

## University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)

August 11, 2020 Monthly Meeting, held via Zoom

Minutes prepared by Paul Bloede

In Attendance: Margy Kennedy, Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Paul Bloede, City Councilman Paul Kashmann.

Times and Dates: This meeting began at 6:35pm and was adjourned at 7:50pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30pm to 8pm, via Zoom. Margy will attempt to invite our local DPS School Board member Scott Balderman, at Paul K's suggestion, to a future meeting, indeed to this next, September UNNA meeting. The uncertainty over schools re-opening and various concerns about schools in general from Paul B, a substitute teacher, and anyone else, can be discussed.

July Minutes Approval: Paul's July minutes were approved as is, without changes. It was noted, in the future, to include that night's commencement & adjournment times, and when the next meeting is scheduled.

Treasurer's Report: UNNA bank balance went up by \$10 in July, producing the ending and current balance of \$849.90. The \$10 was the donation by Margy to UNNA deposited by Paul to avoid any six-months inactivity fee. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

### (1) UNNA Website

The UNNA website, which we have for 2 or 3 years, for free, and which includes neighborhood member Steve Greenlee's and his wife's business advertisements, as they are providing us the site for that long, is the URL [www.universityneighbors.com](http://www.universityneighbors.com).

We are all asked (including Councilman Kashmann), specifically by Margy, to each privately review this entire website, ASAP, and then email to Margy, ASAP, any changes we'd like to see made to the website. Changes already mentioned but should also be emailed to her include DU buildings in the main photo on the home page, even though they're mostly obscured by trees and grassy fields in the foreground (since UNNA is not directly connected to or affiliated with DU in any way, other than DU's campus is in our area). We do wish the UNNA logo to be substituted there and sent by Sean to Steve Greenlee, if that has not yet been done. Margy plans to have all changes she likes implemented by the September 10<sup>th</sup> UNNA meeting, so that a final vote on the website, as is then, can occur then. Someone (it was discussed, tonight, Sean and/or Margy) should have update access, so approved minutes and other information, including annual meeting postponement or cancellation, can be uploaded, and Shutterfly linked to the new website.

### (2) Police/Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC)

Police have been busier than usual, so there is no August Citizens Advisory Board meeting, and other informative interactions with the public have been reduced for a month. Steve Fisher has volunteered to become the Neighborhood Watch Block Commander for his block. Related to that and work by Community Resource Officers will be more distribution of crime statistics and District 3 police activity information.

Complaints about car racing along I-25 late at night continue on NextDoor and elsewhere. There is a task force of City and State officials studying this problem. Community members can't join the task force, but having an official associated with our neighborhood included is still a possibility.

Paul B was quite concerned about Katie's announcement that INC's Transportation Committee is studying, and essentially advocating, something that is being rolled out, per Pat Kennedy, retiring manager of Denver's street maintenance, by City government and has support from a number of sources, including Mayor Hancock's campaign for zero traffic fatalities. This is a reduction, probably city-wide, of speed limits, by 5 mph, including the default Denver side street speed limit going down from 25 mph to 20 mph. Arguments for this idea were presented by various people, including Paul Kashmann, and arguments against, by Paul B.

UNNA can only distribute information and not take a stand, now, and most likely when things are more finalized, although taking a position at that time wasn't entirely ruled out by Katie. Paul K indicated that he was instrumental in getting \$200,000 into the City's budget for a broad study on speed limits. This will take significant time, and is what Paul K said will be definitive, in terms of speed limit changes. He said that process will permit citizen input for and against the idea of reducing speed limits in the city. There is a INC Transportation Committee meeting that will take up this whole topic August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm via Zoom. Signs may be appearing in the city in support of the initiative, that say "20 is Plenty" [as a significant component of this overall effort is to reduce the current default Denver side street speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph]

INC is mainly occupied with its general consensus (although there remains considerable disagreement even within INC) about the unacceptability of the current 175 page proposal, advocated by some City Council members, to radically change Denver's regulations on group living arrangements. Paul Kashmann and Katie and most or at least much of INC are convinced the current document is too long and highly complex and needs to be unbundled. The whole subject needs to be better communicated among the neighborhoods. The allowing of 10 unrelated individuals is too high, per Paul K. The issue of enforcement and bad neighbor behavior, regardless of the exact size of a household, is of concern to Katie. She and INC also ask, what is the definition of living at a home versus just staying there? Paul K revealed the current proposal goes before the City Planning Board in August 19<sup>th</sup>, in a meeting open to the public and to include input from the public, a meeting that he predicted should be a major airing of the whole issue, and likely an intense meeting.

### (3) University of Denver

Only DU students can see the 3 kinds of classes, in-person (perhaps only if smaller-size), online/remote learning, etc. Students and employees will be required to be tested by National Jewish center for Covid. Buildings are closed this fall, except to students and employees using them; campus is closed except for students and employees, other than with masks people can still walk outside throughout campus, this fall. Student dorms will be 1 student per bedroom. DU Law Students will be at Auraria campus dorms, which have somewhat different rules. September 7<sup>th</sup> Freshmen move in. September 10<sup>th</sup> returning students move in. Everyone is expected to leave campus by end of November. A very many pages long document on Covid

precautions that are being taken, is on the DU website. Unclear whether the El Pomar Natatorium and Coors Fitness Center will re-open to the public this fall.

(4) Additional Comments, and Answers to Questions, by Paul Kashmann

Paul K is not in favor of “defunding” or “abolishing” the police, or reducing their budget in too major a way, including as more crime exists since the Covid pandemic. But their budget should be scrutinized. Denver is progressive in that it already sends out social workers with police or in lieu of police in certain situations.

Paul’s investigation, that he is helping lead, involves analyzing the use of force during the Denver riots: how much of the use of force was it in accordance with existing standards for police use of force? Even if the vast majority of force deployed was within the current standard, should that standard be changed?

This investigation involves many people, and will take significant time to complete. There is much body camera footage to pour through, for example. It’s unclear in cases of potential police abuse whether it was Denver or Aurora police, in some instances, and DA Beth McCann has indicated special requirements/alleged improprieties must be met, before she is permitted to charge a police officer for excessive use of force, including per state law.

It is only at the State level, where Governor Polis has only recently appointed the specific members that will comprise a committee looking into changing names of places and things in the state and city, that there is a main thrust of action along those lines, currently, per Paul K. He hopes there will be broad discussion and opportunity for public input.

Katie suggested parts of City government, including per INC, are trying to objectively be involved and assess the situation, and specific names, as well. She indicated there is consensus out there for name changes not to be primarily accurately described as simply a “knee-jerk reaction.” There are apparently different feelings about the Stapleton Neighborhood name change, which it was essentially forced to undergo. Stapleton Neighborhood is now called Central Park Neighborhood.