

**University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)  
Minutes of Regular Meeting: April 8, 2021  
Minutes prepared by Paul Bloede**

Attendance:

City Councilman Paul Kashmann, Margy Kennedy, Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Sean Uyeda, and Paul Bloede

Times and Dates: This meeting began at 6:10pm (there was some sign-on to zoom confusion going on for some attendees). The meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, via zoom.

March Minutes Approval: Rather than ignore Fatima of DU's corrections and consider them items for tonight's minutes, it was agreed the response from Fatima to Paul's March Minutes should be adequately incorporated into revised March minutes by Paul. Those minutes would then be circulated by Paul to the other UNNA attendees of tonight, via email, for their approval vote, via email.

Treasurer's Report: As is the case most months, there was no activity in the bank account this month, and the bank balance remains \$864.90. It was agreed that UNNA's President, would soon give UNNA's Treasurer, 4 blank checks, so that, for example, when the former pays annual INC dues using her credit card online, the latter can write her a check back, so she doesn't have to sign a UNNA check made payable to her. This will also free up options when bills due occur, if the Treasurer needs to sign them in a special situation, or can provide a check to the President.

I. Topics Addressed by City Councilman Paul Kashmann

(1) Yale Corridor Study

Two UNNA members had expressed additional concerns last month, after Kashmann had left the meeting, concerns that they had submitted to the City through its Yale Corridor feedback process. They involved the likely lack of need for, and lack of safety of, the Yale bike lane, considering new bike lanes are proposed for Vassar and Amherst. Another submitted concern was the lack of comprehension by the planners of the low-volume of bicycle use of the corridor, currently, per its own numbers.

Kashmann will monitor how those concerns may be addressed, but he said the City's plan is to build out full bike lanes, often protected, all around the city, to encourage bicycle transportation, because, "if they build it, they may come". He acknowledges there is the very real possibility the people riding bicycles won't come, and after several years, it may be decided that the bicycle lanes be removed.

A UNNA member is tasked with asking for more Yale Corridor information either ahead of time, or inviting him to the next UNNA meeting, to take questions: that being city official Jason Gallardo (identified by Kashmann).

(2) Concept of the City Educating Homeless People about the Need for Better Budgeting and More Realistic Spending Habits

Kashmann had stated positive things, last month, about city employee Jay Salas, who leads the Office of Financial Empowerment, and suggesting he talk to UNNA. The UNNA member bringing up this concern does want to know where that office is, on the trajectory of their operating plan/overall ambitions as an office A UNNA member is tasked with asking Jay to attend the next UNNA meeting, briefly, to take questions.

(3) Creation of a Rental Registry

There was universal praise, among meeting attendees, for City Councilwoman and City Council President Stacie Gilmore's proposal to create a rental registry for City and County of Denver. Kashmann says her plan has strong support amongst City Council, and it should be ready for a vote in a couple of months. For small fees, being implemented over 3 years (so a sudden explosion of demand for inspectors that can't be met shouldn't occur, as one UNNA member speculated) and including inspections, what will be produced is a database consisting of all the rented to people to live in, housing units in Denver: the landlord's contact information, how many people they are renting to, and similar information.

Various people in attendance stated all of the following outcomes should be benefits of the Rental Registry, and that the generic concept of cost of the proposal is less by far than the many benefits, which, once again, attendees tonight stated included: (a) safe living conditions, (b) dignified living conditions, (c) removal of slumlord type operations, (d) reduction of cases of fires caused by unnecessarily delayed maintenance, on the part of the landlord, where the fire department can't identify the owner of the structure, and (e) quick and easy instant notification by Denver to all landlords of any changes to codes.

(4) The concept of RNOs or other officially-named organization types, that include multiple adjacent existing RNOs, but aren't any of them large enough to represent the entire city's set of RNOs, which is represented already, by INC.

A private citizen, Bryan Wilson, is promoting this idea. Years ago, one member said, UNNA's predecessor WUCA organization was part of such a group, but it fell apart because few people wanted to attend a meeting where much of the discussion didn't pertain to their exact neighborhood. And yet, another member said this type of thing might facilitate helpful discussion between adjacent RNOs, in a less large environment than INC, even though the first member responded by saying contact information for all RNOs is on the Denver website, so we can contact them if we want to. The conclusion proposed by Kashmann was apparently accepted by everyone: wait to see if Wilson contacts any of us/gets around to our portion of the City, before we decide how and if to proceed, regarding his notions.

(5) Budget and the Buchtel Corridor Situation

Kashmann confirmed a UNNA member present last meeting but not this meeting, their concern that all that was proposed, to meet overall legitimate goals for people who live along the Buchtel corridor, like him: which are to decrease noise and otherwise study and then improve the corridor, is a re-paving and introduction of bike lanes plans. He had suggested the UNNA member individually write to the Mayor or his Chief of Staff for further meeting of goals for the Corridor, but said the budget just isn't there.

However, Kashmann also said there is now, from the \$1.9 trillion spending bill launched by the Biden Administration, the likelihood, at a time and with what restrictions and in what exact amounts all still to be determined, that Denver will receive a large amount of money. Depending on the restrictions, but Kashmann has already advocated that some of that study be used to fully study and improve the Buchtel corridor.

A UNNA member said they were part of the debate that ended up, in the early 2000s with T-REX project, in not having the same sound barrier wall constructed on the south side of I-25 along the Buchtel corridor as north of I-25. RTD and CDOT are involved in some of the relevant land under consideration, besides Denver. She would like something partially considered back then to be re-considered, if the big money comes, before the decision is made to finally put up some sound walls in that gap along the Buchtel corridor. That would be for specially-designed mounds of dirt to serve the purpose, instead of a wall, the latter of which having bouncing and reflecting effects on sound that the former wouldn't have.

(6) Possible Riots in Denver and Around the Country, Should the Trial of Former Minneapolis Police Officer Chauvin not result in a sufficiently guilty verdict to satisfy much popular opinion  
Kashmann agrees with most experts, that riots similar to last year's riots, when Chauvin was involved with George Floyd's death, are quite likely, if the verdict delivered by the jury on Chauvin isn't fully guilty on enough of the charges.

However, should such riots occur in Denver, and in many other large cities around the country, Kashmann is convinced the police and other authorities are much better prepared, and will do a much better job protecting buildings and monuments and people's businesses, and in minimizing bodily injury to participants on whichever side of the protests/riots.

(7) Possibility of Kashmann and the City Taking a Position on a Bill Currently Before the Colorado Legislature: HB 21-1191, often abbreviated as CINDA

This bill would prohibit discrimination against Coloradans who refuse to take any of the covid vaccines. Kashmann explained that there is a group, within the City and County of Denver, that assesses bills before the state legislature and officially represents the City's opinion on those bills, whether in support of, in opposition to, or remaining neutral with respect to.

Once the UNNA member advocating passage of this bill provides Kashmann with the bill number, Kashmann indicated he would do what he could to encourage this group to sufficiently thoroughly study this bill and take whichever stand on it, because the bill is very important to many Coloradans on both sides of the issue, all as opposed to ignoring the bill or only looking at it perfunctorily, before providing the state with the city's official position on HB21-1191, it turns out, the bill number is.

(8) Marijuana Consumption Business Regulatory Bills, before City Council, on April 12<sup>th</sup>

General consensus was achieved, with respect to Kashmann's opinion, that (a) at this point there should be additional places, than per current law, where Denverites can legally smoke pot, such as highly-regulated businesses, their physical location, (b) the draft bill on regulating the physical location businesses seems reasonably strict, at first glance, (c) there is the matter of nearby third parties/innocent people having to smell the pot that is being smoked and seemingly quite likely violations of the Clean Air Act that would have to be allowed for the businesses to succeed, something Kashmann is very concerned about, (d) despite the rules in the bill for

businesses which allow for pot smoking inside the pot smoking business' vehicle that is driving on the roads, seeming to be fairly strict, Kashmann does have the consensus tonight concern that careful analysis of those proposed regulations is needed, to the point that it may not prove to be possible, to come up with sufficiently strict and safety-promoting regulations, in terms of mobile pot-smoking businesses, for that business model of theirs to be made legal in Denver.

#### (9) Issues Councilman Kashmann Wished to Additionally Emphasize, before Leaving the Meeting

It's wonderful that the City and County of Denver is likely to receive a large amount of federal funds due to the covid relief bill of \$1.9 trillion signed into law by President Biden. However, as major delineation within the bill is made between cities and counties, and Denver is a combined city and county, that complicates the overall process of Denver receiving its money. Also, the exact amount, timing, and restrictions on the funds are all unclear at the moment. This is, however, a big but good challenge therefore to figure out.

Kashmann also is pleased that covid vaccine availability in Colorado continues to expand significantly, such that soon any eligible Coloradan who wants the shot, should be able to get it.

#### II. University of Denver: General News and Reaction to DU's Stephanie O'Malley's, and Fatima Rezaie's, Attendance at the March UNNA Meeting

(1) We definitely need a meeting, might as well be with all of us, with Stephanie and Fatima, presumably at DU, a meeting with DU, which will be arranged by a particular UNNA member. This meeting will be a vehicle by which UNNA can explain to DU: (a) exactly what it means by being more involved in decision-making, and the quarterly DU Good Neighbors meetings, and any other topics with respect to which further communication between DU and UNNA would seem to be appropriate.

(2) General DU news includes there definitely won't be any high school graduations held at DU this spring, and so, avoided, will be such events' tendencies towards traffic and parking issues and general issues with large crowds of people being involved. Even how the DU graduation ceremony will be held, in the covid environment, still hasn't been decided.

(3) Athletic events attendance at DU has only been expanded to allow parents. No tickets to events or open attendance is being allowed.

(4) The date of the next quarterly DU Good Neighbors Meeting is not on their website. That is another item for us to discuss with DU at aforementioned to-be-scheduled-UNNA and DU meeting.

III. Bylaws Revision: Continues to Be Postponed. Expected We Can Discuss within a few more months, when person tasked with leading this is all caught up, whether in the regular meeting being devoted only to this topic, or a special, shorter meeting, a 2<sup>nd</sup> in the same month, dedicated exclusively to revising our bylaws.

#### IV. Other Items, Time Permitting

(1) Zoning report. No zoning issues near or in our territory.

(2) INC report. The INC website is very informative on everything they do. We are encouraged to check it out, and not only rely on INC reporting at our monthly UNNA meetings. A UNNA member has been tasked to have Steve Greenlee add the link to INC and its reporting on itself to our UNNA website.

Saturday should be a good meeting where there will be special guest presentations on climate change and Denver, including a Denver ballot measure that recently passed.

### (3) Police Report

(1) We are in precinct 313. Rick Kyle is the Commander. Mike Cody is an Area-level officer. They have stated to us not being rude to the public is a virtue DPD presumably in general, and 313 in particular, stress. People like Officers Kyle and Cody should be informed if one of the call-receivers or any of their officers are rude.

(2) A neighbor of the President of UNNA, who has health problems, was disturbed by a day-time hours huge party recently, with noise, trash on his property, and naked girls being transported in shopping carts. He also said the 2<sup>nd</sup> police officer he called via non-emergency police, was quite rude. He asked UNNA's President/his neighbor, for help, who did step into the situation, to some extent. DU' Stephanie O'Malley was contacted, as well, and she said she was aware of the at-fault property and would have appropriate DU personnel visit the property. This visit would be under a program known at DU as "Knock and Talk."