



Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – February 28, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by Co-President Amy

**Welcome and Open Comments**

20+ members and guests were present.

**Minutes from January 2019 meeting**

Minutes from the January meeting were approved as written.

**Treasurer Report**

**Reminder:** Annual dues apply to the full calendar year.

\$10 per household, \$25 business.

Paid members are voting members

Beginning Balance		\$ 4,870.21
Membership Deposit		\$ 190.00
Checks PAID		\$ (220.96)
INC Check		\$ (40.00)
Ending Balance Per Bank		<b>\$ 4,799.25</b>

	OPNA Funds	\$ 2,987.86
	ART Funds	\$ 1,811.39

### Police Report

CRO Jim Lopez

720-913-1248

[Jim.lopez@denvergov.org](mailto:Jim.lopez@denvergov.org)

District 3

1625 S. University Blvd.

Non-emergency dispatch # 720-913-2000

[pocketgov.org/police](http://pocketgov.org/police)

### BROADWAY COP SHOP

487 S Broadway

Follow the Denver police twitter page to see any information on line.

[Denver Police Dept. \(@DenverPolice\) · Twitter](https://twitter.com/DenverPolice)<https://twitter.com/DenverPolice>

[pocketgov.org/police](http://pocketgov.org/police) is the Nextdoor version for police reporting where you can sign up and find out about any crimes in your own or other neighborhoods.

No officers present at the meeting they but passed along the message that they are actively working on a shooting incident which happened between two people who knew each other. Nothing else could be said since it is an active investigation.

### Reviewing OPNA By-Laws

Mara gave an overview of our current By-Laws which can be found on our [website](#). She read the following from the By-laws

#### PURPOSE AND VISION

- to encourage communication and participation among members so that problems can be understood and solved and opportunities recognized and realized
- to allow members to distinguish their own self-interests as a community and recognize how these fit or conflict with those embraced by other communities and governmental jurisdictions
- to make members better aware of the rights and tools to accomplish these ends available to them within Denver City, Colorado State and Federal government

– to leave the subsequent generation with better neighborhood conditions and possibilities than today's

Along with that she explained how we have declared ourselves to be a Compassionate neighborhood where we are always looking for ways to share our compassion.

She spoke about the purpose of the Board members and explained how committees can be formed for specific functions and can be comprised of one or many members. If any member has an interest in forming and/or participating in a committee, they can request at any meeting where it can be discussed and approved.

Amy explained that our current annual dues for business membership is set at \$25.00. She proposed the idea of increasing the business membership dues to allow for more flexibility which we could have with more funds. There was also talk of wanting to increase the number of business accounts and how to make them more active and visible. No motions were made and this topic could be brought back up in a future meeting for further discussion and possible change.

Ray – our delegate to the INC ([Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation](#)) also spoke about the organization which also has committees where people can become involved including Transportation, Parks and Rec and Zoning.

**Jolon Clark's Office (Council District 7) [www.luckyDistrict7.org](http://www.luckyDistrict7.org)**

Jolon was present and provided the following updates.

- Thanked us for our flexibility in allowing him to hold the Grandoozy meeting before our meeting where there was a great turnout and a lot of feedback provided. He will provide updates at a future meeting once they have compiled and down selected the possible neighborhood area projects.
- Tate Carpenter is the new city council aide who has replaced Autumn who moved to Missouri. She is an expert at pocketgov and will be working along side with Jolon and Maggie.

Contact info for Tate

Office: 720.337.7777

E-mail: [tate.carpenter@denvergov.org](mailto:tate.carpenter@denvergov.org)

- City council moving thru process initiative to change minimum wage to \$15 per hour. This applies to local employees in Denver.
- Moving forward to have feminine hygiene products removed from sales tax (Denver specific) State level – has not gone thru yet.
- Putting together a tour of our land fill, recycling, and compost sites sometime in the next few months. Contact Jolon and/or Maggie if you are interested in making the tour. Number will be limited so email soon to let them know  
[jolon.clark@denvergov.org](mailto:jolon.clark@denvergov.org)  
[maggie.thompson@denvergov.org](mailto:maggie.thompson@denvergov.org)

- Ebikes – There are 3 different types where type 1 and 2 are similar and can be ridden on bike path. Type 3 - mopeds can not be in bike lane.
- Plastic bags and straws – can we ban? Existing state law says that no local government can ban. They may repeal this or try to move for a statewide ban. Reach out to our state representative and senator to let them know if this is what you want.

Rob – asked when is the next coffee social with Jolon? March 23rd, For location, check on website.

Mara – asked about Jewell bridge funds and where are we now with that project? In design phase right now. The rail spur on Jewell Ave east of Santa Fe has been removed. Still need to acquire one more piece of land on the east side. He will let us know when it gets to the point where we can be involved by providing community input.

### **Community Garden Study**

Heidi spoke to us about a community garden study which has been happening here in Denver where they are looking for participants for the upcoming growing season. They are working with UC Denver and the American cancer society where they are trying to determine what is the long term affect of community gardens. They are currently working with 20 gardens and are recruiting new participants. Participants must be over 18 and new to gardening and interested in learning how to garden. They provide gardening class, seeds and plants. There is no minimum number of hours required to participate and financial compensation will be provided.

Contact Angel Villalobos, Project Coordinator, University of Colorado

[angel.villalobos@ucdenver.edu](mailto:angel.villalobos@ucdenver.edu)

303-724-1235

Rob – provided an endorsement for the program where he has a friend who participated in it and loved it and learned a lot and is still participating. Please encourage your friends to join this study and learn how to garden!

**Sara McCarthy** is running for Denver clerk and recorder. She spoke to us about why she is running and her experience with working in neighborhoods, her volunteer experience including free university, habitat, historic preservation and local food bank. Contact information [smcarthy@gmail.com](mailto:smcarthy@gmail.com) 303-204-8722

**Food Pantry** ([www.comministry-denver.org](http://www.comministry-denver.org)) – in operation for 50 years, located at 1755 S. Zuni St. Denver. Open 4 days a week and will serve anyone. They partner with other pantries and also kids clothing bank.

contact # 303-935-3428

Rob – How can we support? You can go to their website to find different ways to donate. Right now they need coats and canned goods, having become depleted after the holidays. Also, need more food in summer for kids along with commodities. In the summer they will take donations of fresh food.

Amy – Are any volunteers needed? They need more people to help with sorting during their annual drive.

Mara – Made a motion to the group to do a food drive next month? It was seconded and approved unanimously. Drive will include canned food, socks, underwear, and coats.

### **History Corner**

Check out our [website](#) to watch neighbors telling historic stories from Overland Park neighborhood. Let us know if you have a story you would like to share in one of our upcoming meetings

### **Overland Social**

Overland Socials occur on the second Wednesday of the month: It is a chance to get together with neighbors and hang out at one of our local restaurants. The next social is

**March 13** at **La Chiva** <https://www.lachivacolombian.com/> Please RSVP on

Facebook.

Watch for reminders on our Facebook page **Overland Park Neighborhood Association - OPNA**

**Community announcements (open to anyone)**

Amy - Invited all to the upcoming conference on April 6th.

**"Into the Neighborhood": A One-Day Conference on Outreach and the Registered Neighborhood Organization, Saturday, April 6, 2019, 10a.m.-3p.m. Keynote by Irene Aguilar.**

The East Colfax Neighborhood Association and the Overland Park Neighborhood Association are excited to announce a one-day conference on how registered neighborhood organizations (RNO's) support the needs of those who may be marginalized and oppressed within our communities.

See full announcement at the end of this mailing where there are links to the website where you can register.

Mara – Showed an example of a notice she received in the mail recently from planning and zoning. This is a new process where residents are being notified when there is any rezoning happening within your immediate area. Be on the lookout for this type of notice to find out what is happening and how you might be able to respond.

Mara - [Habitat for Humanity](#) is currently building 11 units (row houses) on Galapagos (south of Evans) and looking for volunteers where no experience is required. You can volunteer for a few hours, 1/2 or full days. Contact information below:

[Metro Denver, HFH of \(CO\)](#) Denver, CO

3245 Eliot St

Denver, CO 80211-3287

United States

[www.habitatmetrodenver.org](http://www.habitatmetrodenver.org)

(303) 534-2929

[build@habitatmetrodenver.org](mailto:build@habitatmetrodenver.org)

Amy – March 28th meeting will be a shift from the regular agenda to make room for the first **OPNA Mayoral Forum**. We will conduct a quick 30 minute meeting before launching into a 90 minute forum with at least 3 of the current contenders for Mayor. We will implement a moderator who will introduce the candidates, ask three pre-selected questions to each of the candidates where they will be given an equal amount of time to answer. There will also be an opportunity for the public to submit questions to the moderator to be considered during the question and answer session. Contact OPNA if you are interested in being a part of this forum.

Jack – This year marks the **40th anniversary** of the formation of **OPNA!** We will be celebrating throughout the year starting with our first quarterly Equinox party happening in March. Stay tuned for further announcement and details.

Ronnie – With the impressive snow pack in the mountains this winter, looking forward to another neighborhood tubing trip down the Platte River. Starting from Carson Nature center floating all the way down to Grant Frontier park, stopping for lunch half way down river. Stay tuned and ready to ride the rapids by preparing yourself with a good floating tube with cover to avoid punctures on rocks. Check out Clear Creek Tubes found [here](#). You also might want to consider a floating cooler.

### **Compassion**

THANK YOU to Color Up Therapeutics for hosting our last social and providing a tour of your facility. We are so happy to have you in our neighborhood!

THANK YOU to AJ's Pit BBQ who provided the amazing food for everyone during the Grandoozy meeting and our own meeting!! [www.PitBarBQ.com](http://www.PitBarBQ.com) 2180 S. Delaware St. Denver 773-318-1403

### **Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm**

OPNA meetings are held the 4th Thursday of every month, excluding November and December.

Upcoming meeting dates for **2019** include the following: March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24

Next neighborhood meeting will be on **Thursday, March 28**, 2019, at **6:30 pm** at **Studios at Overland Crossing 2205 S. Delaware St.**, Denver, CO 80223 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](#) **Overland Park Neighborhood Association - OPNA**

Contact us at: [OPNAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:OPNAinfo@gmail.com)

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RNO's have traditionally been the province of residential and business ownership; however, there is an urgent need for RNO's and other community groups in the Denver metro area to be representative voices for diverse residents and populations. In the context of Denver's decreasing housing affordability and increasing socioeconomic segregation, vulnerability to displacement and exclusion from structures of power are rapidly on the rise (whether due to linguistic access, immigration status, socioeconomic factors, or systemic oppression). Neighborhood associations are well-poised as a first step to civic engagement, and are thus positioned, perhaps like no other component of city government, to combat hyper-development and the unjust forces of displacement a city can so easily become inured to.

Please join us for our "Into the Neighborhood" one-day conference, including a keynote speech by Irene Aguilar, Neighborhood Equity and Stabilization Director in Denver's Office of Economic Development. There will be two panels and a host of



ideas on community-building activities (please watch the conference web page, linked [here](#), for updates).

The event takes place Saturday, April 6, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Counterpath, 7935 East 14th Avenue in Denver. Free and open to the public, with a catered free lunch.

More about Irene Aguilar [here](#) and [here](#). If you would like to participate in this event, please write to [Eastcolfaxneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:Eastcolfaxneighborhood@gmail.com).

**Overland Park Neighborhood Association - OPNA**

Contact us at: [OPNAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:OPNAinfo@gmail.com)