

**University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)
Minutes of Regular Meeting, held via zoom: August 12, 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 6:05pm. The meeting ended at 7:02pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting was forgotten to be scheduled, as it's an all-Annual Meeting Planning Session via zoom, and therefore requiring Margy's presence, but her schedule won't allow her to attend on the 2nd Thursday evening in September, as would be usual.

July Minutes Approval: The July Minutes were officially approved, as is.

Treasurer's Report: There has been no activity in the bank account since the July 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's attempts to contact them to either speak at one of our meeting or provide advance talking points, have been unsuccessful. Paul Kashmann agreed to talk to them, to encourage them to speak to us. Margy will also contact them again, asking them this time if they would like to be speakers at the UNNA Annual Meeting.

II. Topics Addressed to City Councilman Paul Kashmann

(1) Mayor Hancock's Decree that all City Workers, including Teachers, be Fully Vaccinated for Covid-19 by September 30th in Order to Keep Their Jobs

A UNNA member had communicated via email with everyone in attendance shortly after the August 10th announcement by the mayor. This member was strongly opposed to the mayor's order, and let everyone know. Therefore, even they felt, for a productive meeting, it was only necessary to get the Councilman's opinion, rather than have a big debate at this meeting, whether over his opinion, or in general, on this topic. The Councilman's opinion, stated tonight, was that he supported the Mayor's mandate for city employees, because the more Denverites get vaccinated, the less likely a 2nd lockdown would be ordered for Denver.

(2) Obtaining Funds to Ultimately Build Sound Barriers in the Gap Areas of I-25 Near Buchtel Boulevard

Kashmann has caused there to be a definite component of the 2022 City Budget, in the amount of \$500,000, to study specifically, just the idea of erecting these additional sound barriers along the highway.

(3) Announcement by Denver Police Chief Pazen of Partnership with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

Kashmann supports the announced plan for the two entities (DPD and ATF) to work together to remove guns from the possession of Denverites not legally allowed to own a gun. He says gun violence has exploded in Denver in the last year, so efforts like this are needed. He said the ATF is in a better position, in combination with DPD, rather than DPD just on its own, in many cases, to obtain the legal authorization necessary to go ahead and remove guns from people not allowed to own them. He said sufficient oversight of this program can be expected to be provided out of the normal roles of the Office of Independent Monitor and the City Oversight Board.

(4) Announcement by Denver Police Chief Pazen that 49% of Shootings and 26% of Homicides Occur near just 5 intersections in City and County of Denver: Federal and Alameda/Colfax and Broadway/Colfax and Yosemite/47th Avenue and Peoria/Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard and Holly

Kashmann doesn't mind UNNA making these 5 intersections hereby prominent in our Minutes, for concerned UNNA geographic area residents to be apprised. He says more safety resources are being devoted to the areas near these 5 intersections. He also says this is similar to how resources have been dedicated to certain busy streets in Denver that seem to have the most auto accidents involving injury.

(5) Report on the Ongoing Meetings of the Large Committee Considering Recommendations for Reform of Denver Police Department after its Response to the Denver Protests over the Murder by a Police Officer in Minnesota, of George Floyd

Kashmann said that 17 of the recommendations directly involve City Council. He said those will likely be the priority of the next several meetings. He said he expects some, but not all, of the 17 recommendations directly involving City Council, to be adopted by City Council. Another outcome of these meetings, that has already occurred, is the cessation of prosecution by DPD of sex workers, most of whom are doing this work against their will. Prosecution will continue of people soliciting their services as sex workers.

(6) The Discussion Over Whether the Population Growth in Denver indicated by the Census requires an alteration of the structure of City Council, perhaps to be on the November ballot

Kashmann stated the population increase the 2020 Census has revealed a Denver population increase that may cause there to be enough momentum for one of two things to be placed on the November ballot: (a) that the two At-Large positions be made into their own districts, so each of the now two greater number of districts in Denver would have fewer people than currently, for the assigned City Councilperson to have to represent, or (b) two new districts be created while also retaining the two At-Large positions.

In contrast to all of the above, Kashmann's opinion is that the population increase isn't great enough to warrant any of the above or any ballot measures; just the possibility of the Councilmembers hiring more staff to assist them. He also stated his strong support for having this concept and reality of 2 At-Large members. He said they bring often a broader, city-wide perspective to issues, plus they represent an additional source to appeal to, should one's own district's councilperson not be sufficiently responsive to a citizen's needs, or in agreement with a citizen's concerns.

(7) Explanation of the City Council's Vote to Prohibit Discrimination Against Protective Hairstyles

Kashmann explained that significant numbers of people of color in Denver wear certain hairstyles, including dreadlocks, cornrows, and braids with respect to which there has been some effort, historically, including in Denver, to discriminate against people with such hairstyles, including in the workplace. The City's vote has created new ordinance that prohibits all such discrimination.

(8) Director of Safety Murphy Robinson Publicly Criticized Attorney General Beth McCann about Issuing Too Many Personal Recognizance (PR) Bonds

The press reported Robinson as saying too many of the people they arrest are let out of custody by McCann's office very quickly, asked to report for some legal proceedings on a certain future date. Except that too many people allegedly never show up on their assigned date, or any other date, to allow the legal proceedings to proceed. And also, that too many of the arrested people, during their allowed personal recognizance, commit further crimes. Kashmann said that improvement is needed in both police always filling out forms fully and correctly, and perhaps at the DA's office. Kashmann will be meeting with both Robinson and McCann soon to help iron this out.

III. University of Denver (DU) Updates

(1) Fatima Rezaile, assistant to Stephanie O'Malley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs, did reach out to Margy to see if we had any announcements of things going on in the neighborhood that they might promote, and vice versa. There was nothing.

(2) It was confirmed that covid restrictions will not allow just people like us, people who live in the neighborhood, to be present outside for the Welcome Back DU students big event, with a booth and signs promoting UNNA.

(3) DU has become stricter about its Fall 2021 Quarter than prior-announced, due to perceived worsening of the local covid situation since the prior announcements.

(4) The Law School has already started; they are on the semester system. The rest of DU, like usual, will start classes right after Labor Day.

(5) The next DU Quarterly Good Neighbors Meeting, via zoom, is scheduled for Tuesday, August 24th, from 6pm-7pm. Fatima has already sent out, to many people, via email, the zoom sign-on instructions.

IV. INC (Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation) Report

(1) INC has essentially taken most of the summer off and not been active lately; there is nothing to report.

V. Police Department Report

(1) The police, similar to INC, have canceled their last two major meeting with the public, due to other summer priorities. There is nothing to report.

VI. Zoning Report

(1) Stadium Inn has been granted special zoning approval to have tables for its customers to sit at, outside along the Evans sidewalk. That is only for food consumption. They are still awaiting

approval to be able to serve alcohol to those people sitting outside. It was the UNNA's members, most of their contention, that, already in the zoning approvals, is a continued ban against loud music speakers, and serving people outside after 10pm.

VII. Bylaws Update

The one UNNA member assigned to update bylaws has not yet made the requested changes to a couple of the paragraphs. They will have the final proposed bylaws document, which will need to be approved at the Annual Meeting, ready for the Steering Committee to review, by the next monthly meeting (per above, exact date not yet determined), which is the Annual Meeting Planning Meeting. If we do have that meeting without Margy being able to be present, she said we can assume she approves the new bylaws being considered.

VIII. Annual Meeting Updates

(1) Confirmed as speakers are Paul Kashmann and Steve Greenlee, the latter being asked to use the Evanston Center's audio-visual capacities to show, explain, and navigate through our website: www.universityneighbors.com. Jason Gallardo and Jay Salas, the former about the Yale Corridor Project and the latter about the entity within City and County of Denver government that he runs, helping people with low means manage their money effectively.

Melanie suggested a man named John, involved with DU security, and with whom she interacts frequently, over concerns related to the apartment building she manages in our neighborhood, be invited to speak. We all agreed. Margy may explore other people within City and County of Denver being invited to speak, using her connections. Stephanie O'Malley and Fatima Rezaile; of DU have been invited to attend, but not speak. Margy will consider further whether she wants to invite one of them to also speak. Sean Uyeda of our Steering Committee she asked to consider being a speaker, on topics related to his volunteer work with the Red Cross, perhaps specifically the topic of fire safety measures for single and multi-family dwellings.

(2) The Annual Meeting date will be Thursday, September 23rd, 2021, in-person, at the Evanston Center, everyone required to wear masks. It's not known whether we will be given the front rooms or the former church sanctuary, to hold our meeting; we've held it in both rooms, over the years. Note: Katie and Steve Fisher won't be able to attend the Annual Meeting.

(3) Margy will explore getting the Annual Meeting onto Zoom, including the necessary technology involved. The City requires us to take attendance, and have at least 12 people in attendance (we believe we can also count any aforementioned zoom attendees).

(4) It was concluded that absolutely essential to the Annual Meeting garnering impressive, or even just significant attendance (and so this is our main marketing effort): will be the distribution of hardcopy flyers, just like in past years. Margy will soon get a flyer to us all, online, for us to approve. Then she will print many flyers.

Margy will email to us all the map of our neighborhood that she's used in the past. She will ask us this time to volunteer to distribute flyers all along which city blocks that are residential within UNNA's territory, that are indicated on the map.

Despite the amount of work required for a steering committee our size to hand-walk flyers to every stand-alone residence in our neighborhood, Margy hopes enough steering committee

people will be willing to volunteer for enough specific portions of the map, that the majority of addresses in our territory will receive physical flyers.