

**University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)
Minutes of Regular Meeting: June 10, 2021
Minutes prepared by Paul Bloede**

Attendance:

City Councilman Paul Kashmann, Sean Uyeda, Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Melanie Cashen, Paul Bloede

Times and Dates: The meeting began late, around 6:30pm. The meeting ended at 7:34pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 8, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, via zoom.

May Minutes Approval: Sean stated specific changes to the minutes he wished to see; Paul either agreed with them or further refined the original suggestion, obtaining Sean's agreement. Paul will send out the new May minutes, reflecting all of these changes, via email, and those present at the May meeting will vote via email as to whether to approve that version of the May minutes.

Treasurer's Report: The President donated \$15, in order to avoid the inactivity fee imposed by the bank, every six months with no deposits. Therefore, the current bank balance is \$879.90. The Treasurer also received the 4 blank checks from the other signer on the bank account, the President. That will add flexibility to UNNA's ability to make payments, to include reimbursements.

I. Topics Addressed to City Councilman Paul Kashmann

(1) City and County of Denver (CCD) Budget

Contrary to a UNNA member's belief, the CCD Budget hasn't been finalized yet, including such that Paul K might comment on it. Rather, the City Council's budget retreat starts tomorrow and the Mayor's budget won't be ready until September.

(2) Funds for the Buchtel Corridor

CCD received \$308 million out of the \$1.9 trillion federal government stimulus package. From those funds Paul K has already requested \$350,000 for a thorough study of the Buchtel Boulevard Corridor. Paul K has also requested \$10 million of the funds be set aside to build additional sound barriers along I-25 in the Buchtel Corridor, something neighbors have been demanding.

(3) Homelessness in Denver

Denver Congresswoman Diana DeGette came across \$2 million that CCD will use to purchase a hotel near the airport. This hotel will house homeless people, and consists (the Councilman wasn't certain on this number) of around 96 rooms.

There are many open land areas in Denver with many homeless tents congregated together there. And there are 1,000 people in Denver each night without any accommodation whatsoever (to

exclude homeless shelters, etc., minutes taker uncertain whether that number includes the tent people). The end to the moratorium on rent payments being due, something established during the pandemic, and which will end soon, could lead to a dramatic jump in these homeless numbers. Paul K is aware of these issues, which might ultimately require an emergency response by CCD.

(4) Repeal of the Group Living Amendments is on the November 2021 Ballot

Paul K and UNNA members, who generally approve of the major reform of group living regulations approved by City Council several months ago, are disappointed that an organization has obtained enough signatures to have repealing the reformed regulations be on the November 2021 ballot. Paul K doesn't see the dire predictions coming from the repeal movement as likely to occur, under the reformed regulations.

(5) Large Committee Reviewing Denver Police Department Reform Recommendations to Be Chaired by Councilman Kashmann *additional note: all of the below comments by Kashmann reassured the UNNA member who came up with many of the below questions.*

(a) Council President Gilmore asked Councilman Kashmann to chair the committee, including as Kashmann is the designated councilman for public safety issues.

(b) Despite a UNNA member's suggestion that national evidence would suggest white cops abuse white victims to a considerable extent, so not just black and other minority groups of people, implying that the overall problem of policing, might be analyzed more under general misbehavior rather than racism, Paul K revealed that much greater number of black and minority people indicate having been bothered by police just because of their skin color. Racism will be just one of many things considered by the new committee. This satisfied the UNNA member.

(c) Many people will be consulted by the committee: this will include, but won't be limited to: city attorneys, and state legislators.

(d) The first meeting of this Working Committee to study recommendations for police reform will be June 28th.

(e) Most police officers are likely good people, doing the best they can. But when you have 1,500 Denver police officers, some small quantity of them will undoubtedly be sub-optimal at their jobs.

(f) Paul K predicts significant actual defunding of the police won't occur; he knows the police need to always be available in the case of legitimate emergencies, such as serious 911 calls, and crime will increase should the police be decimated financially.

(g) Denver already uses co-responder teams (police officer plus a mental health professional), STAR program where none of the professionals 1st sent out is a police officer, and the HIT program (Homeless Intervention Team) where it's fire and mental health professionals sent.

II. University of Denver (DU) Updates

(1) Only 12 commencement ceremonies, between June 9th and 12th.

(2) All students must be out of campus, in terms of their living arrangements, by June 18th.

(3) DU buildings will resume being open to alumni and former staff, and also to the general public, at various times between mid-June and October. It is unclear to what extent unvaccinated alumni/former staff, and/or the general public, will be allowed access to the DU building, even if they were to meet what would appear to be at least the minimum requirement DU will insist upon, for them, that they wear masks. Individual UNNA members and others wanting more specific information on all of this are encouraged to contact Stephanie O'Malley, or her assistant Fatima Rezaile, at DU.

(4) Katie already sent out an email with the slide presentation for the DU quarterly Good Neighbors meeting, held shortly after the May UNNA meeting. There will be some chiller lines worked on under streets and under ground at the south end of campus, but it doesn't appear to extend all the way to where some of the UNNA members live, just further south from the true boundary for DU campus buildings.

II (a) First Meeting to Improve and Formalize DU vs UNNA Communications

(1) Meeting held on May 19th between Margy and Sean, from UNNA, and Stephanie O'Malley and Fatima Rezaile, from DU.

(2) 2 days after the meeting, Stephanie sent out a blast email reminding students of behavior expectations off-campus. Unfortunately, UNNA members said that was ignored and some of the heaviest partying of the year occurred after that email was sent.

(3) UNNA and Stephanie's office at DU have committed to let each other know about relevant neighborhood developments. One problem is that Stephanie doesn't always receive enough information internally from other departments at DU. Senior Leadership meetings and other ways Stephanie is pursuing to remain fully informed.

(4) Stephanie is getting her IT people to create, within the Neighbors page on the DU website, a form, utilizing which, anyone can directly contact Stephanie, electronically through the submission of their written comments.

III. Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) Report

(1) Not too much going on; next meeting is this Saturday. Whatever does go on is well-represented at the INC website, which is denverinc.org.

IV. Policing Report

(1) No July Citizens Advisory Board meeting due to the occurrence of the Major League Baseball All-Star Game in Denver, and the Independence Day holiday.

(2) Car thefts are up, including in the parking lot of the building where one of the UNNA members lives and manages, located very close to campus.

(3) The project to put solar panels on the Fieldhouse affected same UNNA member's ease of use of her property.

V. Zoning Report

(1) Although our UNNA member dedicated to the subject of zoning change requests was informed of 5 such requests since the last UNNA meeting, none of them involved properties located within UNNA's territory.

VI. Not Available to Attend Tonight, and in Some Cases, Unresponsive thus Far to the President's Invitations, so May Attend Future Meetings

(1) Jason Gallardo (CCD/connected with Yale Corridor Project), and Jay Salas (CCD/Connected with Office of Financial Empowerment), and Steve Greenlee (UNNA's webmaster)

VII. Annual Meeting.

(1) We really should have one in September 2021. It should likely be in-person, including as Evanston Center has resumed being open to the in-person public. Planning must wait until Margy can get involved, presumably starting at the July UNNA meeting.

VIII. By-Laws Revisions

(1) Sean has completed the by-laws revisions; he says according to the instructions that were come up with by the group, and are included in every agenda, as a reminder of the need for by-laws revision. He says bullet points are now utilized to a specific extent.

(2) It was agreed we would all review Sean's proposed new by-laws document, ideally ahead of the July meeting, so we expect Sean to send it out to the UNNA members before the July meeting.

(3) The new by-laws will need to be officially voted in at the Annual Meeting.