

**University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)
Minutes of Annual Meeting, held simultaneously in-person and via zoom: September 23,
2021
Minutes prepared by Paul Bloede**

Attendance: Remote via Zoom

City Councilman Paul Kashmann Aide Brent Fahrberger, Kashmann Aide Elise Bupp, Six People Who Live within the UNNA Boundaries

Attendance: In-Person: Steering Committee Members of UNNA

Margy Kennedy, Paul Bloede, Steve Fisher, Melanie Cashen

Attendance: Additional, In-Person

Judy Graese, Pat Kennedy, Three People Who Live within the UNNA Boundaries

Attendance: In-Person Speakers

Angie Hueger, successor to retired Pat Kennedy as Director of Street Maintenance, for City and County of Denver, and Michael Bunker, new Director of DU Campus Safety Center

Total Attendance, Therefore:

19

Times and Dates

The meeting began at 6pm. The meeting ended at 7:15pm.

I. Business Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Paul Bloede reviewed the 12 months beginning September 1, 2020 and ending August 31, 2021. He reported that beginning balance was \$849.90, the only activity was two \$15 deposits, and the ending balance is \$879.90. He explained that Margy with her own funds says she spent between \$20 and \$30 to renew annual INC dues for UNNA (Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation). Paul explained more extensive financial activity, for UNNA, typically only occurs if we have an ice cream social, or a combined paper-shredding and electronics-recycling event.

Retention of Same Group of Steering Committee Members

Steve Fisher nominated, and Melanie Cashen seconded, the motion that the 2021-2022 Steering Committee be the same as the 2020-2021 Steering Committee: namely: Margy Kennedy, Paul Bloede, Sean Uyeda, Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, and Melanie Cashen.

II. Key Points Made by Denver City Councilman Paul Kashmann's Aides Brent Fahrberger, and Elise Bupp, (whether after advance consultation with the Councilman, or in response to questions submitted in advance by Paul Bloede, or in response to new questions, received this evening, from the floor/other zoom attendees)

(1) Kashmann is a champion of the City Council initiative “20 Is Plenty”: to reduce the general default speed limit on Denver side streets (not major arterials) to 20 mph, from 25 mph. It is believed such a change will cause a significant reduction in numbers of fatalities and injuries and seriousness of injuries, involving automobile traffic on side streets.

(2) Kashmann strongly supports initiatives to reduce bicycle theft in Denver. Denver annually experiences the theft of thousands of bikes, and is the worst city in the USA for bicycle theft. Kashmann has been meeting with his fellow councilman Jolon Clark, police chief Paul Pazen, and will be meeting with an expert on bicycle theft who works for the city of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. A big focus will be on getting more people to utilize the 529 Garage database, which stores pictures of people’s bicycles, attributing ownership, among other things.

(3) Action by City Council: approve or amend, with respect to Mayor Hancock’s recently-submitted, \$1.49 billion City and County of Denver 2022 budget, is due by November 30th. It is too early for any major or thorough reaction by either Kashmann or the rest of the Council, therefore, regarding the overall budget proposal.

(3a) Thanks to Kashmann, there is \$40,000 in the proposed 2022 budget, to study and fund the Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) structure, (UNNA is one of the RNOs) and the overall state of communications back and forth between City and County of Denver (CCD) and its citizens.

(3b) While certainly substantial, including in comparison to spending in some past years, the amount of money in the budget, devoted in one way or another to the homelessness problem, in Denver, Kashmann does not believe to be excessive. For example, overall CCD offerings to ease the homelessness problems in Denver historically have not been able to adequately accommodate the specialized needs of various Denver homeless people. Those differing and specialized needs include: mental health sufferers, substance abuse sufferers, people needing 24/7 shelter options (now provided by CCD), LGBTQ facilities, affordable housing, etc. The need is so great, overall, in terms of addressing the homeless problem, that Kashmann highly doubts budgetary resources in that direction are excessive for 2022.

(4) Despite all of the various CCD-specific bond issuances and tax increases that have been on the ballot in recent years, many described and/or promoted at past annual meetings by Kashmann: that all of those ballot items have passed, the Covid pandemic has still had a major negative impact on CCD finances. Therefore, federal monetary relief designated towards cities, Denver’s portion, does not cause CCD to be in an excessively prosperous or cash-heavy financial situation, but able to get by with a 2022 budget Kashmann believes is more a maintenance budget, than anything overly ambitious, excessive, or over-reaching. There are more bond issuances and/or tax increases that will be on the November 2021 CCD-specific ballot. Kashmann encourages everyone to carefully review each such ballot item and vote as they feel led, on each item.

(5) As a result of Kashmann’s efforts, included in the 2022 budget is \$500,000 to study constructing additional sound barriers along I-25 near the Buchtel Boulevard corridor, to reduce noise.

(6) Despite the recent census indicating larger populations in each of the City Council's districts, that has caused nothing to go onto the CCD ballot. The 2 At-Large seats will be retained, and no additional districts will be carved out of the existing districts. There will be no related increase to councilmembers' staffs.

III. Points Brought Up by CCD Director of Street Maintenance, Angie Hueger

(1) Scheduling strategies by their department reduce street vehicles' time out on the streets, helping the environment.

(2) Materials are carefully chosen, including due to their environmental impacts.

(3) It is two different entities within CCD that enforce no-parking restrictions for street maintenance work, and who perform the street maintenance work. There was no real effort to further analyze an in-person annual meeting attendee's complaint that tickets were issued to the people not obeying the special no-parking restrictions on her street, but that the actual street maintenance was never done (Franklin Street).

IV. Points Brought Up by New Director of DU Campus Safety, Michael Bunker

(1) Bunker has only been on the job a few weeks; his past background is with Georgetown University in Washington, DC; he says the two environments are comparable.

(2) There was a shooting, in no way DU-related, but with respect to which Bunker is cooperating with DPD, that occurred at the Race St and Iliff intersection around midnight, one night. The victim drove himself to the hospital.

(3) Bunker has already been driving with DPD, occasionally, in general, to help enforce safety, and specifically to engage in "Knocks and Talks" with DU partying homes, especially if he's received a 3rd incident complaint about them.

(4) Bunker states to work primarily with DPD unless your complaint is about activity at a location within the campus' boundaries. If not within DU boundaries, there is a place on the Good Neighbors section of the DU website for someone to report the complaint to DU, as well.