

**University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)  
Minutes of Regular Meeting: December 10, 2020  
Minutes prepared by Paul Bloede**

Attendance:

Margy Kennedy, Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Sean Uyeda, Paul Bloede, Melanie Cashen

Times and Dates: This meeting began at 6:35pm and was adjourned at 8:10pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2021 from 6:30pm to 8pm, via Zoom.

November Minutes Approval: Paul's earlier-submitted 2<sup>nd</sup> version of the November minutes, reflecting edits by Sean, was approved. It was agreed they, and future minutes, can be sent by Paul, and bypassing Sean, as word docs to webmaster Steve Greenlee, for him to save as pdfs and upload to UNNA's website, [www.universityneighbors.com](http://www.universityneighbors.com). This will only be after Sean has provided, one-time, to Paul, a Word template to fit the minutes into, which includes UNNA's logo as a header.

Treasurer's Report: UNNA bank balance remains at \$849.90. There was no activity since the last UNNA meeting. Margy will, on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, get to Paul, a check made out to UNNA for a small amount of money, for Paul to deposit in order to avoid the \$10 inactivity fee the bank otherwise imposes on our account, if there are no deposits in a six-months period.

I. City Councilman Paul Kashmann's Answers (sent prior to meeting, due to his inability to attend) to Pre-Submitted Agenda's Questions, plus Further Discussion on Same Topics by People Present at this 12/10 Meeting

(a) (Summarized Question 1) Should Mayor Hancock have traveled to Mississippi to be with family for Thanksgiving after asking Denverites not to travel to be with family for the holidays, due to covid?

*Kashmann's Answer: "I was disappointed in the Mayor's decision. In his position as a leader giving critical direction to the residents of Denver, he should have stayed at home and celebrated by himself as many others decided to do."*

(b) (Summarized Question 2) It appears many people will not wish to take the covid vaccine. Yet there may be work place or economic participation requirements for them to do so. Might the Councilman and the Council promote a frequent covid testing alternative for those people, even if at their own expense?

*Kashmann's Answer: "Council continues to urge the city and state Departments of Public Health and Environment to ramp up testing as far as personnel and funding will allow."*

*Further discussion by those present on 12/10: one member suggested the vaccines are likely to be unsafe. Another member asserted OSHA and other legal requirements may result in making*

*taking the vaccine essentially mandatory, and another member did comment that that would be unfortunate.*

(c) (Summarized Question 3) Some have said the covid pandemic has been exaggerated, and therefore the shutdown/social distancing orders have been excessive. Is there sufficient reason for the City to therefore reduce or eliminate its covid restrictions? A Canadian pathologist, Dr. Roger Hodgkinson, was cited.

*Kashmann's Answer: "In addition to the nearly 300,000 deaths from COVID many people who do not die are left with ongoing neurological, cardiac, and other serious problems. To say that COVID is a "hoax" is beyond absurd. Ask the nurses that are working two and three shifts what their opinion is."*

*Further discussion by those present on 12/10: one member knows a nurse who works hard and sees much covid, including debilitating covid. Another member suggested the typical test produces false positives, including discovering so small amounts of COVID that the person is both asymptomatic and incapable of transmitting the disease. Another member countered that the test has a significant risk for producing false negatives, rather than false positives.*

(d) (Summarized Question 4) The Denver Gazette reported a lawsuit against the City on behalf of 50 alleged victims of police violence during the Denver protests, after the murder of George Floyd in Minnesota. Councilman Kashmann is the Councilman in charge of the Council's investigation into police behavior during the riots. What are Councilman Kashmann's comments on all of this?

*Kashmann's Answer: "The Independent Monitor will release his report on police response to this summer's protests at City Council's Safety Committee meeting, this Wed.s, 10am. I will be interested in his findings. He will not be discussing individual cases, but rather general comments on policies and procedures that worked and didn't work. I am not at all surprised by the lawsuit filed by 50 individuals. I have no knowledge of the details of these cases, so can't make a substantial comment.*

*Further discussion by those present on 12/10: press reports have come out, after the Wednesday City Council meeting. One member of UNNA misunderstood press reports about the Independent Monitor's Report and Councilman Kashmann's quoted responses to it. Subsequent to 12/10, Councilman Kashmann corrected the UNNA member and issued a statement quoted verbatim here, which will substitute for the prior text included in the original version of these minutes: I believe the shortfalls uncovered by Monitor Mitchell were attributable to lack of clear policy directives and processes. I do not believe there were deliberate attempts to subvert the investigation. Even the monitor praised the Department of Safety for their cooperation. Please correct your minutes. The police chief has committed to making the various reforms suggested by the Monitor, and the Councilman expects further meetings on all this featuring testimony by the police chief, and others.*

(e) (Summarized Question 5) The Denver Gazette, in a confusing article on 12/1, described contracting discussions at City Council about a new body camera technology for police. How would the Councilman describe these contract negotiations?

*Kashmann's Answer: "We will vote tonight on a contract for new technology body cameras that can be programmed to activate as soon as an officer pulls his/her weapon. It's an important upgrade."*

*Further discussion by those present on 12/10: subsequent press reports reveal the contract was approved and those types of body cameras will eventually be distributed to police officers.*

(f) (Summarized Question 6) Any other items the Councilman would like to discuss?

*Kashmann's Answer: "The Group Living proposal that has been discussed over the past months is being modified to a far more acceptable version that should cap the number of unrelated adults at 4 or 5, and not permit community corrections uses in single unit and two unit residential zones. It will also limit the size of shelter uses in residential neighborhoods. While there are details still being discussed, I'm very pleased with the compromise we've been able to craft."*

*Further discussion by those present on 12/10: INC agrees with the subcommittee compromise as described by Kashmann, but reserves judgment on this matter until it sees and can study the final written version of the group housing changes that is presented to the entire City Council for its vote.*

## II. University of Denver topics

(a) UNNA consensus is still that it is not consulted before major DU decisions that would be in its general purview of interests; instead, DU announces their decisions to UNNA and everyone else, without having consulted UNNA. One UNNA member will ask Councilman Kashmann to help facilitate such a dialogue, despite another UNNA member saying they remember Kashmann saying he had already recently spoken to a DU official on UNNA's behalf.

(b) The quarterly DU Good Neighbors meeting was held in mid-November. Stephanie O'Malley, once again, as opposed to Allan Wilson, formerly, conducts these meetings. A UNNA member said O'Malley doesn't engender a team spirit or even a token collaborative approach, all unlike Wilson.

(c) This member lives in a mult-unit private dwelling very close to DU campus. They say they didn't receive adequate notice, until noon, of a water break requiring their own water to be shut off.

(d) The member said John Anderson, DU's Resource Community Officer, within the Campus Safety Department, is very responsive to neighbors' needs and questions.

(e) The member said a homeless man has repeatedly been ticketed for trespassing, including in the building the resident lives in, as he seeks warmth, in particular for sleeping.

(f) The Law School's official last day is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Other students were done right before Thanksgiving. Campus will therefore become even more quiet, even though many students, the member said, are staying in Denver and not traveling home for the holidays. All students return January 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

(g) The newly-constructed buildings: commons including only commons, dorm, and alumni center, will all be certified by the city and ready for occupancy and use, by January or thereabouts. Use, like all other campus buildings, will be restricted to current DU students, faculty, and staff. The dining hall of the commons building will be all that is available the rest of this school year.

(h) More blue-light security outdoor phones, calling in directly to Campus Safety, have been installed on campus.

(i) No Christmas Carillon concert because DU's covid restrictions are too tight to allow the woman who operates the carillon for that purpose to enter the building.

(j) Again, the DU complaint form promulgated by Stephanie O'Malley must be used for DU to investigate inappropriate and partying behavior, whether on or off campus, as suspected by city residents. Residents can also call Campus Safety for on-campus incidents, and Denver Police for off-campus incidents. But the form is generally required for DU to investigate.

### III. Police Update

(a) Michelle is transferring to another position in City and County of Denver, and so will be leaving our district as its Area Representative. Members expressed their disappointment in seeing her go, as they felt she was an especially effective Area Representative.

(b) Crime is down overall in precinct 313.

(c) Porch pirating and car theft does occur in our area. One UNNA member said 6 or 7 cars near her residence, again, very close to DU campus have been broken in, with snow shovels, and other not insignificant but pretty minor things being stolen. Another member said those are the kinds of things thieves can pawn.

### IV. INC Update

(a) UNNA voted to have Katie vote yes at upcoming INC meeting, saying UNNA ratifies 3 documents INC has drafted and will submit to City, if approved by enough INC RNOs.

One member was convinced by the rest that it is reasonable for formal statements of position by UNNA to require the new form, wanting number of residents and number of businesses in our territory, and wanting sufficient polling of the UNNA area residents, in support of such a position, all reported on the new form. That includes because the City provides a resource of population and residences by neighborhood, and because the majority of UNNA members present felt that the number of businesses in the neighborhood could be obtained from the City, including even at Councilman Kashmann's initiative, if needed. It was brought up that UNNA has extremely rarely in the past taken formal positions.

One member was convinced by all the rest that there is no need for physical signage announcing the regular monthly UNNA meetings, and that our online announcements are sufficient to meet the requirements of that new document produced by the INC subcommittee, for RNOs to sufficiently publicize their meetings, presumably in order to continue to be recognized by the City as an RNO.

V. Zoning (no new data or zoning requests in our area)

VI. Update on UNNA website ([www.universityneighbors.com](http://www.universityneighbors.com)). Tabled, until Steve Greenlee attends another UNNA meeting; he will be invited to the January meeting. One question will be, how much will it cost UNNA to continue with the website, and after how long, before Steve ends the grace period during which we owe him nothing?

VII. New Bylaws Submitted by a Member

(a) Some general discussion of the new and old documents was had, but the study and approval and (everyone agreed) further editing needed, with respect to the new 2020 proposed bylaws, was tabled until it can be the primary agenda item for the January UNNA meeting, to be put on the agenda right after Councilman Kashmann's comments.

VIII. Annual Meeting

(a) UNNA voted to accept the City's offer of grace to RNOs to not conduct an annual meeting in 2020, about 2020.

IX. Use of Zoom for UNNA Meetings

(a) One member pays the modest fee to host zoom meetings, because they use zoom so frequently. They are willing to continue letting UNNA meet under their zoom hosting, at no charge to UNNA, for the time being and foreseeable future. However, other members noted if that member ever wanted to change their responsibility for hosting Zoom, the City is offering RNOs to use its zoom hosting capabilities, for free.

X. Miscellaneous Additional Topics Discussed

(a) Steve will announce on the website, including via links he can request from Sean, the fact that the City requires snowfall to be removed on sidewalks 24 hours after the snowfall has ended.

(b) Steve will also put into the website a link for users to find the City's information on Covid, otherwise a bit buried in the large Denver.gov website. Sean will provide Steve the link.

(c) Steve will put into the website information Sean will provide him about lead testing going on.

(d) At the next quarterly DU Good Neighbors meeting, or perhaps some other way, a UNNA member committed to asking DU to announce UNNA's website and existence more prominently than it may already do.

(e) Another member committed to promoting UNNA and its new website on Nextdoor.

(f) Steve will put in the website information Sean will provide him about the recycling of Christmas trees, done by the City, during its Treecycle program that runs from January 4 through January 15 of 2021.

(g) Sean via Shutterfly and its email list may additionally promote one or more of the above items.