Jolon Clark's Office (Council District 7)**

- The zoning change request on 1974 & 1990 S HURON ST. - Neil Shea, property owner - went in front of council last week. OPNA wrote letter of support a while back after information was presented from the developers. The zoning change was for more units but different unit type, revising to signal family homes on smaller lots in lieu of duplexes on bigger lots. The zoning change request was not approved by council. Jolon took time to explain the process and why he voted against the request. He shared that he had heard more from neighbors with concerns about, or flat out against, the zoning change. There was not complete community consensus on the topic despite letter of support from OPNA. The change was technically seen as down zoning, and previously approved Evans Station Area Plan conflicted with proposed change. He noted that Overland will be on a future neighborhood planning update - there is a lot that has changed in our city and neighborhood since Evans plan was written. As well as, there are more innovated solutions to city planning and growth challenges since it was

created. The city recognizes the need for this to be updated. (read more on the old plan here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxb3aef>) Jolon offered that if anyone wants to know more on how or why this process progressed this way and why he voted against, please reach out:

- jolon.clark@denvergov.org, Office (720) 337-7777, Cell (303) 550-2066
- Solid Waste - Currently the city is reviewing changes to fees for waste pick up where trash would have a fee but recycling and compost will be free. Read more on it here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz2rfct> There will be some future city community meetings and info coming. We can get a person from the city waste agency to come talk at a future OPNA meeting and present in more detail on the proposed change to waste pickup, impacts and costs.
  - Neighbor Question - Do folks need to pay for current compost bill if this change in fee is in the works? Answer: The city does not know when changes to fee structure will go into effect. So for now the city is billing quarterly for compost and you should continue to pay your compost bills. Its likely a few months out before change will go into effect. So fee changes probably wouldn't roll out until the fall / 3rd quarter. Stay tuned to OPNA meetings for more updates.
- Iris Tan is a new aide with District 7 grew up on the west side of Denver. You may see her at future meetings representing the council district.
- As always, if you have any question for your council district Maggie is an available resource: maggie.thompson@denvergov.org 720-337-7777

**Update on DOTI Projects** (city Department of Transportation and Infrastructure) in the neighborhood (Jewell Bridge, etc.) -

- Gabby Serrado - Project Manager, designer, and council liaison for district 2,3, & 7 presented.
- Gabby screen shared a slightly outdated map of all the projects in D7 representing a lot of projects in the area.
- Bicycle Network - is focused by hoods to build greater connected bike network.
  - Iowa underpass - linking up to Sherman and connects to Florida is a part of these network improvements.

- Jewell Bridge - There is an approved connection for the Delaware Bike Path - (south from Jewell bridge) going west over rail and highway, to connect to the riverway parks and trail.
- **IOWA UNDERPASS** - will be done in two projects. First phase starting soon along Santa Fe. Second phase with underpass will be later this year.
  - <https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Department-of-Transportation-and-Infrastructure/Programs-Services/Projects/Iowa-Underpass>
- **JEWELL PEDESTRAIN BRIDGE**
  - Design started last year. Complicated project will be one of the longest to complete due to complexity of RTD, Rail lines and CDOT, as well as constraints for placement on landings.
  - Will be ADA accessible as well as iconic.
  - Currently the city is conducting surveys and having discussions for what is feasible and what is possible within the \$13 million construction budget.
  - See link below for web page on project. The city will share updates on work here: <https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Department-of-Transportation-and-Infrastructure/Programs-Services/Projects/Jewell-Ave-Ped-Bridge>
- The community discussed concerns and considerations for the Jewell Bridge:
  - Amy pointed out the fencing along Santa Fe is dilapidated and hazard/risk. Would be great if this project could help in improving this.
  - Rob - concern that the failing fence is "sound barrier" and if replaced or impacted, will new work have standards to follow to help improve the noise pollution from highway and trains? Also unused land and path there could be opportunity for connectivity of trail.
  - Heather also expressed concern of fence falling apart and additional noise. Also with regard to pedestrian and bike travel from bridge to river, Asbury has narrow to little sidewalk and multiple traffic crossing intersections. She advocates north side of Jewell for path as there is not cross traffic. Plus walking along the golf course is pleasant scenery.

- Gaby noted that the plan is to have one large path that will have room for both bikes and pedestrians. Likely designated as a neighborhood bikeway, and would have traffic calming. Likely not delineated bike lane.
- Terry - Shared some info that she had learned about the first phase of the Iowa project and how it may connect to Jewell Bridge and then to the river.
  - A 10' wide sidewalk along Santa Fe between Florida and Jewell is under construction. Supposedly signage and signaling to direct people down Jewell and left down Huron, then right at Asbury to go to river.
  - Terry would encourage DOTI to look at big picture and how all these projects will tie together.
  - Jewell and Huron have most of the traffic - trash, busses etc...Huron is also access from south along Evans to the golf course. When Evans has construction or accidents the alternative popular redirection of traffic from southbound Santa Fe is down those streets
  - She would advocate for trail access on Asbury and use of CDOT triangle in lieu of Jewell and Huron.
- Gaby responded to concerns with a few points. The City need to negotiate with CDOT for triangle of unused land on the southwest side of Jewell and Santa Fe. They DO NOT have ownership or rights over that land. There are issues with the golf course and there newly completed repairs to their greens and fairways on the northside of the intersection. The bridge landing on the east is also constrained. She appreciated all the neighbors input and feedback and will be back maybe by April to share on progress and updates

**Treasurer Report**

- If you have questions reach out to Andrew, full detailed report was not reviewed during meeting.
- Not much activity this month.
- Reminder about dues - they are per household to be voting members - \$10/household \$25/business.

Beginning Balance		\$ 6,370.44	
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Membership Deposits		\$ -	Venmo deposit pending!
Reimbursement to Mara for 5k-clean		\$ (162.80)	
Bank Fees		\$ (4.00)	
Website Host		\$ -	
Ending Balance per Bank		\$ 6,203.64	
	OPNA Funds	\$ 4,492.96	
	ART Funds	\$ 1,710.68	
Notes			
\$120 of Venmo deposits are pending, will show on March report!			

**DPD - Community Resource Officer Report:**

- Officer Pacheco went over the crime stats for the neighborhood:
  - 8 motor vehicle thefts - Reminder don't leave your car running with the keys in it.
  - A handful of thefts - a backpack, shoplifting and one online ticket scam.
  - 5 theft from motor vehicle - One catalytic converter theft (this particular theft continues to fluctuate across the city), camp equipment taken, and work van had tools visible and was broke in to. One stolen plate.
  - 0 burglaries
- Upcoming CAB meeting will be 3/1 at 6:00pm - It will be in person, at the District 3 station at 1625 S University Blvd.
- 4/7 next neighborhood watch meeting - more details to follow as this approaches.

**OPNA Bylaw review (required once annually)**

- Mara ran through our current By Laws to let everyone know how we operate and collaborate as neighbors.
- By Laws for OPNA can be found here: <http://www.opnadenver.org/about-opna.html>
- Last amendment was in 2017 to be officially compassionate neighborhood.

**2022 OPNA Projects**

- Spring Plant Giveaway “Overland Grows” - May 14 - more details coming!  
Will host the event at The Table.
  - Free garden tools, seedlings and seeds.
- River Parks Wayfinding - Greenway Foundation
  - River trail, frontage and park continuity - had some discussion last winter.
  - Way finding is limited. Working with artists and others to find some ideas to make some improvements.
- Art on the bridge - Art Committee Update
  - Community did paint by number art installation on Evans bridge seven years ago.
  - Starting to deteriorate and has graffiti - art committee met to brainstorm next steps.
  - Immediate action is to see if they can get any chemical to help clean and save what is there. The mural has been there for about 7 years. To have it last 10 years would be great. So the group would like to save it a few more years.
  - If we can't get rid of graffiti then attempt to repaint outlines will be the next step to improve.

### **Community announcements (open to anyone)**

- **Monthly Overland Social - March 9th at 6:30pm at [The Table](#).** Most of the attendees for the meeting lost internet at about mid way through so determined for ease to use the Table again for the social without getting more input.
  - For next social, in April, Mara will research Trash Hawk, Denver Pong, and Sobo Country Club to see if they can accommodate a large group.
- **Levitt Free Concerts [have been announced!](#)**
- **4/2- will be [The Table's](#) anniversary** - come by that day and celebrate they will have all sorts of fun things going on.
- **4/10 - Platte River Half Marathon** from Littleton to Buckhorn Exchange <https://platteriverhalf.com/>
- A cannabis consumption lounge is being proposed at the site of the recently closed hookah lounge on Broadway and E Colorado Ave. The business is called Cloud 9. If this group comes to the neighborhood for input or review,

neighbors want to have voice on this type of business use in our neighborhood and what impacts this could have.

### **Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm**

#### **Neighborhood Meetings:**

Our next neighborhood meeting will be on Thursday, March 24th, 2022, at 6:30 pm. Stay tuned then for agenda and zoom links, (or maybe, just maybe, a meeting in person again).

OPNA meetings are held the 4th Thursday of every month, excluding November and December. Upcoming meeting dates for 2022 include the following: March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, & October 27

A link to our **COVID19 resources** page is found [here](#) on our OPNA website.

#### **Here are ways to pay for membership dues:**

Venmo

Overland Park RNO @opnadenver or using this link

[https://venmo.com/code?user\\_id=3183003056472064841](https://venmo.com/code?user_id=3183003056472064841)

Mail

Make check payable to OPNA and send to:

OPNA

Att: Andrew Gehauf

2255 S Acoma St

Denver, CO 80223

#### **Keep in touch:**

Check us out on our [Website](#) and also to read the minutes from past meetings.

And like us on Facebook [Overland Park Neighborhood Association - OPNA](#)

or Instagram [overlandparkneighborhood](#)

Contact us at: OPNAinfo@gmail.com