

2024 Community Meeting Agenda Minutes

5:45-6:15	mingle/dues/
6:15-6:30	neighborhood business (vote)
6:30-6:50	CROs: Kate Young & Manny Fuentes
6:50-7:10	Sgt. Steven Kimberly
7:10-7:30	Amanda Sawyer
7:30-7:45	Wrap up/

6:15-6:30 Neighborhood Business

- Introduction: Call the meeting to order
- Introduce Board
 - Ann Atkinson - Vice President (Franklin) - former President - absent
 - Casey Westlake - Secretary (Lafayette)
 - Rick Romig - Treasurer (Lafayette)
 - Patricia Peterson (Marion) - absent
 - Lorren Nichols (Marion) - absent
 - Nicole Nice (Lafayette)
 - John Angelo (5th Ave)
 - Lisa Mc McGlothlen (Humboldt)
 - Laura Blodgett (Humboldt) - New in 2024
 - Charlotte Ward (Franklin) - absent
 - Barbara Hopper (Franklin) - absent
 - Jane Oliver (Gilpin)
 - Sydney McGinnis (Gilpin) - absent
 - Clark Crawford (Williams) - New in 2024
 - Alissa Laux (Williams) - absent
 - Looking for someone in the 400 block of Williams
 - Christina Romano (High) - New in 2024 - on zoom
 - Lydia Eiguren (High)
- Former members
 - Robin Benckart (Lafayette) - moved - thank you for your service to DPHD
 - Stockton Baker (Humboldt) - former President - thank you for your service

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- 2024 Initiative has been community & safety.
- Safety: we're going to hear more about that from the officers; but certainly a large part of safety is community and having a tight knit group of neighbors
- Community: In July Novo opened after hours exclusively for DPHD; we are planning another for November, just after the election. Watch your email for information about it. If you are not receiving our emails you can go to our website: DrivingPark.org and add yourself to the list. If you did not receive our emails about this meeting it could be that you unsubscribed or were cleaned - the solution is to go to our website and add yourself again.
- Community/Membership: Laura Blodgett, Membership chair; events, communication & membership; trying to develop community, make people aware, brainstorm ideas; Facts: DPHD neighborhood has 409 doors, 156 emails collected; only 26 households have joined (paid dues) for the 24-25 fiscal year; goal is to make everyone aware of our existence and have them to join (pay dues). Private Facebook Group - to join go to drivingpark.org for the link and answer a few questions. We want to make sure you reside in DPHD. We'd like to make it into a place to share questions, look for neighbors with similar interests and share what's happening. What is the benefit of paying dues? We had Novo happy hour this summer, going to do it again in Nov; we also have annual Fall Festival. Henry the Hotdog man will be back again and we will provide non alcoholic beverages and snacks. If you want to sit, bring a chair. This year we will also have paper shredding bins at the Fall Festival (and will make it available a week or two after via appointment.) In addition to the Fall Festival and our happy hours, we also have neighborhood book club which meets monthly. Finally, this year we are going to refresh our neighborhood watch
- Community: Birgit Shafer's DIY studio: Birgit has a really fun studio in her detached garage on High Street converted into creative space and place for people to gather. It's not about what we create as much as a reason to gather, get our creative brain working; she brought flyers with phone and email info - reach out if interested. She will also post studio event on the Facebook Group.
- 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

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If you are not on the email list but signed in tonight we will put you on the email list. Note that you can always unsubscribe.

- Vote for the 2025 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. We will use the honor system - if you didn't pay and would like to vote, go ahead and vote but be sure to let Rick know after the meeting that you would like to arrange to pay your dues. We'll send you a little reminder with a link to pay on-line or send us a check

Motion to approve: Nicole Nice

2nd: Laura Blodgett

Yes all

No none

Abstain none

Speakers:

6:30-6:50: Kate Young and Manny Fuentes: our DPD Community Resource Officers

Topics:

- Crime update: Kate Young: DPHD (Country Club statistical neighborhood) crime is down 38.82%; property crime down 49%; violent crime up by 100+% but don't panic, it's because its compared to last year stats so when not much happens any increase will be a jump; examples of crimes in the last year: there was an indecent exposure incident, also one was robbery that showed up in the system as Country Club but ended up being elsewhere so incorrect; unlocked back gate, garage window broken and called in but the person fled, unlocked garage with vehicle keys, car stolen but caught; doggy door reached in and unlocked and they were caught; We can prevent crimes by: locking garage doors both overhead and pedestrian; also don't leave valuables in car clicker on visor; all car crimes were crimes of opportunity (DPD has anti theft license plate screws - can go to District 3 station to pick them up); bike stolen from porch; fraud charge on credit card - both instances the people knew the person involved w/ crime
- Manny Fuentes became CRO in March but has been with DPD for 7 yrs, worked vice unit, patrol and training officer for recruits coming in: DPD public events (see handouts) are a way to talk with your CROs: coffee with cops; District 3 CAB meetings are held 1st Wed of the month at 6pm (next one is October 2nd); hero fest October 5 noon to 4; 3rd annual halloween carnival.

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- And important note about Facebook: Denver Police are not on our Private Facebook Group so they request that suspicious activity be reported to DPD before posting on Facebook. - police are data oriented the police need accurate data based on crimes called in to know whats happening; call 311 or the non emergency number if the crime is not in progress and 911 if crime is in progress (note - CRO contact info and non-emergency numbers can be found on drivingpark.org.)
- Speeding on 6th and Gilpin, they have the speed signs that also generate data. They can leave up for a week or two to see when the problem occurs and how fast cars are going; we can ask them to put speed sign up at that location; also, anyone can request the photo vans too but there are requirements as to where the van can be placed. It is in our benefit to help them gather information.
- Amanda Sawyer asked the CROs to talk about the FLOCK system program and how successful it is; cameras are set up to check license plates and pull data about that registered vehicle and where its going, the system can see if it was stolen or not and direction it was going when the plate number is taken in real time; DPD can use that info from cameras to pull info and also filter the data to track what's happening esp for stolen vehicles; this is a new tool to the city and very successful ; Note: if your car is stolen and recovered be sure to let the police know so they don't flag it on FLOCK system and think you've stolen your own vehicle! (It's happened.)
- Car noise enforcement - there's a law for certain decibels but realistically they don't have the tech/equipment or means to measure the sound; if you call in noise complaint ask to be contacted and so they can contact you and get info.

Neighborhood Watch Call to action - clipboard with signup to go around

Betsy asked people to raise their hand if ever impacted by crime > 75% did; Betsy lived in Michigan and her apartment was robbed in broad daylight; her neighbor watched the whole thing and didn't report it - the neighbor's silence made her neighborhood more dangerous by not reporting. A clipboard was passed around to determine best time for Neighborhood Watch training. We will notify everyone via email - be sure to be on the email list.

6:50-7:10: Sgt. Stephen Kimberly, DPD Fraud Unit.

- Scams are the most preventable scams - **I**mposter scams are making their rounds and reports have been made in our neighborhood; These are international scammers trying to rip you off; most preventable crime is scam!

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100% preventable especially phone and computer scams; last year - only 1 in 4 scams were reported -and a lot of scams aren't reported, 490,000 scams reported to FTC in 2023 and billions of dollars were lost; the average cell user in a month will get 42 scam texts and 48 calls, Sgt Kimberly gets a lot from Kennsburg a random dinky town in CO - epicenters for where these scam calls are routed through, Cheeny Reservoir in Kansas is big hub for IP addresses that international organized crime scan syndicates use; he saw 4-5 imposter scams even today.

Scammers will often say they're police - saying something like you've missed Jury Duty. NOTE: the police does not come after you for missing jury duty! Most susceptible people to be scammed are those who have recently had a recent trauma or tragedy - those people are more on edge and not thinking their best; scammers will direct them where to go to go to get their target away from their home, scammer will try to keep the person on the phone the whole time to so they don't call someone else. They tell their victim which bank to go to and what to say, then where to send the money; hundreds and thousands of dollars and loss happens every month; they will tell their victim that they need to pay with bitcoin and send them to a coinstar machine (there is one at our Safeway)...the scammer usually provides a QR code for their account; NOTE: before you can do a crypto transaction the machines have a warning message that appears before you can start using the machine for a transaction (basically saying make sure you're not being scammed), and you can even report a crime through the machine directly but you have to hit yes/no before making the transaction; this crypto crime is a non reversible transaction, you can't get that money back

Also ransom emails are going around a lot these days and it's not the Nigerian prince emails of the past that were oddly written etc; common online blackmail scam, sends email shows poor quality image of your house, starts with message likely written with AI so it's done like a proper letter in English etc, and says something like horrible news, we have installed pegasus tracking software on your devices and we can tap into your camera, computer and browsing history etc and we know you've visited these websites - anything to make the person think the scammer actually has control / access to your data - and claims they'll share this info with all your contacts, and says "what should i do?" and provides two options- can ignore us and we'll release hell on your, or option 2 is paying them so they can resolve with QR code that directs you to a coinstar at Safeway

They will often say something general enough that might make you think they actually know what you're doing; 350 million people affected by data breaches last year and scammers get your info through those breeches and all open source data like voter registration and house info - they have it but generally they can't do much about it without your cooperation.

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Bottom line- don't click on anything, don't answer the phone (basically do nothing, don't engage); phone calls are often AI generated, they can even make the voice sound like someone you know; they rarely leave messages and don't call back....and anyone who ever asks you for crypto currency- **DON'T DO IT**. His message was they don't know anything about you and this is just phishing; be wary, always, and you don't need to report a scam attempt if you didn't participate (i.e. give any money) but you can report to FTC - they track that info

7:10-7:30: City Council District 5 representative Amanda Sawyer:

Amanda Sawyer brought slide presentation handouts (a digital version is on our website) with annual year end review with survey results from us (they send us a survey postcard or something we get in mail) biggest issues/concerns were homelessness, traffic, and crime and safety. Amanda went over the programs in place for theft prevention, **DenverTrack** for cars and **529 garage** for bikes (see the digital handouts). You have to give DPD permission to track your car, but it's very successful program) and includes sticker that acts like an ADT sign in front of your house- the thieves skip those houses - no cars have been stolen once registered in program and display the sticker. She noted overall crime down 8% in the city.

Election in Nov will have a very long ballot (6 pages long) - it's way more than just voting for president, denvergov.org/vote has a ton of info about each ballot measure. Amanda encouraged us to read our blue book; website has info now if you want to read about the various issues well ahead of receiving the blue books

Sidewalk ordinance - 2 yrs ago Denver voters approved this measure and now city is responsible for repairing sidewalks for us....they've spent 2 years figuring it out. It will be a \$150 annual fee included on waste bill starting Jan 2025. It will take 10 years for the city to build out this sidewalk program Because it was a resident initiated program, the city didn't have the opportunity to check it out first to make sure it was doable and have a plan in place; she noted specifics for who needs to repair their sidewalk: if you put \$100,000 investments in your home, you're required to build a sidewalk, even if you don't have one now; the \$150/year fee that we all pay will go into one big fund for the city to spend on sidewalks; **no area is exempt** and that's become a problem in some places with an HOAs that don't allow sidewalks close to the condos, hence the sidewalk program conflicts with some HOA rules and the city will need to work with those HOAs to make it happen...Fees start in January but they send bills out in packs

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of 8,000 so you might not get the \$150 charge in January - but at some point next year when we receive the invoice.

Question: why there aren't a lot of sidewalks in Country Club? Amanda wasn't sure historically how it was handled and gave example of Crestmoor not allowing sidewalks. They will be required to have sidewalks in the future.

Question: what is the enforcement situation? Complaint based; a neighbor can call in a sidewalk complaint and someone will come out to inspect

Questions: if all sidewalks are going to be concrete? No...like some old flagstone sidewalks for example the city wants to preserve, etc

John Angelo commented/asked about traffic in neighborhood and Cherry Creek building development; John has started a petition for speed bumps in neighborhood; Amanda noted that the city did not formally allow speed bumps of any kind until 3 weeks ago (anything existing like speed bumps in Lowry are on private streets); but 3 weeks ago city council approved speed bump option for addressing safety and traffic...managing our expectations, Amanda noted that budget hearings just took place and the city is already \$40 million over budget for 2025, so that will impact a lot of programs. It is a good idea but funds will probably not be available next year. We will have the petition at the Fall Festival. Once it we have enough signatures, we will send it to Amanda's office to help move through the city bureaucracy. We will target 2026

A question was asked about how we can access the city plans when projects like Cherry Creek West are being approved. We want to know what is going on and/or coming our way so we can better prepare. If it is simply a permitting situation, no-one gets notices. This is a problem that city council wants to fix but right now it's not an option

Even city council members don't get notified about building permits coming through unless its rezoning; they hope to create an open source channel for residents to get information like this but its not in place; but they're trying to legislate this so Amanda can know ahead of time that 6,000 cars will be driving through CC

Note that city council will be voting on rezoning for the Cherry Creek West project sometime soon.

She encouraged us to read the Council District 5 monthly newsletter - they try to include as much information as possible in the newsletters. To sign up for the email newsletter, go to denvergov.org and search for City Council District 5.

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Final comments - Thank you to the Community Church of Christ and Pastor Monica Argotsinger and her husband Ron for letting us use this lovely space. Thank you to each of our speakers. Thank you to the board for continuing into 2025.

Thank you to our speakers and for the DPHD 2024 Board.

Watch for a follow up email with details about Neighborhood Watch training options.

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.

Watch for events signs and email reminding you about this year's Fall Festival. We hope to see everyone there. And after that you'll be hearing from us about the next Novo after hours DPHD happy hour.

Thank you to everyone for being here and for paying your dues!