

University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)
November 12, 2020 Monthly Meeting, held via Zoom
Minutes prepared by Paul Bloede

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

Times and Dates: This meeting began at 6:36pm and was adjourned at 7:49pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2020 from 6:30pm to 8pm, via Zoom.

October Minutes Approval: Paul's earlier-submitted 2nd version of the October minutes was approved as is, without changes.

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.

I. City Councilman Paul Kashmann's Comments

(1) The following measures were approved by City and County of Denver (CCD) voters at the Nov 3, 2020 election. Councilman Kashmann also supports each of these measures.

2A: raises sales taxes to have CCD respond to global climate change in the following ways: job training in clean energy jobs, investment in renewable energy technology, neighborhood-based programs educational, resiliency, etc., more extensive non-emissions transportation options, improve energy efficiency of homes

2B: raises sales taxes to address homelessness

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

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

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

2H: facilitates the provision of high-speed internet to all citizens, a measure sponsored by Councilman Kashmann

(2) The meaning of Councilman Kashmann's lead article in his latest e-newsletter has been misunderstood by some people, including some people associated with UNNA. The reality is, Kashmann proposes not to do away with RNOs (Registered Neighborhood Organizations), and by extension, how they all roll up currently to help create INC (Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation). Instead he wants to consider providing training and budget to them, and he wants to help them flourish the strongest they can, be assessing and improving their overall nature and functioning.

There is a survey on how people get their CCD news and how they would like to get it, including with respect to RNOs (of which UNNA is one). In one month, the IT challenge of the City providing a sufficiently user-friendly website for people citywide to get the information they want from CCD will have been assessed, to facilitate a decision on whether to go forward with such a website.

(3) Councilman Kashmann is glad UNNA made him aware of an Ethics Complaint filed against CCD City Councilwoman Candi CDeBaca. This was filed by a police officer present when, allegedly, a group of police were engaged in a proceeding, only to be confronted by a crowd of onlookers being lectured to by the Councilwoman, as to how terrible and racist, the police department and its officers, she felt, were. She also allegedly taunted the police officers.

Kashmann reported that the ethics investigation has concluded, “not actionable” and jurisdiction concerns were characterizations of the resolution not resulting in disciplinary action. However, Kashmann suspects a sufficiently cautionary message was sent to the councilwoman by the entire proceeding.

(4) South High School has changed its nickname, present ever since its founding in 1893, with the current building having been built in 1926, from Rebels to Ravens. They both start with “R” and have a similar length. The school’s colors will not need to change. Councilman Kashmann feels such a change was appropriate considering the times.

II. Guest Speaker: Webmaster Steve Greenlee

(1) Again, the new UNNA website is universityneighbors.com

(2) This typo has been fixed: University Boulevard stated to be our west boundary, when it is our east boundary. These typos will be fixed: in the central portion of a page UNNA is inaccurately spelled out. Also to be fixed: City Council, in reference to Paul Kashmann being our City Councilman: is spelled “Counsel” not “Council,” like it should be.

(3) Our boundaries are stated currently in the website as Downing St to the west, University Blvd to the east, I-25 to the north, and Amherst and Dartmouth Avenues to the south. However, come UNNA’s January renewal registration with CCD, we will request our north boundary, which CCD has as Buchtel Blvd, to be changed to I-25. Also at that time, we will request our south boundary to be changed by CCD to Yale Ave. If the latter change is approved, then the website will need to be updated for that fact.

(4) It has been agreed Sean will continue to standardize-format into pdf, Paul’s minutes, each month, after they are approved by UNNA (generally at the following month’s board meeting). After he has done that, each month, he will send that month’s minutes to Steve Greenlee for quick uploading into universityneighbors.com. Sean will soon catch up by sending all UNNA minutes, from the May 2020 meeting through the October 2020 meeting, to Steve, for uploading into universityneighbors.com.

(5) UNNA still likes the listing of businesses, churches, etc. on the website. Organizations that want to be more prominent on the website, (to what extent will require further discussion; at this

meeting the idea of adding a link to the organization's website was contemplated as possibly sufficient), will be required to pay UNNA a to-be-determined fee for whatever form of advertisement, once again, was decided to be offered to the business.

(6) How to leverage a remarkable feature from the current UNNA Shutterfly website was discussed extensively, but without final conclusions. That feature is the fact that anyone who sends an email to unna@sfly.com has their email automatically sent to UNNA's current complete email list, currently comprising 195 email addresses. They are also identified in each of those emails as the originator of the email.

(7) The issue of cost to UNNA of continuing to use the website, after the 2-year grace period that has Steve Greenlee absorbing all costs, was briefly discussed and will continue to be discussed in future meetings.

III. University of Denver

Next quarterly Good Neighbors meeting via zoom is at 6pm Wednesday, November 18th. Stephanie O'Malley, DU Vice Chancellor, has replaced Allan Wilson as the leader of these meetings. She has likely received feedback that more interaction/audience participation/ability to ask questions, is desired by UNNA representatives and other attendees.

A form to fill out for suspected loud partying or other disapproved of behavior by likely DU students has been disseminated by Ms O'Malley to UNNA and other people and entities. DU promises to investigate all such forms received, and offers the additional option to work with DU Security for on-campus such incidents, and DPD for off-campus such incidents, (the complainant can contact these entities along with filing the report, should they wish).

Denver's 10pm curfew and the colder weather months, plus the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas break between Fall and Winter Quarter may reduce the number of parties involving DU students and them walking the streets in the late evening hours.

The Sodexo company that provides food and drinks at campus building locations now serves the DU community by a robot that looks like R2D2 and uses text messaging and codes to approach students with their order, which they remove from the robot, using a texted code. The robot at times is required to cross streets, and it has been able to do so successfully, including the major intersection which is University Boulevard and Evans Avenue.

Fall sports, including the well-known hockey program, will be at offsite locations or have been suspended. Some games by spring may be allowed to be local, and sell tickets.

IV. Denver Police Department (DPD)

Recent crimes are the usual in our neighborhood: the breaking into of cars to steal items inside, even items as seemingly minor as sunglasses. Resulting DPD advice is, of course, to leave nothing of value visible inside your car. Also, leaves, this time of year, can prevent a garage door from closing, even causing it to go all the way back up, so burglary can be facilitated in that manner, if homeowners aren't careful.

V. Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC)

Saturday, November 14, 2020 is the next full INC monthly meeting via zoom. The agenda will include INC's ongoing attempt to craft an anti-racism statement that satisfies everyone. The group living arrangements changes proposed by the City continue to be deeply discussed by both INC and CCD.

VI. Zoning Issues

1790 S Humboldt St and 2520 S Marion St owners both want zoning exceptions to allow them to install an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). UNNA has officially submitted to CCD its opposition. Decisions and hearings by CCD are still down the road.. Close to our neighborhood is 2996 S Gaylord St, which wanted an 8 foot privacy fence zoning exception; this zoning request has already been denied by CCD.

VII. Bylaws Re-write

A UNNA member indicated they felt the current UNNA bylaws included grammatical errors, were not written in the best way, and didn't fully reflect current realities. They will submit their proposed revised bylaws to the other UNNA members, before the December 10th meeting.

VIII. No Annual Meeting During Calendar 2020

It is to be announced by UNNA, presumably on the website and via our email list, that there will be no Annual Meeting in calendar 2020 due to Covid, but it's still possible that either a zoom or in-person annual meeting will be scheduled for some time in the spring of 2021, with that decision being made closer to that time.