

**University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)
Minutes of Regular Meeting: July 15, 2021
Minutes prepared by Paul Bloede**

Attendance:

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

Times and Dates: The meeting began at 6:10pm. The meeting ended at 7:45pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 12, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, via zoom.

May and June Minutes Approval: The May and June Minutes were officially approved, after Paul B agreed to simply remove exactly one word (“Historic”), from the prior version of the June minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: There has been no activity in the bank account since the June meeting. The bank balance remains \$879.90.

I. Jason Gallardo, City and County of Denver (CCD) Government Affairs Specialist and Jay Salas, CCD Director of Office of Financial Empowerment

Margy will contact them in more detail, to attempt to get a statement from each or for each to attend the August UNNA meeting. Gallardo can discuss Yale Corridor Project, including comments submitted to the project by 2 UNNA members. Salas can discuss cumulative achievements of Office vs long-term goals for office, and attempt in last State Legislative Session to create a similar Office for State of Colorado.

II. Topics Addressed to City Councilman Paul Kashmann

(1) Funds for the Buchtel Corridor

CCD received \$308 million out of the \$1.9 trillion federal government stimulus package. From those funds Kashmann had already requested \$350,000 for a thorough study of the Buchtel Boulevard Corridor, and \$10 million for construction of sound barriers along the Buchtel corridor portion of I-25.

A related \$400 million bond issue has been discussed but these items weren’t in it, disappointing Kashmann. \$200 million has been designated for the National Western Stock Show complex, an amount probably on the high side, per Kashmann. Kashmann will be meeting with CCD Finance Department in the next couple of weeks, to further push aforementioned two Buchtel Corridor items.

A UNNA member said they’ve received a postcard indicating the already approved lane and striping changes for the Buchtel corridor will soon be performed by CCD. The member approves of the specific such changes chosen by CCD to accomplish.

(2) Homelessness in Denver

Kashmann confirms Mayor Hancock's disapproval of homeless tent camps spreading just anywhere. 90 spaces for tents/people have been obtained at Regis University. 50 spaces for tents/people have been obtained at Park Hill United Methodist Church.

(3) Large Committee Reviewing Denver Police Department Reform Recommendations to Be Chaired by Councilman Kashmann

The committee has begun to meet. One of its major foci will be to identify the root causes of crime. 112 items are being considered in 21 categories. A big focus on each item and category will be if it is something appropriate to be acted on, at the city council level.

(4) General Assessment of the Marijuana Industry in Denver

Although strict rules were approved to allow for party tour buses driving Denver's streets, in which the passengers would be allowed to smoke marijuana, no such businesses have applied to start their business, yet. Only 1 application has been thus far received, to start up a home delivery of marijuana business. In terms of crime and general effectiveness in its functioning, the industry can currently be said to be functioning in Denver better than expected.

\$295 million has been earned by CCD as tax revenue, to date. While most of the revenue is spent in regulating the industry, a 2% tax increase in 2018 has caused a significant portion of the revenue to have been spent on affordable housing in Denver. \$16 million has been spent on discouraging minors from smoking marijuana.

(5) Changes to City Council Meetings to Prevent Them from Lasting Until Very Late at Night

It has been proposed for regular city council meetings to have the official business conducted earlier in the day, and with the hearing of views from the public only to occur in the evening. This would help prevent meetings going too late into the night. No decision has been made on this. It is very likely very soon these council meetings will be in-person. The council does meet on Monday nights (or Tuesday night if Monday is a holiday) 48 weeks out of the year.

Committee meetings are held another night of the week and will be moved to 4th floor Council Chambers, as are the Monday regular meetings, due to the 3rd floor earlier location not being suitable to combined zoom and in-person meetings.

(6) The Status of Denver Utilizing Smart City Technology, as There Has Been Recently More Emphasis, at the Federal Level, on Cities Adopting Smart Technology

Traffic light functioning is integrated via fiber optics. There is the system that involves microphones listening for gunshots and pinpointing their location. Still being debated at CCD, along with many other governmental entities within the USA, is the acceptability of adopting facial recognition technology. It may help identify perpetrators of problem acts, but it represents an invasion of privacy.

(7) Federal Action Teams Going Door-to-Door in Parts of USA to Request Vaccination Status & Offer Vaccinations; Relevancy to CCD

A UNNA member said they had seen reports that the Biden Administration had created and had already started to send out, groups of people to knock on citizens' doors, around the country, to inquire as to whether the parties on whose doors they knock, have been vaccinated for Covid. If unvaccinated, the group will attempt to verbally persuade, but not excessively, the party to get

vaccinated, and the group will include people wanting to administer the shot right there, should the party verbally agree to being vaccinated. If the party does not speak with the federal team or still refuses vaccination, rumor has it that the party's name and/or address will be recorded and the possibility exists, especially if the FDA fully approves the Covid vaccine instead of leaving it on Emergency Use Authorization, for federal teams of people to return to either force vaccination or arrest the party and take them to a quarantine center. The original federal groups of people doing the original aforementioned knocking on doors would probably first coordinate, for logistical purposes, with the relevant governors and mayors around the country. It was unclear if the whole country was to be visited, in a similar way as to the US Census, or just selected areas with low vaccination rates. The primary purpose for the UNNA member bringing this up, was to request that Kashmann, including in that his City Council role includes primary responsibility in the area of public safety, make an effort to resist and push back against these groups of federal people wanting to do the first knocking on doors, should Denver end up being one of their targeted cities and should they therefore contact Mayor Hancock for purposes of logistics.

Kashmann responded that he checked with Bob McDonald, Executive Director of Denver Department of Public Health and Environment. McDonald had not heard of this alleged federal program whatsoever, and said Denver hadn't been contacted by the federal government about this. Denver's vaccination rate is well above Biden's 70% target, and cases and hospitalizations and deaths are dramatically declining in Denver, so the UNNA member and Kashmann agreed Denver would probably be a low priority for these federal door-to-door teams, should they exist.

Kashmann then said he would like more people in Denver, yet, to get vaccinated, in order to even better avoid the need for another lockdown in Denver. Of course, people whose medical situations make vaccination not advisable shouldn't feel obligated. The UNNA member's response was to start to state some of the reasons they feel the covid vaccines are unsafe, but the discussion was instead encouraged by Kashmann to become between the member and Bob McDonald, since McDonald is well-versed on all the statistics and arguments one way or another on the topic of the covid pandemic and the covid vaccines.

III. UNNA's Website

Margy will ask Steve Greenlee if traffic to UNNA's website, www.universityneighbors.com, which was extremely low at the beginning of 2021, may have increased by now, including since the website was subsequently promoted at NextDoor. Steve will be asked to project on larger screen the website, and demonstrate its internal navigation, as a speaker at the September 2021 UNNA Annual Meeting.

IV. University of Denver (DU) Updates

(1) Fatima Rezaile, assistant to Stephanie O'Malley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs, did contact Margy about whether there were community events UNNA would like DU to promote/include on its website. Margy replied there were none, currently.

(2) The Annual Meeting and UNNA in general, it was discussed tonight, should be promoted via UNNA having a booth at the Big Welcome Event scheduled to welcome students back to campus, presumably an outdoor event in early September. Melanie and Margy already have canopies and Margy has the UNNA sign, we would just need a table or two.

(3) Steve Fisher obtained an official statement from Stephanie, about how DU will resume operations this fall, with respect to considerations involving the pandemic. Faculty, staff and students are required to be vaccinated in order to return to the campus, unless they have a medical or religious or other exemption approved. They will be required to be periodically tested for covid. Masks will no longer be required for vaccinated individuals. Social distancing rules will be relaxed. All classes will be offered in-person. Finally, the statement indicated DU approves of the lane and striping changes to be made on Buchtel Boulevard, near campus.

V. Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) Report

Due to many people taking vacations in July, and becoming burned out on zoom as opposed to in-person meetings, there are basically no INC meetings or activity scheduled during July.

VI. 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) No August Citizens Advisory Board meeting due to Denver Days.

VII. Zoning Report

The Stadium Inn has applied to be allowed to have outside, patio seating, which they've already even set up. The application doesn't seem to be something that will concern or bother anyone or the establishment's neighbors, other nearby businesses already have patio seating, and the delay in approval of this zoning request appears just to be due to some minor technicality that should be easily remedied.

VIII. Attempting Now to Possibly Re-Schedule Past UNNA Events Like Electronics Recycling/Paper Shredding and Ice Cream Social

Any such efforts have been indefinitely tabled due to the need to focus on the Annual Meeting.

IX. Annual Meeting.

(1) Margy will seek to obtain Evanston Center venue once again, for our Annual Meeting, for a date to be determined between September 20th and September 30th. Because it's been two years since we last had an annual meeting and because UNNA hasn't met in person at the Evanston Center since the start of the covid pandemic, and because the staff now there is all new, Paul offered to use his extensive connections with University Park United Methodist Church, which owns and operates the Evanston Center, to obtain the venue for UNNA, should Margy let him know her initial efforts were unsuccessful. In a worst-case scenario, it's probable we can obtain the Lutheran Church at Yale & Franklin, as our venue, which was our annual meeting venue prior to Evanston Center. A modest fee of \$50 or less, if need be, has been pre-approved by the Steering Committee to be paid out in order to obtain our Annual Meeting venue, if necessary.

(2) Planning will be challenged by Margy being unavailable from late August through September 9th, plus being unavailable on one of the days in late September we might first have tentatively chosen as the best date for the Annual Meeting. Planning will also be challenged by two other Steering Committee members being unavailable from September 22-28.

(3) Margy will soon email the Steering Committee to obtain their further input on agenda and whether to emphasize, and plan, the UNNA-territory-wide distribution of hardcopy fliers related

to the Annual Meeting, as seems to have always been necessary in the past, to obtain any sort of decent attendance.

(4) Already either fully or tentatively approved by the Steering Committee as necessary and/or already deemed reasonable (or just possibly acceptable) items for the agenda, include: Business Meeting, in which the whole Steering Committee and new people interested might be elected, the new Bylaws (see below) officially approved, and Paul as Treasurer explain the beginning balance, sources and uses of funds, and ending balance for the fiscal year. Also, Steve Greenlee might present the UNNA website. Presumably Paul Kashmann will be invited to speak. A discussion of urban wildlife and living peaceably with them might be had. There will be the usual emphasis on not letting discussion devolve into lengthy complaints about partying DU students, with perhaps the procedure for that given out somehow after the end of the meeting.

IX. Bylaws Revision

Margy and Sean presented the new, revised bylaws document that Sean has created. A small number of additional changes were agreed upon. The new document, including those changes, will be presented at the Annual Meeting to be officially voted in as the replacement document for the prior bylaws.

Features of the new bylaws include a Steering Committee structure rather than a President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer officer structure. Fluid subcommittee structure is mentioned, with all Steering Committee members needing to be part of a subcommittee, despite our small size, but with, in a sense, a catch-all type of subcommittee, "Neighborhood Relations," existing to help people join whose time commitment and specific topic focus would be otherwise limited.

It is confirmed check signers can't write checks to themselves and disbursements must be pre-approved by the Steering Committee.

X. Reminder of Next DU Good Neighbors Meeting

The next DU Good Neighbors Meeting is Wednesday, August 25th. Further details, in terms of time, zoom or an in-person location, will be decided by DU between now and then.