

**University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)
Minutes of Regular Meeting: February 11, 2021
Minutes prepared by Paul Bloede**

Attendance:

City Councilman Paul Kashmann, 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 7:43pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm (please note the new time), via zoom.

January Minutes Approval: Paul's initial version of the January 2021 minutes was unanimously approved without the suggestion of any corrections.

Treasurer's Report: UNNA bank balance remains at \$864.90. President acknowledged Treasurer's complaint that for every recent need for the issuance of a check, including the January payment of INC dues, although needs for checks have been quite rare (one or two a year is not uncommon), the president uses their own checks/checking account, to pay the UNNA bill, keeping the UNNA balance unchanged, rather than issuing a UNNA check and donating the amount as a UNNA deposit, if desired.

I. Topics Addressed by City Councilman Paul Kashmann

(1) Possibly Inadequate Police Response to Certain Past Incidents

Suggestion of inadequate police response to incident where two people who live in the same building as a UNNA member were assaulted, but not injured, by the woman for whom there had posters around the neighborhood identifying her as a missing woman.

Suggestion of inaccurate conclusions by police that occasional gunshots (one heard by same UNNA neighbor and yet another person who lives in their building, and others as reported on NextDoor) are not gunshots.

It was concluded, regarding both suggestions, that the UNNA member should bring them up with one or both of two police officers associated with our local DPD District 3, rather than Paul Kashmann, who therefore has not considered or opined on these incidents.

The two officers would be the leader at District 3, Rick Kyle, noted for enforcing good demeanor and professional-level interactions between his officers and the general public, and Antonio Pacheco, an officer who has provided another UNNA member consistent, excellent service on various matters, for an extended period of time.

The UNNA member bringing up these suggestions of inadequate response by the police agreed to contact Officer Kyle and/or Officer Pacheco about these matters.

It was also discussed, once again, that DPD should be lauded for its Co-Responder program where social workers, etc. join police in their response to certain types of calls, and for its STAR program where paramedics, etc. but not police officers respond to certain types of calls. The STAR program is currently limited to the central part of Denver and to traditional business hours, Monday through Friday.

Councilman Kashmann indicated he will be involved with efforts to expand the Co-Responder and STAR programs.

(2) December 20, 2020 Denver Gazette online newspaper article critical of Denver City Council UNNA member bringing up the topic opined they didn't feel the article was compelling or made its point. Councilman Kashmann agreed, further stating that this City Council has accomplished tremendous things, including both at present, and likely in the near future, including all as compared to past city councils. Sure, 3 of the council members are newer, young, and quite progressive, and so are outspoken council members.

Homelessness and mental health services are in the process of being very well handled by Denver City Council, including due to a large source of money becoming available over the next 10 years that the City plans to utilize for these issues.

A UNNA member suggested to Kashmann that education on how to cook, how to spend, home economics, etc., is as important as handouts, in order to prevent both recurrence of homelessness and first-time homelessness. Kashmann said he'd look further into the extent of the City's effort to provide such home economics education, and get back to us.

(3) Yale Corridor Project

Study for the project has been completed by the city, and its final proposal will be available at the appropriate city website very soon, if not already. The website is bit.ly/eastyalecorridor This version is final, subject to several weeks of comments solicited from the public. Councilman Kashmann is quite pleased by this final proposal, as revealed at the February 8th zoom meeting, open to the public, that he attended. However, he said some of the recommendations will likely be delayed due to their relatively high cost, and so due to budget constraints.

(4) Changes to Denver's Group Living Arrangement Rules and Regulations Made Final with City Council Vote, after lengthy final public hearing

After a lengthy public hearing that lasted until past 1 in the morning, the Denver City Council recently approved the following changes, that had been discussed and proposed over many months, even years. Councilman Kashmann and UNNA consider the new rules an improvement.

In the past, there could only be 2 unrelated adults in the same dwelling, with an unlimited number of their adult relatives, and an unlimited number of children. Now there can be up to 5 unrelated adults in the same dwelling, but no adult relatives. There is no limit, once again, on the number of children.

Correctional facilities cannot be placed in sensitive, direct neighborhood residential areas.

Remaining outstanding related issue is a decision on creating a Rental Registry, so all properties rented out in Denver are so indicated with landlord information and number of renters.

A number of benefits to creating a Rental Registry were discussed, and UNNA approves such a registry. One such benefit mentioned is identifying owners, etc., in the situation of damaged property, whether by the Fire Department or the Red Cross.

(5) Going Back to School In-Person in Denver Public Schools

A UNNA member who is a regular guest teacher throughout this school year at a particular DPS high school, and who has guest taught at many other DPS schools between 2018 and 2020, indicated all elementary schools are back to in-person, and that all high schools are following a model similar to his current model: all students can come back in-person (although the majority have chosen not to) 4 days a week for full school days, the fifth day is a deep-cleaning of the building day so all instruction is remote. Appropriate safety precautions are being taken within the school buildings, when students are present, and in general.

(6) Paul Kashmann Contacting DU's Stephanie O'Malley about DU Involving UNNA More

It was indicated in discussion among UNNA members that the quarterly DU Good Neighbors meetings, led by Stephanie, have become simply a series of announcements without sufficient accommodation for questions and answers, or inputs. Some DU decision-making would also make sense to involve seeking UNNA's opinion, as part of the overall DU decision-making process, depending on the topic at hand. Kashmann indicated he had recently left a voice message with O'Malley, more general than the above, but that he would indicate to her these specific concerns when she speaks with him, and/or encourage her to attend a future UNNA meeting, and/or encourage her to contact a UNNA member for information as to what we want.

(7) Miscellaneous Additional Topics

A UNNA member expressed concern about lack of education of pedestrians using new city mid-street crosswalks, as to how to effectively and safely use such a crosswalk, including the carrying of a provided stick with a flag on its end, from one end of the crosswalk to the other. Kashmann will look into this matter and get back to us.

II. Revision of Bylaws. Tabled until next meeting. UNNA member charged with further revising bylaws has not had the time to do so.

III. Miscellaneous and Typical Remaining Topics

(1) Miscellaneous

NextDoor has seen a request to start a very-large territory new official RNO with CCD that would include UNNA's territory. UNNA obviously opposes, except needs more information and doubts City will approve and doubts much will come of this situation.

One UNNA member, who manages a residential building close to DU campus, further described some of their issues, including with a homeless man who has spent unauthorized time in the building on numerous occasions.

(2) Police

One UNNA member makes sure strangers in the same residential complex get introduced and know names & faces, when they first see each other, rather than remain strangers forever.

Porch pirates are active because some people's deliveries are left for many hours at the residence before the resident retrieves them.

(3) DU

Campus buildings still closed to all but current DU students, faculty, and staff. Learning is optional remote or in-person, arrangements worked out between the students and the professor. There is the DU Good Neighbors meeting, Thursday, February 18th, for anyone who wants to attend (6pm/zoom).

(4) INC

INC favors strongly the Rental Registry within CCD being created. INC is trying to get resolved an unfair situation where a community center building serving many citizens in different legitimate ways, just west of Federal Boulevard, has been ordered to shut down, with the ability to apply to re-open again. The building and organization is called SWIC-Westwood.

(5) Zoning Issues: none within UNNA's geographical boundaries