

**University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA)
Minutes of Regular Meeting, held via zoom: October 14, 2021
Minutes prepared by Paul Bloede**

Attendance:

Brent Fahrberger (from City Councilman Paul Kashmann's office), Sean Uyeda, Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Paul Bloede

Times and Dates: The meeting began at 6:25pm. Unbeknownst to the rest of the attendees, Margy had planned to be out of town and not attend the meeting. Her husband got the meeting going late (vs scheduled 6pm start time) due to computer problems. The meeting ended around 8pm. The next monthly UNNA meeting will be at 6pm via zoom on Veteran's Day, Thursday, November 11, 2021. However, high priority on that agenda will be a decision whether to go back to 6:30pm meetings, whether to have Paul Bloede trained as a backup zoom host, and/or whether to instead go back to in-person meetings at the Evanston Center.

August Minutes Approval (September Annual Meeting Minutes earlier approved via email): The August Minutes were officially approved, as is.

Treasurer's Report: There has been no activity in the bank account since the September Annual Meeting. The bank balance remains \$879.90. A deposit must be made soon, to avoid the \$10 monthly Inactivity Fee imposed by the bank, if no deposits processed during a six-month period. Paul agreed to make a \$15 donation/deposit, soon.

I. Paul Kashmann's Opinion on Each November 2021 City and County of Denver (CCD) Ballot Initiative, per staffer Brent Fahrberger (Brent's own opinions generally reinforcing those of Kashmann)

(1) Ballot Measure 2A: per Brent these measures issue debt; only rarely does such action eventually raise property taxes. *Paul's note: upon further research of the official voter guide, published by CCD, many of the measures not only increase debt, but provide for increased property taxes, with or without a limit, in order to pay off the added debt.* Money raised would repair/improve/build: Denver Botanic Gardens, Bonfils Theater, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Zoo, Bonfils Stanton Theater at Loretto Heights Campus, New Library in Globeville, New Library in Westwood, expansion of Hampden Branch Library. Kashmann favors this ballot measure.

(2) Ballot Measure 2B: funds raised same way as 2A. Money to be spent to benefit the homeless. Kashmann favors this ballot measure.

(3) Ballot Measure 2C: funds raised same way as 2A. Money to be spent on sidewalks, and bicycle and pedestrian transportation infrastructure. A UNNA member pointed out, perhaps later in the meeting, that some neighborhoods oppose sidewalks. Kashmann favors this ballot measure.

(4) Ballot Measure 2D: funds raised same way as 2A. Money to be spent on New Park at University Hills, New Park at 47th & Walden. Rebuilds Denver parks' oldest swimming pool: the Mestizo-Curtis Pool in Five Points, which receives heavy usage each summer. Replace playgrounds in 4 parks. Replace basketball and tennis courts and baseball fields at 12 parks. Renovates Sloans Lake Boathouse. Builds/renovates restroom facilities at multiple parks. Kashmann favors this ballot measure.

(5) Ballot Measure 2E: funds raised same way as 2A. Money to be spent on newly-designed, year-round usage, National Western Stock Show complex. Kashmann is opposed to this ballot measure. He questions the timing and method of this funding. Fahrberger suggests the money would be better put to further address the homeless situation.

(6) Ballot Measure 300: increases marijuana sales tax by 1.5%. Money to be spent on Pandemic Research Fund. Fund would be tasked with researching (1) advanced technologies to protect the public from pandemic diseases (2) pandemic preparedness and recovery. Kashmann is opposed to this ballot measure. He feels it's not fleshed out sufficiently. Also, continued price rises due to tax increases on pot could strengthen the always undesirable black market in pot.

(7) Ballot Measure 2F: repeals the amendments to the group living arrangement rules, that City Council approved after very extensive and long-lasting research, consideration, and debate. Kashmann is obviously opposed to this ballot measure. Kashmann and/or Fahrberger suggested similar group living rules as CCD has approved haven't caused problems in other cities.

(8) Ballot Measure 2G: Strengthens the Office of the Independent Monitor, which oversees police behavior and other things. Kashmann favors this ballot measure.

(9) Ballot Measure 2H: Moves the annual city election date from May to April. Kashmann favors this ballot measure. It would make it easier to operate the absentee and early voting procedures.

(10) Ballot Measure 301: "Green vs Concrete". Prohibits real estate development on park land, in particular golf course park threatened with development. Whereas a UNNA member in the know is strongly in favor of this measure, and even cited Denver only spends 8% of its budget (or land area: minutes taker, not sure) on parks, New York City's percentage is 21% and Los Angeles' percentage is 13%. Kashmann is undecided on this ballot measure.

(11) Ballot Measure 302: "Conservation Easement". May allow the Park Hill neighborhood to have more of a say on development issue. Same UNNA member in the know remains strongly in favor of 301 and strongly opposed to 302; suggesting the "Concrete" people put in 302 just to confuse people. Kashmann is also opposed to 302.

(12) Ballot Measure 303: require CCD to eliminate homeless camps within 72 hours of being notified. Requires CCD, in compensation, to build up to 4 major homeless shelters. Kashmann and City Council are strongly opposed to this ballot measure. CCD would be exposed to major legal liability if this measure passed and was implemented. This is because CCD is already under a federal court order to wait 7 days before eliminating homeless camps. Also, 303 does not provide funds for the new homeless shelters.

(13) Ballot Measure 304: reduces CCD sales tax percentage from 4.81% to 4.5%, requiring a citywide vote for any subsequent increases. Kashmann is opposed to this measure, as it will cost the city \$80 million in revenue.

II. Other Items Brought Forward by Councilman Paul Kashmann and/or Staffer Brent Fahrberger

(1) Mayor Hancock's final Cabinet in the Community zoom forum to hear neighborhood-level concerns, this time from Kashmann's District 6 neighborhoods, including UNNA's territory. Date and time to be announced.

(2) As also stated by Fahrberger during UNNA's September Annual Meeting, Kashmann is strongly behind, and encouraging neighborhood participation in, CCD's new bicycle registration program called 529 Garage. It involves a cell phone app. People are asked to register their bicycles in case they get stolen. It's a nationwide database (specific items to be submitted to register a bicycle minutes taker has forgotten). Bicycle theft has become an organized crime activity, and Denver is one of the most active cities in the nation, if not the most active, in terms of bicycle theft, including as a manifestation of organized crime, and also a way that the homeless try to make money. A UNNA member suggested police resources are insufficient in Denver for them to want to or be able to involve themselves sufficiently in this program, but Fahrberger countered that Chief Pazen and District 3 and DPD in general have actually expressed strong interest and commitment to 529 Garage.

(3) As also stated by Fahrberger during UNNA's September Annual Meeting, Kashmann is a major supporter of CCD's "Twenty is Plenty" initiative. This would reduce the speed limit from 25mph to 20mph on general CCD side streets. A UNNA member in the know, and who was generally supported by other UNNA members, asked Fahrberger to report to Kashmann that UNNA informally is generally opposed to the "Twenty is Plenty" initiative. Reasons include: it has failed and been repealed in both San Antonio, Texas and the State of Minnesota. There is no national study current that considers drivers' and pedestrians' cell phone use as contributing factors to the automobile vs bicycle and pedestrian collisions these types of initiatives seek to reduce, in both number and severity. The UNNA member suggested the initiative does reduce severity of those types of collisions, but not necessarily numbers, plus increases number of auto vs auto collisions. This is because of cars traveling at different speeds on the same city block, trying to adapt to or not to the unreasonable and restrictive on people's freedoms and transportation needs reduction in the limit (another reason to oppose the initiative). Enforcement will be impractical and a repeal will take even more taxpayer money, to go back to the current status quo.

III. Overall Assessment of UNNA's September Annual Meeting

(1) There is one UNNA member who appropriately, and naturally, takes on virtually all Annual Meeting planning, and execution/planning of execution of all tasks needed to be performed, ahead of the meeting date, itself. But this is the third year in a row that person's performance of such duties has been sub-par. That is due to all of the following factors:

(a) This year, the person went out of town during an extended portion of the time period leading up to the annual meeting date.

(b) They didn't have the flyers ready for distribution, before going out of town, only after returning.

(c) The normal monthly meeting date for UNNA, as usual to be devoted strictly to Annual Meeting planning, as it occurs in the same month as the later-in-the-month, actual meeting date, was known by the person, to be scheduled to occur while the person was out-of-town. Paul emailed, probably ahead of the person going out of town, confusion over shouldn't the meeting be re-scheduled for after the person returned. But no one replied to his email, and the meeting occurred therefore only with two people in attendance, not including the prime Annual Meeting person, who again was out of town at that time.

(d) It was forgotten, at least to Paul's memory, in the Business Meeting that occurred, for the new by-laws to be submitted/discussed/approved for UNNA. As these need to be submitted to CCD before the end of the year, they are hereby approved by tonight's UNNA meeting, and attached to (sent along with) these minutes.

(e) Although not stated during the meeting by Paul, it is his opinion that it was unfortunate, even though 19 people attended the Annual Meeting in total, whether in person at Evanston Center or via zoom/other form of remote access, that 2 key UNNA members were planning to be out of town the night of the meeting (due to one of theirs unfortunate need to be hospitalized that night, the trip didn't happen, and one of them did show up to the meeting), plus another key UNNA member missed the meeting because they had to work late.

IV. Partly Re-State Top Agenda Priority for November 11, 2021 UNNA Meeting

(1) At this meeting, it will be decided:

(a) Should our meetings go back to 6:30pm?

(b) Should our meetings go back to in-person, at Evanston Center?

(c) If not, should Paul be trained somehow as a backup Zoom host for the meetings, if there is some reason Margy isn't timely able to start the meeting (as apparently has happened 4 times in recent memory)?

(d) How can we start inviting the new attendees, who attended the Annual Meeting, to our monthly UNNA meetings?

(e) It should be noted that CCD notices normally only delivered to RNO designated representative are now automatically being distributed to NextDoor, as well

V. Police Department Update

(1) Nothing new of particular importance. There is something called "District 3 Police Neighborhood Watch." That and other things of possible interest can be viewed as videos via the police website.

VI. University of Denver Update

(1) Considerable internal confusion on decision-making and communications, at DU, has been observed.

(2) Recently successfully pulled off, or likely to be shortly successfully pulled off, events, include the Inauguration of the new Chancellor, and Homecoming.

(3) There may be traffic problems on Asbury Avenue, associated with the November 10th-14th annual Holiday Mart at the Ritchie Center.

(4) The next DU Quarterly Good Neighbors Meeting will be November 17th from 6pm to 7pm. Whether to be on zoom or somewhere in person, scheduled, has not yet been decided.

(5) Although a security head at DU, newly recruited from his prior similar position at Georgetown University was a key, in-person speaker, at UNNA's September Annual Meeting, members of UNNA tonight suggested certain concerns about DU haven't been able to have been sufficiently met due to a Campus Safety head not yet having been hired. For example, a UNNA member has had to talk to community liaison Stephanie O'Malley several times about increases on campus in both crime and vandalism, and/or it has had to be Ms O'Malley to be the one to communicate to the public about such increases.

(6) There is likely actually a new homeless person attempting to find shelter in the private apartment building a UNNA member manages, located right in the heart of the otherwise DU campus territory. This UNNA member will work with CCD and DU on this, as was successfully done with respect to the prior homeless person who would both seek shelter in, and cause damage to, this apartment complex.

VII. Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) Update

(1) INC is experiencing burn-out among its members. And the number of CCD RNOs deciding to keep their membership current with INC and thereby continue to belong to INC is down to 40 RNOs, versus 100 at one point in time. Committees are meeting less frequently, perhaps some "lesser" committees, not at all, and INC has experienced internal turnover. Our UNNA representative to INC still faithfully attends the appropriate meetings, and still remains fully involved.

(2) INC is putting much of its hope into efforts by CCD, including those that Councilman Kashmann is involved in, to fund an Office of Community Engagement, which exists already in other cities. That and other funding apparently will fund RNOs and provide guidance on how to best reach people these days, considering INC believes the RNO and INC model to be losing its relevance to the overall Denver citizenry, these days.

VIII. Zoning Issues.

(1) Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) remain a thorny zoning issue, throughout CCD. Issues about just the design of ADUs, and whether someone can convert their basement, rather than a separate structure on their yard, into an ADU, remain essentially unresolved and still being debated, by the parties that be, including within CCD. INC is weighing in on the issue, and (minutes taker can't remember) may have already concluded, or is leaning towards (via its ZAP=Zoning and Planning Committee, of which UNNA's representative to INC is a member) a comprehensive ADU zoning plan rollout for the entire city.

(2) Meanwhile individual ADU zoning adjustments continue to be applied for. There is one just announced (but paperwork not fully completed or submitted yet, by the applicant) for a property

in our territory, which is quite close to the home of a UNNA member. The address of said property is 2070 S Franklin St. The owner wishes to combine 2 lots, and include an ADU on one of them.