

Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – February 26 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Vice President Peter Kelly

Agenda

- Welcome
- Councilwoman Robin Kniech – General update
- Approval of January meeting minutes
- Treasurer Report
- Police Report
- Chris Nevitt's Office
- Compassion
- Peter Kelly – update on floodplain re-designation
- Committees further discussion and sign up
- Announcements

Business

- Minutes from January meeting approved as read.
- Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$494.05	
Deposit/Payments	100.00	membership dues
Ending Balance of	\$594.05	

- Robin Kniech – Denver City Council At-Large

We were pleased to welcome Robin to the OPNA meeting this month where she has been a member of the City wide council since 2011. Some of her accomplishments include working to change the zoning laws to allow home sales of fresh produce and cottage foods and budget changes to build and preserve affordable homes and to hire more police to plan for and manage growth thru transportation and infrastructure. She works with RNO's and INC to help her to better understand what is happening at the neighborhood level and to pass information back and forth with the city. Re-election for city council at large is on May 5th where voters can elect 2 persons. She can be contacted at kniechatlarge@denvergov.org or 720-337-7712.

Robin took some time to answer questions from OPNA members. Here are the highlights.

Ronnie asked about affordable housing around Gates and Alameda projects. Are there any policies or subsidies for affordable housing? Robin answered that yes, there is some obligation. Any condo development should include at least 10% affordable housing. The liability and warranty of condo developers needs to be dealt with at the state level.

Paul asked her views on AirBnB. Robin feels that we need to learn more and that it is most likely here to stay so should try to work to regulate it with a goal to require taxes and fees and to create some standards.

Jack asked about the safety department and to comment on police use of force? Robin feels that Chief White is headed in the right direction but it was a mistake that they stopped hiring for 5 years. She stated that new recruits are good and with new people brings new ideas.

Ray brought up the subject of walkability and bike lanes related to Walk Denver and our own Evans Bridge. With the upcoming Levitt Pavilion, how to transport people from the light rail station to Ruby Hill? Are there any plans for a pedestrian/bike bridge? Robin referred to the site for [Denver Moves](#) where you can learn more about the plans for the city.

Valerie Kerns from Chris Nevitt's Office spoke about the ped/bike bridge being a funding issue which needs catalysts to get it funded. The good news is that the plan for a ped/bike bridge over Santa Fe on Jewell is now on the capitol budgetary plan. The land needed on east and west side of Santa Fe has already been obtained by the city. What is needed is more catalysts including the improvements related to Ruby Hill to get it to move forward.

- **Police Report**

No police present

- **Chris Nevitt's Office update (Valerie Kerns)**

Valerie spoke about the improvements planned for Broadway which includes paving and widening it to make it more straight in the area between Arizona and Tennessee. Work will start this summer, to be completed within the next 2 years.

The Johnson Habitat river and park project will be completed in the next few months with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for mid April. Also there are plans for a river kickoff celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of the great flood of 1965 sometime in June.

- **Compassion**

Ronnie Crawford was honored at the annual INC gala event with a Neighborhood Star award! Ten people received the award this year which is given to someone who has made a difference in their own neighborhood. Ronnie received the award as a result of all his work with the parks and river and fishing community. Congratulations!

Jack Unruh spoke about how he is helping to raise more awareness in Denver working towards becoming a compassionate city and reminded us that this agenda item is to be used to acknowledge anyone doing good stuff.

- **Peter Kelly – update on floodplain re-designation**

Spoke with Jeremy Hammer of Denver water works and will continue to provide updates regarding this topic as he learns more information. There is a plan for a new study of the flood plain to be done thru the army corps where there will be a public comment period in about 6 months from now. This is a good candidate for a committee where more information can be gathered and brought back to OPNA.

- **Committees further discussion**

The idea of committees was discussed again and reminder that if you have any interest in any of the committees to please contact Mara Owen at mkown18@gmail.com. The following Committee ideas so far include:

- **Sustainability** (community garden, Sustainable Neighborhood Network, safety, health and environment)

- **Development** (zoning, land use etc..)

- **Education**

Gather information for schools, preschools, etc.

- **Outreach** (membership, communication and involvement)

Membership, communication, involvement

- **Arts** (OPAL, EBB and the mural projects)

Arts projects...

- **Social** (events and community building)

- **Announcements**

Jack Unruh brought up the topic of reviewing our neighborhood boundaries. The currently are North – Mississippi, East – Lincoln, South – Yale, West - Platte River Drive. His concern is to make sure we are including everyone within these boundaries and to maximize the area within our neighborhood. Further discussion may be brought up in the next meeting.

- **Annual Dues** are now up for renewal. The annual dues for the year 2015 are the same as last year and are as follows:

Household - \$10.00

Business - \$25.00

Dues are used to fund charges related to meeting place and for various activities during the year. Only paid members are eligible to vote.

Please contact Treasurer Tracey Hardeman traceyhardeman@gmail.com to submit your dues and to be registered as an OPNA member.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Next neighborhood meeting will be on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at 6:30 pm at John Collins Church, 2320 South Bannock. Come join us and find out what is happening in our neighborhood. Also, check us out and Like us on Facebook.



Overland Park Neighborhood, Colorado

Do you know someone who would like to be on the mailing list? Please reply back to this email with their information. Also find more information at the following link.

<http://www.opnadenver.org>

Overland Park Neighborhood

Committees

We are looking for ways to involve more people in what makes our neighborhood great. Looking into our bylaws, we find that several standing committees are recommended for doing just that. The ideas below build off the committees that are suggested by our bylaws, but if you think of one that isn't on here or any way to make one better, just suggest it!

Committee Ideas:

- **Sustainability** (community garden, Sustainable Neighborhood Network, safety, health and environment)
- **Development** (zoning, land use etc..)
- **Education**
- **Outreach** (membership, communication and involvement)
- **Arts** (OPAL, EBB and the mural projects)
- **Social** (events and community building)

Each Committee would need:

A Committee Chair or Co-Chairs

This position is the spokesperson for the committee. They would be responsible for communicating with the OPNA members, the OPNA board, and organizing collaboration with other committees. The Chair sets meeting times and moderates the Committee meetings

Time commitment: The Chair would be asked to attend a few more meetings than the monthly OPNA meeting, so plan on about 2-3 meetings a month. This position will require the most amount of time, therefore splitting the responsibilities between two people might be a good idea!

Required to be a Voting member of OPNA.

Officer

There should be about one officer for every 5 general members in a committee. Officers take charge of at least one time consuming or complicated task and make sure that it is completed. That could be a specific research, outreach in the neighborhood etc.

Officers are expected to attend every committee meeting, and to be the core of the committee, so plan on 1-2 meetings a month

Required to be a Voting member of OPNA.

Member

For people who are short on time, but still want to make a difference in the Neighborhood they can join a Committee as a general member. This would be the forum for people to voice thoughts on a more narrow topic than what is covered in Monthly meetings. No attendance would be required, just the opportunity to volunteer time and talents when people have them to spare.