



Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) – August 27 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by President Mara Owen

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approval of July meeting minutes
- Treasurer Report
- Police Report
- Update on Construction schedule/Grand Frontier/River
- Fitness Zone at Pasquinel's landing- Chandi Aldena
- Jolon Clark's Office (Council District 7) Maggie Thompson
- Broadway I-25 Station Area Plan update
- Denver Days Picnic Debrief
- Compassion
- Announcements

Business

Minutes from July meeting approved as read.

Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$689.05	
Deposit/Payments	25.00	Donations for insurance Denver Days
	(100.00)	Paid church
Ending Balance of	\$614.05	

Police Report

Officer Sharon reported that for the past month, overall crime is down 57% in all categories. Even burglary is down by 1! The highest concern right now is in the RTD area including car thefts. Also Broadway and Iowa area where transients congregate and drug dealings occur. Jack – asked about

the new commander. She is busy but will have commander's meeting on Sept 1st 6pm at District 3 office. Starting October, meetings will be on first Monday of the month, 6pm.

Fitness Zone at Pasquinel's landing- Chandi Aldena

Chandi from The Trust for Public Lands presented information regarding the planned fitness zone at Pasquinel's Landing. It will be located right off the trail as it is looping thru the park. The fitness zone is similar to what you find in a rec center or gym, where all pieces of equipment are in one location. They are permanent structures, built for outdoor usage. She presented us with 20+ choices of equipment where we were all able to vote for the top 5. A quick tally of top 5 included Elliptical machine, chest press, lat pulldown and captain's chair. She will take this information back to be used in the final decision. The installation will follow after the construction is complete where Denver parks and rec will prep the site.

Mara – asked Why a fitness zone? There has been funding provided for fitness zones in other existing parks throughout Denver. With the reconstruction of Pasquinel's landing, this became a prime candidate to be included in the park since Denver parks and rec had already planned for an adult fitness area.

Update on Construction schedule/Grand Frontier/River

Michael Bouchard was unable to attend the meeting but has agreed to be at the next OPNA meeting in September. He provided a written update regarding the projects in our area and requests any questions or feedback returned to him thru Mara. See bottom of the minutes for details.

Jolon Clark's Office (Council District 7) Maggie Thompson

Update from Maggie included the following:

1 – Jolon along with the city forester visited a few cities in the mid-west to meet and discuss how they have been dealing with the Emerald Ash borer disease which has started to affect Denver.

Information gathered will be provided including education and treatment of this disease.

Denie – asked whether assistance would be offered to lower income and elderly for tree mitigation. The council is working to get this into the budget for treatment and tree removal.

There will be a website created which will provide more information. They are also looking for ways for neighborhoods to inventory the trees in their areas.

2 – Jolon will be travelling to Amsterdam next week for the Greenlands Project – People for Bikes (<http://www.peopleforbikes.org>). They will be meeting with decision makers to learn more about bike facilities and will bring back info.

3 – September 25-27. Bikes on Broadway is planning a demonstration / feasibility study to connect 6th Ave down to Alameda. There will be a 2 direction bike lane on the East side of

Broadway. On Saturday, Sept 26th – merchants will activate in support. Come out and ride and support this fun event.

4 – There is a new landowner of the Shaddock site where there is talk of some 200 housing units planned for development. The city council is working on communicating with them regarding the landing site for the Jewell Ave. pedestrian bridge which is currently on their property. They will reach out to them and invite them to come and present at our OPNA meeting in the future.

Peter – has also been in contact with Robin Kniech regarding this as she is also an important city representative for our neighborhood.

Mara – asked for a status update of the new lights and crosswalk signs scheduled to be installed on Evans Bridge? Maggie will provide update for next meeting.

Broadway I-25 Station Area Plan update

Mara is our delegate and is gathering ideas. They are looking for input from everyone, not just the delegates. Connectivity is the big topic where they are hoping to create a “Midtown” area, not just a transportation hub. It would be more of a destination area with mixed uses of retail and medium to light industrial. **The next meeting is Tues Sept 1st – 5:30-7:30pm - Working group.**

Location: Denver Design District, 595 S. Broadway

Denver Days Picnic Debrief

We joined forces with Ruby Hill and Godsman Park for a rocking evening picnic on top of Ruby Hill to celebrate Denver Days. Highlights included the “Who’s your Neighbor” Bingo game where it provided a fun way to get to know our neighbors. There was a Piñata for the kids and lots of great homemade food including beer muffins for the adult crowd. Fun was had by all!

Compassion

Jack – Expressed how totally compassionate and totally awesome it was to bring the neighborhoods together for Denver Days.

Mara – acknowledged Ronnie for always sharing his fully equipped 'party bucket' which is much better than resorting to paper and plastic.

Jack – acknowledged Mary Ann Buchanan who has lived in the same house in Overland Park since the mid 40s. He would like to organize a sit down with her where she can share stories about what she has seen in the neighborhood over the years.

JC – once again acknowledged Ronnie for coming by everyday to keep him on the ball!

Announcements

- **Colorado Public Radio (CPR)** will attend our next meeting at John Collins Church. They currently own the land southwest of Ruby Hill Park at the top of Jewell Ave. and are considering moving

from their location in Centennial. They are interested in figuring out ways to help connect from Jewell to the light rail and also be involved in Levitt pavilion. They want to hear our thoughts and input. Stayed tuned for the next meeting and come and participate in this lively discussion.

- **Arts and Venue update.** Artwork has been approved and there is more paperwork before going into contract phase. Then it will be 3-4 weeks before we can engage public works and then we will be able to paint on the bridge! Kudos to Jolon who helped to push this through.

- Ray – announced **INC's annual Safety Expo, on Saturday, Sept 12th at East High School.** There will be a parade of classic cars and cool stuff for the kids. See [here](#) for more details.

- Casey – **All are invited this Sunday morning (Aug 30th at Overland Pond Park for a “weeding” party. Starting from 7am, to last all day. Come join your neighbors and friends to help keep this local park in good condition for everyone to enjoy.**

- Judy – asked whether we have considered being present as a member on LinkedIn. As more young people move into the neighborhood, it is another way to become connected and get the word out regarding OPNA.

- Regarding the new Logos. They are currently on our Facebook page and we will taking a final vote soon, possibly by October.

- Trash Talk with Ronnie - Ronnie handed out flyers, and discussed the new Fat Belly, solar powered trash compactor at Overland Pond Park

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next neighborhood meeting will be on **Thursday, September 24, 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

<http://www.opnadenver.org>

River Vision Update: (Michael Bouchard, Denver Parks and Rec)

Schedule B – Overland River Reach

Now that the water has finally receded, our contractor, Naranjo, is completing the last main piece of construction, Riffle 5, just south of Jewel. They will complete this by the end of next week.

They will also be repairing the damage from the sustained high water. This includes:

- Rebuilding the wetland benches
- Regrading the eroded banks
- Adding concrete ramps at Jetty 1 and 2 up to the 10-yr flood elevation
- Grouting the boulder walls at the Overlooks to prevent further trail erosion

Also along this stretch, but by a different contractor we have nearly completed:

- Planted (65) cottonwood and willow trees
- Planted (67) assorted native shrubs
- Installed dedicated irrigation zones for the new plant material
- Repaired existing irrigation zones for native grass areas
- Right now they are finishing up regrading the trail and disturbed native areas
- We are waiting until later in the fall to re-seed and hydromulch this stretch

Schedule C – Pasquinel's Landing

ECl is the contractor. So far they have:

- Completed 75% of the island and secondary channel
- 100% of the boulder wall and gravel bar at the bottom of the lawn
- They've built the concrete crossings to the island
- They've started installing the trail on the island

Over the next month they will:

- Construct the riffle at the upstream end of the secondary channel
- Connect the downstream end of the secondary channel to the river
- Begin removing their sheet-pile cofferdam
- Begin working up from the river on the trails, boulder walls, irrigation and planting areas

We anticipate completion by the end of 2015

Schedule D – Grant Frontier

ECI is the contractor. They will not begin full-fledged construction until early October. The playground has been removed, fencing has been put up and there are 2 big holes in the ground.

- Ruby Hill MT bike course has started construction in the SW corner of the Park
- Their design requires about 10,000 CY of fill material to create the topography
- We worked out a deal between the two projects to bring extra material from Grant up to Ruby

Combined savings for both parks is over \$100,000

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.