

# Winston Downs Community Association/WDCA Board Minutes August 15, 2023 via Zoom

## Call to order 7:09

Welcome and Introductions

**Attendees:** Jane Lorimer, Tim Rooney, Susan Bernard, Joanna Milewski

**Guests:** Logan Fry, Denver City Council District 5, Mickey Greenberg

## Approval of July Board Meeting Minutes

Tabled until next meeting

## President's Report – Jane Lorimer

- Jane Lorimer answered 55 calls or emails related to the Xcel o line upgrade
- Now residents are asking for claim link to reimburse for damages, primarily for dry ice and in one case food loss
- Partnership with DPS and Green School is no longer there and we otherwise would have had some advance notice of the timing and nature of the work. We need to reengage with the DPS and Green School.
- Item for e-news: as school starts and Jewish holidays begin, pedestrian safety is key.
- Amanda Sawyer newsletter included lighting study that indicated that Lights On Programs do help deter crime (motion and/or all-day lights). Study was for all of District 5 (now including South Hilltop).
- Jane noted nice box wraps on utility boxes in the city (on Colfax). Is this something the City would fund and/or install for our neighborhood? Artists are paid \$200 for their effort. Amanda's office looking into this for utility boxes and bus stops. In particular, the box on Olive & Alameda looks shabby.
- Parkway on Alameda still looks messy in terms of the quality of maintenance and lack of weed whacking.
- Logan noted that rain this year has resulted in major weed problem across city. Eventually this can result in structural problems for sidewalks and concrete and it does need to be addressed.
- Field south of E. Exposition on S. Quebec still has not been mowed.
- Min did do weed control as planned and missed a few small areas that he will return to get later.

## Treasurer Report – Joanna Milewski

- Savings balance: \$7,015.13 as of 7/31
- Checking balance: \$3,610.68 as of 7/31
- Membership gained 1 new member for a total of 145 members with \$2,900 total revenue. Of the total membership, 54 gifted an additional \$1,019 over and above the \$20 standard dues. In all, 42, or 29% of total, paid by Paypal.
- Expenses:
  - Weed control: Min did not cash check as of 7/31 but did not check on-line statement so he may have by the time of this meeting.
  - Extra sign purchases for garage sale in July
  - \$150 donation to BMH in July

## **Safety Report – Mickey Greenberg**

- RV parked in front of Rabbi's house on Dakota. Rabbi talked to them and issue appeared to resolve itself.
- We have 20 mph speed limits and signs are going up in some areas. Chief Thomas noted that they are not going to enforce this. Some disagreement on whether the new speed limit will make a difference. Some studies suggest that this will help and others state that they do not help at all. Depends on where the study was done and in what context. We would like to see some accounting of the performance of this program over time. Any evidence related to a reduction in accidents would be helpful.
- Mickey copied Logan and Owen on neighborhood watch brochures – would be nice to get more copies made prior to our block party. Amanda Sawyer's office can print out approximately 50 and use for multiple meetings. Logan to work with Mickey to coordinate drop off.
- Note that the emphasis of training for neighborhood watch is on suspicious behavior rather than suspicious people.
- Some ongoing crimes.
  - 573 S. Oneida Way – Trees are quite large in front and someone entered vehicle and stole items. Overgrowth makes visibility difficult.
  - Courtney Grosso adding addition including enclosure with roof for van. Appears that someone took roofing nails out of the garage and stuck all tires with nails in the tread. Seems purposeful and feels targeted. Van had not moved for a while so it does not appear to be just running over nails. Very sad.
  - Around 9PM last Friday there were gunshots in the neighborhood.
  - Tuesday August 8 there were marked and unmarked police at Fairmount. There was a shooting incident with no injuries.
- Homeless report that Mickey disseminated to board could be distributed but it does have personal opinions that would need to be removed. Notes were not taken with objectivity in mind.

## **Block Party**

- Most arrangements made already. Recap of who is doing what:
  - Joanna – waters two cases
  - Danielle – thought she was going to bring coolers. Susan has one too.
  - Susan – bring ice.
  - Jeff - bring speakers
  - Jane has 1 tent and Joanna has 2.
  - Tim - bring tables and chairs.
  - Jane - send reminders to people
- Show up at noon for set up at BMH BJ

## **Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) – Jo-Nell Herndon**

- Not present

## **Other Items**

- Jane to discuss availability of Courtney Grosso to remain on board.
- Citizens for a Safe & Clean Denver – do we want them to talk to us? Board consensus is that it would be appropriate to have them come talk to Board first before we open up to community.

- It would be nice to introduce ourselves to Cottonwood home. Not sure what the process is for residents to apply to live there or process.
- Board needs some additional guidelines together for events and procedures
- Jane started writing standing rules but it has been some time since that effort was done.
- The City of Denver term limit issue was brought to the charter review committee – probably need to go back to drawing board as most did not believe it was a good idea. They could come back in early 2024 to evaluate. Perhaps council members can run for district office but then not serve as at large member? Anyone can put forward ideas to council- it has to go through legislative review. August 24 (**not sure about date**) is last day for something to be put forward for the 2024 elections.
- There are 8 adults and 8 cars at rented house at Pontiac Way and Pontiac St intersection. Property size 10,400 sf (approximate). May be compliant with law but we want interpretation of law regarding number of vehicles who can park at a property. Logan to verify but believes rule is however many residents have valid driver's licenses plus one.
- New staff at District 5 – Nicole – to provide scheduling and constituent services.
- Several homes are being rehabilitated and others may come on the market:
  - Fire damaged house is in the process of being rehabbed and house next door is being flipped.
  - Ruth Davis, owner of property overlooking Leetsdale, passed away. That property will be put on market.
  - Carol Hupp's property on E. Exposition Avenue is still being cleaned out. This is adjacent to a large rental property and the property behind it has a tennis court – combined there is enough room for another cul de sac. Meg Schomp property at least partially unsold.
- Some people have questioned new value assessments. It is unclear what the timeframe is for responding to requests.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM**

Minutes submitted by Tim Rooney