

2023 Community Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Board President, Betsy Rubner

Neighborhood Business

- The 2024 Board was introduced.
 - Betsy Rubner, President
 - Ann Atkinson - Vice President (Franklin) - former President
 - Casey Westlake - Secretary (Lafayette)
 - Rick Romig - Treasurer (Lafayette) - sadly not here - he's in Italy
 - Patricia Peterson (Marion)
 - Lorren Nichols (Marion)
 - Robin Benckart (Lafayette)
 - Mike Lees (Lafayette)
 - Nicole Nice (Lafayette)
 - John Angelo (5th Ave)
 - Stockton Baker (Humboldt) - former President
 - Lisa Mc McGlothlen (Humboldt)
 - Charlotte Ward (Franklin)
 - Looking for someone in the 400 block of Franklin - Barbara Hopper volunteered
 - Jane Oliver (Gilpin)
 - Sydney McGinnis (Gilpin)
 - Alissa Laux (Williams)
 - Looking for someone in the 500 block of Williams
 - Lydia Eiguren (High)
 - Looking for someone in the 500 block of High
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- Communications - how we connect with you: signs (Event & Neighborhood meeting), flyers, 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. We took a poll and learned that flyer, signs and email all worked to get the word out.
 - A motion to approve the 2024 Board was made by Robin Benckart and seconded by Lydia Eiguren. 46 hands were raised to approve, 0 opposed and 0 abstained.

Neighborhood Watch: What neighborhood watch / training is all about – observe and know the difference of what should and should not be reported; the goal is to have someone on every block that has connections with people on their block; we're trying to get more "neighborhood watch" signs but noted we had some at the meeting if anyone wanted to take one home

There is a neighborhood watch training on October 24th at the district 3 station on University. Additionally the Board plans to arrange a zoom training for the neighborhood. A post meeting poll will be available to help determine evenings work

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for the most number of interested people. After that we will coordinate a meeting with Kate Young, our Community Resource Officer and Christie Mochourk, the District 3 Program Manager

Birgit Schafer gave brief overview of her creative workshop; she's converted her garage into a workspace conducive to hosting groups and organizing workshops, she would love to share her creative offerings such as candle making (at little to no fee, covering the cost of materials); she encouraged anyone interested too email her at studioBonHigh@gmail.com to learn more.

Kate Young, DPD Community Resource Officer for District 3 denvergov.org/police

- Crime map and stats available at denvergov.org/police, and can even download into excel if you want to filter/sort to see what's going on by neighborhood (won't be the nitty gritty details but will show the block and the basics of what happened); she emphasized this is a much better source than Nextdoor – which she has disdain for and said if you see something crazy posted on Nextdoor to report it to DPD
- Stats encompass the statistical neighborhood of Country Club (which includes DPHD)
- Denver as a whole is up 8.71% in crime (but crime is coming down); for Country Club, crime is down 1.7%
- Main sources are theft and motor vehicle incidents; mostly attributed to valuables left in cars, locked and unlocked, also garage break ins
- She emphasized the importance of removing valuables or something perceived as valuable from your car...treat your car like you would a rental car - take everything out
- Mentioned a theft that involved copper wiring taken from a break in- they have a suspect
- Porch pirates and bike thefts account for the majority of arrests
- Nationwide program started in May for registering your bike and if its stolen they can scan your bike sticker and help track down – she brought print outs about the program and information. A digital copy of the flyer can be found on our website. To register your bike go to [529 Garage](#)
- Auto theft is down. Kia and Hyundai are still the most commonly stolen cars
- Mentioned a specific crime that involved a rental scam and someone living in a place they thought they had a legitimate lease for but was actually a vacant house being illegally rented out (scam on Craigslist)
- There was a house undergoing renovation and broken into a number of times and a neighbor noticed someone looking around the property checking door handles and they called cops -the person was arrested for trespassing

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- Narcotics and alcohol arrests up by 1 and was related to traffic stop
- Porch pirates – this is really important for the neighborhood watch program, related to packages sitting on the porch; try to make arrangements for your deliveries if you're out of town to avoid theft
- Homeless situation & police—any complaint must come through 311 related to encampments, but if anything illegal or not safe is observed call 911
- Best way to avoid car break in is removing any valuables, treat like a rental car, or put valuables in trunk and hide and lock it if you're out shopping, also be careful not to let someone see you putting valuables in your car and walking away... even hide your phone charger, it takes seconds for these thefts to happen, easily prevented
- 311 vs 911- influx of people calling 311 trying to get connected to 911, but 311 is really for anything not police related; if 311 doesn't connect you to the non emergency number, the police won't get your call/complaint for 2+ weeks...better to call the non-emergency number directly: 720-913-2000
- Property crimes without any suspects can be reported online (so you don't need to wait for cops to come – like if you come home and see evidence of a theft
- If you call 911, the most important/first thing to tell them is your address, they can't ping your cell phone to get your location like you see on TV...any other info you can give after that is a bonus, such as identifying features, tattoos and shoes are both helpful details
- Say yes to contact, if you call 311/non emergency they'll ask a lot of questions but last will be if you want contact and its important to say yes if you want to hear back about your issue (about updates / getting the problem resolved)
- Speed enforcement and traps on 6th – can request via email for specific locations
- Monthly coffee with cops (usually held on the 1st Wednesday of the month) at Nixon's Coffee House, 695 E. Louisiana next to Duffyroll, next gathering is Wednesday, November 1st.
- Also CAB is the big district meeting (cancelled for October but next is November) and she encourages people to attend if they've never been, knowledge is empowering and it's a great opportunity to learn more
- Senior Fraud Prevention Awareness, Wednesday, October 4, from 2-3pm at American Legion, 5400 E. Yale
- Who do you call if people are loitering in alley? That's not a crime, unless you see suspicious activity like checking door handles; call 911 or the non-emergency number; be sure to request disposition from officer responding
- Don't leave old school garage door clickers/openers on your visor, think of them like a key to your house...even if you're going into store, take it with you; thieves can look if your registration includes your address (if it does, be sure to switch out the registration form with the one that does not have your address. If they

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have the garage door opener and know where you live, that's how they steal bikes or or even get into your house if you have an attached garage, avoid using those clickers if possible

- Catalytic converters shields...buys you time but not fool proof, most thieves have cutting tools with them; they have seen a slowdown in theft, but nothing is perfect
- DenverTrack is free auto theft program to register car, pre-populates your info into their system so if your car is stolen (2015 or newer cars) it works with the gps (or you can use an AirTag hidden in your car), with your permission, police can then track your car in real time if stolen; you get sticker you put on drivers side windshield, and they've advertised this program in jails, so criminals know when they see the sticker that your car can be tracked; 2,200 cars registered so far and none have been stolen Denver

Notes from City Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer District 5

We are in district 5, as of July 17th this year

DenverCouncil5@denvergov.org

- She encourages people to reach out to her with Qs; they get about 1,000 emails a day so might take a little to hear back but she wants to hear from us...they brought reusable tote bags that included a hard copy PPT deck that covers some of the info covered in the meeting
- Every year all residents receive a letter/post card in the mail with a QR code for a survey asking residents to tell them what they care about most (~ 1,500 people respond), and she keeps track of last year's results and what was done to address the issues
- Homelessness: first made the disclaimer that it's hard to track unhoused residents and they're usually untrusting; however, noted that 50% of the unhoused population in Denver have jobs that they go to every day...they're homeless because they can't afford housing (i.e. not all homeless have mental health issues, many are employed and work regular jobs but can't afford housing)
- Best Western hotel was purchased and yesterday was the first sweep, offering to the homeless population housing in the Best Western and everyone offered took the offer (about 75 people), which is a start
- Short and long term solutions: we know the solution is housing (we just don't have enough of it) combined with offering wraparound services / support, but we can't just house someone without the services - if they have addiction or mental health issues they need support just as much as shelter; she votes no a lot and voted no every time mayor's housing initiative came up; she also noted that the messaging is misleading, we're not really housing 1000 number of people by December 31, we're doing something better than nothing but those figures are deceiving; she's also concerned about the budget...we are running very close to

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the bone this year, didn't expect migrant crisis to last as long as it did and to this extent

- They're not coordinated enough to ask the homeless what is convenient for them location wise at only 3 months into the program
- In the last 2 weeks the mayor released 11 sites around the city they plan to put up tiny homes or shelters for the homeless; our district doesn't have any sites because we don't have any city owned land in district 5...we have city owned parks but that's not allowed for housing solutions so the mayor would have to work with a private property owner in our district to set up any housing options (she noted we have a strong mayor form of government, meaning all city agencies work for and report to the mayor's office and she has no control over it); there is one individual private property owner in District 5 who has come to the mayor's office and offered to help and its under discussion; it will require a public meeting before anything happens.. but that's more of notification meeting, not asking for neighborhood input in the decision-making process
- \$48.5 million is the cost for 2023, not the cost for the entire program, because there is a lot more required, like wraparound services, most is ARPA funding
- There's \$4.5 million in that account that's ARPA interest (American Recovery Plan Act); federal money given to Denver in 2021 to shore up economy after covid, only the mayor's office can appropriate that money, but that money is up for grabs (that's equivalent to 6 stoplights or 4.5 miles of sidewalk), so we're giving up a lot to use that money for housing 1,000 people....unclear what the long term costs are going to be and she's very concerned
- Landlord/rent question – that's an issue managed at state level, not municipal level (not under city council)
- At end of 2022 when we started to see migrants come into Denver, had inkling it would be a lot, most do not stay here long term but in the meantime we took care of them and cost us \$26 million dollars as of today - it will be really close for us budget wise this year
- Gov. Abbott of TX has started sending 2-3 buses of migrants a day to Denver
- \$20 mil set aside for 2024 budget set aside for unhoused migrant situation / population
- Red light right turn question answer is no – not being discussed right now
- Bicycle lane situation – yes they do help slowing down traffic and making it easy for cyclists and pedestrians, but they're ugly; the tall white ones cost less which is why there are more of that solution
- No, the new trash program was not for making money, it was in effort to reduce landfills, added benefit of weekly recycling; compost is a mess, but you are receiving credit on your bills; we're looking a late 2024 for compost for our district

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- Sidewalk delays, yes, task force put together on how to address this, pause any implementation at this point until they can figure out the cost structure

Sean Brown, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, Education Program Assistant

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- Need to teach folks how to compost correctly; a lot of people are violating it and treating compost like trash... e.g. of dirty diapers, or disposing grass inside plastic bag then putting into compost...some violations are egregious and some are easy oversights
- Recycling mistakes include kids toys or clothes
- What can be recycled: any tin or can that you buy at store that had food in it
- There's a 30-60 day cycle between these items going from your bin and being back on shelves
- Almost anything that holds liquids from store (bottles, cartons)
- Compost: pretty much food and lawn stuff only, but no packaging
- Cannot recycle receipts – the thermo paper screws things up
- **Download the trash app and can look for any items and if you can recycle**
- Soft plastics cannot be recycled- anything softer than clamshell container, if you can push it with your finger and it bends, no go, anything firm they'll take
- Yes you can “contaminate” your recycling and compost with wrong stuff; they use magnets and sorters of items that is sophisticated to sort items out, greasy pizza box might contaminate other items in the bin and makes them not able to recycle but compost gets messed up easier...can be very hard to remove stuff
- Some items can mess up recycling like a garden hose or rope could get tangled could potentially shut down the facility or mess up machinery...and that's expensive / has impact if they have to shut down facility
- Basically all questions about items can be answered on the app, type in item and it tells you which bin it goes in or where to recycle it if it cannot be in the purple bin.
- Paint cans can be recycled back to wherever you bought it – check greensheepaint.com It iss state by state, small fee built into prices of paint for this reason
- [Blue star Recyclers](#) does electronic recycling – they also hire people in need / have a great program for ppl with disabilities etc

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 by Board President, Betsy Rubner