

**University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)**

October 15, 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 6:27pm and was adjourned at 8:05pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2020 from 6:30pm to 8pm, via Zoom. Margy will attempt to invite our local DPS School Board member Scott Balderman, and UNNA website designer Steve Greenlee to this meeting, as they weren't available for the 10/15 meeting.

Meeting Protocol: Ongoing, starting with 10/15, it was decided Margy will lead UNNA meetings, going through the agenda prepared by Paul, with minutes being taken by Paul.

September Minutes Approval: Paul's earlier-submitted 2<sup>nd</sup> version of the September minutes was approved as is, without changes. Paul volunteered to continue to work on concision and to continue to refrain, in most cases, as discussed, from identifying most individuals who raised issues and questions or advocated particular conclusions.

Treasurer's Report: UNNA bank balance remains at \$849.90. There was no activity since the last UNNA meeting. Margy will donate a small amount to be deposited, in December 2020, to avoid the \$10 inactivity fee.

(1) City Councilman Paul Kashmann's Comments

(1) Regarding City and County of Denver November 2020 ballot initiatives, Kashmann indicated he favors a mayor-heavy balance in terms of city governance for Denver, as has been its history since inception, but, because it is currently so much weighted towards the mayor, more so than many other mayor-heavy cities, he favors the slate of ballot measures increasing city council power at the expense of the mayor, and/or otherwise taking some power away from the mayor.

Those initiatives, he said, included:

2E: council required to confirm mayor's cabinet appointments

2D: creating a non-binding citizen advisory board for the Department of Transportation, like the one that already exists for the Department of Parks and Recreation

2F: flexibility in how council conducts its weekly meetings, open to the public, especially appropriate in the current pandemic situation

2G: not just the mayor, as currently, but also the council, will be enabled to appropriate unbudgeted additional revenues and sources of revenues, mid-year, between budgets

2I was also discussed: would overturn current pit bull ownership ban via 3 year provisional license transitioning to normal license, should the animal not be violent. Group discussion noted both the undeniable history of pit bull violence, but also the dominant factor of how a dog is

raised and cared for, transcending breed, something veterinarians and other animal professionals also cite.

(2) No change in status of group living amendment changes and Paul's position on them, versus September minutes

(3) ADUs are Accessory Dwelling Units. There is much citizen pressure for zoning exceptions to allow ADUs, them also referenced positively in Blueprint Denver, but only to the extent of allowing neighborhoods individually to decide the issue. Significant discussion occurred: general positive comments were definitely made, along with the fact that World War II created a need for ADUs in University neighborhood and so many exist and are accepted as grandfathered in, but also concerns were raised about (a) the unreasonableness of approving ADUs in a neighborhood, such as University neighborhood, before the City gets around to that neighborhood to create a comprehensive neighborhood plan, and (b) excess noise, parking and eyesore problems even some of the grandfathered in University neighborhood ADUs can occasionally be said to present.

(4) Starting in January 2021, most neighborhoods in Councilman Kashmann's District 6 that are east of Colorado Boulevard are set to begin the official comprehensive neighborhood planning process, with the City and County of Denver, a process desired to take no more than a year, but which has recently been taking neighborhoods more than 18 months. No date has been set for planning within University Neighborhood.

(5) Councilman Kashmann will inform DU that UNNA requests more communication than just quarterly Good Neighbors meeting, and ahead of, rather than after, DU plans are put into effect. He thinks he can encourage what he also encourages UNNA to do, to create a communication relationship with a building person at DU named James Rosner.

Kashmann encourages UNNA to manage its communication expectations in light of the devastation the pandemic has had on DU's finances, its official pre-pandemic approved comprehensive long-term plan for the university, and the nature and extent of in-person learning.

(6) Kashmann has confidence in the DPS official in charge of safety, and the excellence of the working relationship between DPS and DPD, once police are expelled from their long-time onsite presence at schools, beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

(7) Kashmann revealed 40-60 firefighters of the Denver Fire Department also have forest fire training and are dispersed annually around the country to help fight forest fires. He's confident overall fire-fighting authorities who have stated 3 of the 4 major 2020 Colorado fires were human-caused, will thoroughly research the cause, and if possible, will not only identify the specific individuals responsible, but prosecute them.

(8) Kashmann is unaware of the status of the Ethics Investigation brought against City Councilwoman DeBaca, by a DPD police officer. He will get back to UNNA on this, at its November meeting.

## (2) Additional University of Denver Topics

Campus is currently in Covid Status Yellow. After breaking socializing rules and incurring breakouts of positive student covid test results, DU has suspended some sports teams and sororities. There has also been a recent covid outbreak among the gymnastics team. All classes are attempting to be jointly offered in-person and remotely, with either teacher or student making the decision. Some sports, in particular the key DU sport of hockey, are now discussing playing the season in a bubble situation, offsite from DU, similar to recent professional basketball and hockey games, and without tickets being sold.

Stephanie O'Malley, DU Vice Chancellor, has pledged to act, and has done so, in response to a complaint by a UNNA member of loud partying near the member's house, and complaints by another UNNA member of non-social distant or masked congregations of up to 10 likely DU students, either talking loudly, or using in a hard way the playground equipment, or sharing marijuana to smoke, on various nights, from the fall of darkness to as late as 1:30am, in the playground of DeBoer Park.

Although this has gone on in the past, as well, there is, considering national circumstances a renewed intense discussion on whether DU's nickname of Pioneers and its drawing mascot, a caricature of a pioneer, called "Boone", should be changed.

## (3) Police Department Report

Only developments since September minutes are a racial bias presentation occurred within the police department and also presented to the public and available online.

## (4) Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC)

INC is scheduling video panel discussions on "cops, courts, and cages", meaning the reasonableness, or not, of: (1) the defunding the police concept, (2) equal justice or not, currently, in the court system, in Denver, and (3) anything inequitable or improper in Denver's jail system. The first discussion has already occurred, and all discussions will be recorded and posted as videos at the INC website, which is [www.denverinc.org](http://www.denverinc.org).

## (5) Yale Corridor City Project and No Cars in Parks Movement

All interested citizens, and, in particular, residents near or on the Yale Corridor (Yale Ave from Downing St to Holly St) are encouraged to take a survey on their thoughts about the Yale Corridor and the project. All interested citizens are encouraged also to take a survey on their thoughts about eliminating all access, or permission, of automobile travel, within the portions of Denver's city parks where it is now allowed. Both surveys, with further navigation, can be found at the City and County of Denver website, that is [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org).

## (7) UNNA Website: [universityneighbors.com](http://universityneighbors.com)

Consensus was, although there was disagreement, that UNNA in the September meeting did not decide to have a listing of all the businesses in the UNNA territory removed from this website, since it's only in the Resources section. Regardless, consensus was it's desirable to leave the listing, only offering to move them to home page advertising prominence if they pay UNNA to advertise.

Resolution still must somehow occur on: no Shutterfly UNNA minutes posted that are later than January 2020 meeting, although several subsequent months were skipped due to covid. No minutes in the current website.

Consensus was website is accurate in stating UNNA southern boundary is Amherst and Dartmouth Avenues, because current documents specifying only city limits are referring to city limits that do, in part, extend as far south as Dartmouth Avenue.

Steve Greenlee will be informed of these website errors on About Us page:

- (1) UNNA is correctly named as University Neighbors Neighborhood Association at top right, but in central portion of page is incorrectly named as something like “University Neighborhood Neighbors Association”
- (2) Both University Boulevard and Downing Street are listed as UNNA’s west boundaries, with no east boundary stated (word describing University Blvd should be changed from west to east)