

University Neighbors Neighborhood Association
June 11, 2020 Monthly Meeting, held via Zoom
Minutes, prepared by Paul Bloede

In Attendance: City Councilman Paul Kashmann, website manager and neighborhood resident Steve Greenlee, UNNA members Margy Kennedy, Sean Uyeda, Catherine Fisher, Steve Fisher, and Paul Bloede

May Minutes Approval: Margy moved to have everyone approve her edited version of Paul's initial minutes, after Sean considers it versus his own edited version. All of this will be done via subsequent emails, to this meeting, initiated by Paul.

Treasurer's Report: UNNA bank balance remains unchanged at \$839.90. Paul will remind Margy to issue him a UNNA check for \$10 in early July, to avoid another \$10 monthly inactivity fee, expected in August.

(1) Annual Meeting Postponed, and Evanston Center News

It was motioned and approved that the annual meeting be postponed from its late August/September time frame. This will be well-announced to the community. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, space restrictions are quite severe at Evanston Center, and may not be less so by that time frame. Although this is counter to our organizational documents and the City's normal expectations for RNOs, Councilman Kashmann thought this decision was reasonable and consistent with other organizations in light of the pandemic. A concurrent decision was approved to not resume in-person monthly UNNA meetings until such time as there are less restrictions at Evanston Center, and we are comfortable with the pandemic situation.

(2) Comments by Paul Kashmann

Per a meeting conducted by Happy Haynes, Denver's parks are currently open to group usage of 10 people or less practicing social distancing. That number will gradually increase. Playgrounds in parks are still closed, but will soon open with visitors encouraged to use their own sanitation supplies on the equipment.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, University of Denver has put a major halt, for an indeterminate length, on two key aspects on its recent major Initiative for the future: the construction of a hotel and a new campus/Ritchie center entrance, at the northeast of campus. Campus is officially closed, but some international students are still being housed on-campus, and some out-of-state domestic students have chosen to stay in their off-campus housing.

Predominately African-American neighborhoods in Denver include the far northeast, a north-central, and a western portion of the city just outside downtown. Those areas have been studied by the City, resulting in findings of: lower public school quality/student performance, higher childhood obesity, and higher overall mortality rates versus the rest of the City. In conclusion, the City and County of Denver (CCD) has stated racism is a public health crisis, and it will attempt to begin rebalancing those inequities.

In his leadership role on issues involving public safety, Councilman Kashmann will interview Denver's Police Chief and Director of Safety on June 17th primarily to understand the current "use of force" policies, if they were abided by during the recent city demonstrations, and if they need to be improved. The investigation will continue in July with the same and related questions being asked of Denver District Attorney Beth McCann.

Around 3,400 emails from all over the country have been received by City Council, regarding requests to "defund" police, Councilman Kashmann resists that term, but thinks assessing the services police are asked to provide is reasonable. Some of the services may potentially be better off transferred to other existing departments of government.

(3) Joint Statement on Racism by Overland Park, Ruby Hill, Athmar Park, and Valverde RNOs
It was moved that a similar statement not applicable to be adopted by UNNA, for various reasons.

(4) 5G Topic, plus that and Other INC Topics

INC's specific objections to proposed changes to CCD's Group Living Arrangement have been received and respected by CCD, to the extent that the objections are being given close consideration, even with the use of a mediator.

The most salient new topic for INC is the issue of developers wanting to build buildings that obstruct mountain views ("viewplains"). This reoccurring topic has been given new life and attention by INC, because of a building planned for the Golden Triangle area that would obstruct the mountain views of many people in the Cheesman Park area. INC has started to communicate its position to INC.

Paul reported on extensive activity in his role on the Legislative Committee of Coloradans for Safe Technology, an anti-5G special interest group. They asked him to reengage INC on its February commitment to create a new 5G study committee. No relevant communications have been received from INC to date. Paul will email the committee heads, rather than the suggested committee chair Michael Henry, to help start the effort. He wishes to primarily focus on identifying existing siting restrictions on 5G towers and whether current and future towers meet or fail those restrictions.

(5) Website Hosted by Steve Greenlee

Resident of UNNA area, realtor, and former lawyer Steve Greenlee, and his fiancée, who runs her own graphic design company, have designed a website for us which they offered to host and maintain free of charge, through December 2022. By July 2022, they will notify us of their desire to continue free hosting and maintenance or propose charging us for fees (perhaps up to \$500/year). It was moved and approved that their business can be advertised, but how/if other local businesses might advertise we'll work out later. Colors still need to be changed from DU colors and our search engine results should more clearly differentiate UNNA Denver from similarly named RNOs around the country, and our logo still needs to be used. UNNA approved all this.

(6) DU, Police, Zoning, Noise (beyond items aforementioned)

DU has announced a loss of \$45 million due to the pandemic shutdown. DU has announced 38 layoffs of employees, and many salary reductions.

Crime statistics are similar to those in the past, for our area; low crime, primarily vehicle break-ins. Despite well-publicized arrests and car impounding of late-night racing cars along I-25, the problem continues, including along I-25, Broadway, and Buchtel Blvd. Those bothered are still encouraged to call 311.

2520 S Marion St, still, and now very recently, 1790 S Humboldt St, have asked for zoning exceptions to permit accessory dwelling units. UNNA voted to officially oppose, and Sean will file the required form with CCD indicating such, for any property in the UNNA area. Judy (via Margy) notified UNNA about Birdcall Restaurant, along Evans being the subject of multiple 311 calls by neighbors and police visits, due to a DJ hired to play loud music in the parking lot during day time hours. Those efforts may have been successful.

(7) Second Yale Corridor CCD Project Committee Zoom Meeting for the Public

Paul Bloede and Councilman Paul Kashmann attended this Zoom meeting on June 8th. Important items per Paul's notes are the following:

- (1) The Yale corridor, from Downing to Holly/Highline Canal, has its goals now broken into three areas: Creating Multi-Modal Network, Building Connections, and Improving Safety.
- (2) After repeated mentions by Paul B., City officials seemed reluctant to talk, and unaware about the fact that the 27 RTD bus route, existing for decades along the corridor at least as far east as Colorado Blvd, was shut down by RTD for the past 2 years due to lack of ridership.
- (3) City officials will now take into consideration Harvard Gulch trail, not only for cycling modality, but also for pedestrian modality. It will consider if the former steep trail drop-off problem at curbs, west of University Blvd, still exists east of University Blvd.
- (4) Plans are funded for major access improvements at the Light Rail Station and Highline Canal, and for a new stoplight at an intersection a short way's west of I-25.
- (5) Per tonight's discussion, Paul Bloede will bring up, at the next Yale Corridor public meeting, the fact of massive ice accumulation in winter along the south side of Yale Avenue from Downing to Colorado Blvd. Also, he will reiterate Margy's concern, already raised, on ease of access between King Soopers shopping center and University Hills Plaza shopping center north of it, and the absences or narrowness of sidewalks there.