

University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)
September 10, 2020 Monthly Meeting, held via Zoom
Minutes prepared by Paul Bloede

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

Times and Dates: This meeting began at 6:35pm and was adjourned at 8:01pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8th, from 6:30pm to 8pm, via Zoom. Margy will attempt to invite our local DPS School Board member Scott Balderman to this meeting. UNNA members are asked to submit to Margy questions for Scott ahead of this meeting.

August Minutes Approval: Paul's August minutes were approved as is, without changes.

Treasurer's Report: UNNA bank balance remains at \$849.90. There was no activity since the last UNNA meeting.

(1) City Councilman Paul Kashmann's Comments

(a) City entities continue to study possible name changes. Paul feels pillars from our country from back a long time ago, such as Washington and Jefferson, should be immune from actual name changes. He favored the name change related to Ben Stapleton, Denver Mayor from 1923-1931 and from 1935-1947, who was also a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

(b) Paul doesn't feel the police should be defunded, but their budget should be scrutinized. Denver is ahead of many other cities around the country due to its long-standing co-responder program, where mental health/social work, etc., type of responders respond to certain types of calls. It also benefits from the newer STAR program, where, for certain situations, no police are sent out, but rather a team consisting of mental health, social, and paramedic workers. Similarly, in some vehicle crash situations, police are not sent out, in favor of a trained group of civilians.

City Council did defeat Councilwoman De Baca's initiative for a defunding of police measure to appear on the November 2020 ballot.

(c) Regarding the riots in Denver after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the long investigation continues. There is a Citizens Oversight Board and an Independent Monitor involved. Paul has special confidence in the independence and capabilities of Independent Monitor Nick Mitchell and his staff, even though Nick was appointed by Mayor Hancock. Various committee hearings related to this investigation are filmed and broadcast live by Channel 8, and can be retrieved from the Denver.gov website. Paul leads the Safety Committee, but City Council also has these additional standing committees: Land Use, Transportation, and Infrastructure, Finance and Government, Business, The Safety Committee also is tasked with Education, Health, Housing, and Homelessness.

(d) Regarding the Group Living proposed changes. Paul agrees with INC that they are too complex and could benefit from being dissociated. One part of the proposal increases from 2 to 5 the number of unrelated people who can live in the same dwelling, along with unlimited relatives and children. Paul is OK with this, except he would like the allowance for unlimited relatives to be eliminated.

The second part of the proposal allows for managed group living, such as by nonprofits, and to include mental health, veterans, special needs, facilities, and halfway houses and homeless shelters: allows all of these to be sited in residential neighborhoods. Paul thinks this is too broad of an expansion of the current situation, but the devil is in the details.

Tied into this debate is the idea to create a rental registry for Denver, where all landlords who rent out their properties would need to report to some extent on their rental situation.

(2) University of Denver

Students are returning with mixed live, remote, and hybrid courses. Campus may be freely walked through by the public, but all buildings and use of buildings is strictly limited to current students, faculty, and staff. Special planning and arrangements have been made to allow for one on-campus resident in a room, no shared room roommate situations. All students, faculty, and staff must be tested for Covid before beginning their fall 2020 on-campus duties. This is in cooperation with National Jewish. Certain dorm areas have been set aside for students who test positive and can use the space for quarantine. Athletics and Newman Center events for the fall have all been postponed. This represents a financial hit to the university. The new dorm north of Evans on High is open.

Stephanie O'Malley, a DU official, led the recent quarterly DU Good Neighbors meeting. They are cracking down harder on off-campus party houses, this year, due to covid. The process is to have a complaining neighbor call non-emergency police at their 720-913-2000 number. They may be asked by police to sign a complaint. They should also notify Stephanie at her office phone number which is 303-871-2784, or via her email address of Stephanie.Omalley@du.edu.

(3) Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC)

Katie told INC UNNA is being kept informed on the group living arrangements issue, but hasn't yet, and doesn't plan, to take a formal position, one way or the other, on any of that proposal.

Parks and Recreation committee is working with Denver Parks and Rec Department on these issues, related to the actual territory of the parks: continuation of the new alcohol policy, what vehicles, up to and including cars, should be banned, if at all, and to what extent, in the parks' territory (there is now a "no cars in parks" movement). No outdoor public pools were opened, and the indoor rec center pools won't be opened due to Covid. In-person rec center workouts on the equipment will be allowed by appointment. There have been various complaints about the recent goose culling operation.

(4) Police Department Report

We do have a District 3 homeless resource person who works to find, help, and educate on their options homeless people in the district. Near Porter hospital there has been a small spike in car

thefts. One should check on their cars if left parked in the same place for more than 24 hours. Always lock your bike, have a picture with serial number available to give to police should your bike be stolen.

(5) Zoning Issues

UNNA quite some time ago filed its formal opposition to two addresses adding accessory dwellings to their property: 1790 S Humboldt St and 2560 S Marion St. These materials will be fully considered, without a need for any UNNA member to be attending, the upcoming September 22nd city hearing that will include these address' zoning change requests.

(6) Yale Corridor City Project

The next Zoom meeting is September 17th. Paul Bloede and Paul Kashmann, like in the past, will likely attend.

(7) UNNA Website: universityneighbors.com

Margy will inform Steve Greenlee of these still-needed changes: remove the listing of the names of all businesses in UNNA's territory. A relationship and possible funding should be created, including after we find out extent of traffic to our website, before specific businesses are featured. Change the homepage initial large-font words from "University Neighborhood" to "University Neighbors" or something more UNNA wording specific. Remove the DU campus building in the background homepage photograph. Put into a nearby resources section entities not within our territory but currently listed as such on the website: specifically, Joshua School, Unity Spiritual Center, and Cypress Church. Minutes of recent meetings need to be updated by Steve, who can get them from Shutterfly. Sean will upload the very most recent approved minutes to Shutterfly.

Margy moved, and Steve Fisher seconded, and all but one UNNA person in attendance voted in favor, of redirecting Shutterfly website to our new website immediately and doing various things to make the new website our active website, even as we continue to work with Steve Greenlee to fix the aforementioned problems. The person who voted no on the motion ended up being OK with what will happen, since the business listings will be removed, and there may have been another factor influencing their no vote, which was also satisfactorily addressed by how Margy plans to communicate with Steve to practically implement all of the above.