

2022 DPHD Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Betsy Rubner at 6:15 pm.

6-6:15 Neighborhood Business

- Introduce Board
 - Ann Atkinson - Vice President (Franklin)
 - Casey Westlake - Secretary (Lafayette)
 - Rick Romig - Treasurer (Lafayette) - sadly not here - he's in Italy
 - Patricia Peterson (Marion) - sadly not here - she's in Italy
 - Lorren Nichols (Marion)
 - Robin Benckart (Lafayette)
 - Nicole Nice (Lafayette)
 - John Angelo (5th Ave)
 - Stockton Baker (Humboldt)
 - Lisa Mc McGlothlen (Humboldt)
 - Charlotte Ward (Franklin)
 - Michele Steed (Gilpin)
 - Natacha Kiler (Gilpin)
 - Alissa Laux (Williams)
 - Lydia Eiguren (High)
 - Nicole Nice
 - We are looking to add more members - please talk to someone after the meeting
- Our Neighborhood Book Club is still going strong and is now meeting live! If you are interested, let me know at the end of the meeting.
- Communications - how we connect with you: signs (Event & Neighborhood meeting), email list (we try not to overdo the privilege of landing in your inbox) and the website: drivingpark.org - take a look, there is lots to discover
Flyers and email - how people heard about event – only a couple hands raised for the signs
- Dues - what they are and how they are used: events; website; flyers, picnic, fall festival...
- Fall Festival - Lydia Eiguren
In lieu of picnic, this year will have a fall festival; the homeowners adjacent to the 4th ave parkway have agreed to let us use their space; Sat Oct. 22, 3-5pm; hot chocolate, costumes, games

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- What else would you like to see? Here are some of the ideas we shared. Emergency planning, food drive - Betsy will send out email after this meeting for folks to share input/ideas
- It is time to vote for the 2023 Board. Our current board has agreed to continue. Our bylaws require that the board be approved by the “members,” i.e. everyone who has paid dues..
- I will take a motion to vote for the existing board to continue to represent our neighborhood in 2023.
- Michele Steed nominated Jane Olivier to replace her as representative of the 500 block of Gilpin St
Motion: Charlotte Ward
2nd: Barbara Hopper
Yes - all
No - none
Abstain - none

Speakers: We have sent our a short list of questions/topics based on the issues based on the RSVP for them to address. Because each speaker has important information to deliver in just 15 minutes we probably won't have time for Q&A. If you have a question that isn't addressed, you can send it to us via the suggestion box on our website. We will do our best to make sure your questions get forwarded to the speakers and that their answers get back to you.

6:30-6:45: Kate Young and AJ Pacheco: our DPD Community Resource Officers

Topics:

- DPHD had 8 vehicle thefts this year compared to 10 last year; some of those break-ins are parts-related; also break ins stealing garage door clickers and looking for owner's address on registration (make sure to keep the vehicle copy registration in your car which doesn't have your address); 5 auto theft to date down from 13 last year; one Ford Bronco was found through GPS assist; burglaries 1 commercial (lock box) 3 residential (garage related; back door broken with brick); 7 grand larceny crimes down by 5 from last year

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- Get involved with each other and in the neighborhood, neighborhood watch training 9/22; they cover how to call police and get contact; CAB (commander's advisory board) Meeting, coffee with cops first Wednesday of every month 695 E Louisiana from 10-noon;
- AJ mentioned problems with privacy landscaping / overgrown plants; they like shrubs cut down to 2ft so police have better visibility inside the house, also criminals can hide in bushes; lighting outside of house - important that it's bright enough; he also noted that certain lightbulbs cast a strong blue light and it messes up how things appear on security footage (like car color might show up differently)
- They do have special license plate screws you can get from DPD; they don't work for Minis, BMW, Tesla, Volvo
- Question about speeding especially on 6th; they can put out temporary speed signs after getting complaints; gathers data like how many cars drove by and if they slowed down etc; sometimes they put signs in stealth mode and it doesn't show the speed but it collects the info for the traffic cops on motorcycles to use; we can reach out and ask police to put speed signs - just tell them what street and what direction
- Question about effectiveness of cameras- what's going on at night in our hood; cameras are great for collecting evidence after a crime happens, but it's not going to stop someone from committing the crime; also helpful to let cops know what's going on; AJ mentioned the Neighbors by Ring app that anyone can use - neighbors can post on there and Kate and AJ will see it; or someone can post on there about a crime and ask other neighbors to look for footage; alleys are always a challenge because they're hidden but if you know there are people in the alley let the cops know and they'll patrol accordingly
- Children playing traffic signs? That's not a DPD issue - DOTI or council person
- Jill Livran (owner of The Lark) noted her store was broken into and the response time was 2.5 hours; DPD said response timing depends if there's a big car accident or something that has pulled a lot of officers responding

Anyone can reach out directly to the CROs, contact info under [Resources](#) page of DPHD website

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6:45-7:00: City Council District 10 representative Chris Hinds and District 5 representative Amanda Sawyer: you are probably aware that because of redistricting, we will be switching from District 10 to District 5. They are both here to sort it out for us and bring us up to speed on what the council is doing. We will start with Chris.

Topics:

- what are the most important issues that council will be addressing between now and July?
- what is being and/or needs to be done about the homeless situation?
- what are the most important ballot issues for this coming election?

Chris Hinds: DPHD is [District 10](#) for now; redistricting issue is complicated conversation; 1 person 1 vote, redistrict every 10 years to get same number of people in each district; new map takes effect July 2023, [Chris Hinds](#) will be council person through July next year

April 4, 2023 - date we vote for Denver elected officials – mayor, city council,; will be voting for new map (will be District 5)

Everyone on council vote for all issues about the city; between now and July budget conversations going on, mayor released last week his view on budget; this Friday first presentation on budget 2023; the 2022 budget had extra funding for DPD recruitment and retention and they're still understaffed, if you have input on amount spent on public safety let them know

5 of 13 council seats are up for reelection as well as mayor; only have certain of who's on council now through July; city council chambers became wheelchair accessible because of Chris

District 10 issues- tents, crime,?

Chris referenced the City of Houston dealing with housing homeless issues – NYT article; goes back to 80s when defunding of affordable housing, took long time to get here will take a long time to fix it 270 million budget proposed by mayor for housing (?) if we don't want tents we need to put people in homes – we have to pick one issue

We are pushing mayors office about camping ban-public health aspect, Chris has been creating community where there wasn't any; Golden Triangle hasn't had one tent; sooner he knows people are in tents sooner he can tell mayors office, starting to see success in other areas, Cap Hill is toughest area , neighborhood watches for connecting people with help and services

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Amanda Sawyer's district right now is Colfax and Colorado then south and east to Aurora and Tennessee.

[Ballot issues](#)...its illegal to use city resources to campaign so she cant tell us what she supports or doesn't; initiative for fee per homeowner to provide sidewalks, because current plan would take 120 years to build all the sidewalks needed so this plan provides a different way to do it; TABOR, gov't has to provide estimate for taxes collected and if it goes beyond they need to put on ballot about retaining those add'l earnings and the programs they support; blue book and ballot modernization updates – she helped with writing those (legislation is her passion).

You can now testify remotely for city council meetings; council approval required for mayor candidate approval –we have a strong mayor system, changes were made so the mayor cannot appoint whoever they want now it needs to be approved

Single subject rule – there is not a formal rule in Denver right now, hopefully will be In November, Newer Denver no eviction without representation, funding to provide advocates for people being evicted who make less than 8% of the median income, people taking advantage of the program has 74% rate of not being evicted; issue regarding whether 100% of people should get legal representation if being evicted denvergov.org/district5 Amanda put all info on here- newsletter, sign up for events like park cleanup -Oct 2 annuals parks cleanup day

7:00-7:15: Jane Donovan, from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is here to help us understand [expanded waste collection services](#) and how we can help divert as much waste from landfill as possible.

Ordinance passed to have fee for solid waste disposal; program will require all Denver residents to pay for service and fee will be based on size of trash can, 35 gallon is \$9/month; goes up to \$13 a month or \$21 month; includes compost which right now is a separate fee, in the trash 25% of that is recyclable and 75% is compostable (?), all landscape trimmings go into compost.

Affordability program simple to sign up if you're at 35% area median income you can get 100% coverage; instant rebate; previously compost billing system was in a spreadsheet now its all in a system and its automatic;

Will be quarterly bill and will match your storm water bill, will cycle those together in about a year

How do you know what size to bill me/what size I have? They have collected that information...95 and 65 gallon; online service now set up so you can request changes to can size etc; they ask us to not keep them in public right of way

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Also elaborate education program – community based orgs will do that for them in door to door fashion; education plan can be seen/accessed online...to make sure compost and recycling is done correctly

Yes you can share a can with neighbor, also have option to opt out of compost but will payevery resident will pay \$9 for small can, whether you use other services or not you're going to pay for the can

If we want to change the size can do online or 311, compost will be slow roll out about a year, they will deliver compost can to our house; new plan will be weekly recycling – won't change overnight but should have up and running soon; large item pickup will continue and included as part of the fees,

Carolyn Joy-Fortino (both a neighbor and neighborhood business owner) shared info about the [3 state ballot initiatives](#) that impact Joy Liquors

Final comments - Thank you to the Community Church of Christ and Pastor Monica Argotsinger for letting us use this lovely space. Thank you to each of our speakers. Thank you to the board for continuing into 2023. Thank all of you for coming.

Remember the next neighborhood watch training is tomorrow.

Please share this information with your neighbors and let them know that the video of our meeting will be on the website within the next week. We will be sending out a follow up email once the video is available.