

**Jefferson Park United Neighbors
Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008
8:30 am, Barbara and Bill Baker's House**

Present:

Barbara Baker, Co-President
Tim DePumpo, Co-President
Kari-elin Mock, Vice President
Susan Bain-Schmidt, Treasurer
Joan Bondy, Secretary
Bill Baker, Environment
Katherine Meldrum, Safety
Esther Meehan, Safety
David Zucker, Land Use
Daren Schmidt, Neighborhood Liaison
Joe Boven, Communications
Ed Kieta, Special Projects

The meeting was called to order by Barbara at 8:42 a.m. There was a quorum.

Committee Reports

Treasurer:

Susan said her computer has been down. Our current account balance is \$572.43. That's probably enough for our monthly newsletter through the end of the year, and possibly also Halloween trick or treat street activities. More funds are needed if we do anything additional. Fundraising suggestions included David bringing up JPUN earning money through a beer concession at ball games in the future. Ed said those are done by nonprofit groups but require a serious commitment, including full days of participation in every season game and strict accountability. Tim pointed out that we have limited pool of people with that kind of dedication. Barbara and Ed said it's a good long term idea though. Susan suggested we ask for \$10 from each resident or property owner. Barbara mentioned opportunities like "working" the happy hours and also appealing for donations for the newsletter. Two more happy hours are coming up; maybe we could raise \$200 or more. We can add a tear sheet to the bottom of a newsletter page (Susan). Adding names to our distribution list would be helpful, too (Barbara). We should definitely bring attention to our need, however (Susan). A plastic Halloween pumpkin could be passed. David said he'd contact Paul Stann for his contribution, and also we can count on RiverClay/Zocalo. David can deliver a letter from Susan, by e-mail, to keep our various developers in the loop.

Land Use:

David missed the last meeting, was out of town. He's seeing many instances of rezoning to RMU-20 and RMU-30 in connection with the loss of single family homes to townhouses. Should we have a policy regarding carriage lots? OD-9 makes him nervous, the process being somewhat murky, with not enough

information from the city. Barbara said at the last membership meeting that Dierdre Oss, City Planner, had said the old apartment buildings would remain and that there's still a need for those in the marketplace. Jefferson Park's OD-9 issue was a story in the latest N. Denver Tribune and there was a lot of discussion about that at the last general meeting. No further positions need to be taken by the neighborhood board as we've stated them. City Council could hear our thoughts, if anyone would like to express them, one more time on Sept. 22nd at the OD-9 portion of the meeting. Rebuilding, insurance, and disinvestment were discussed. The W. 28th Ave. & Clay redevelopment was a use by right and is still R-3. Ed will be at the meeting and will bring up the apt. to recognize us. Lots shouldn't sit vacant, said Tim. David: if OD-9 really starts to limit development/improvement maybe it will have unintended consequences. Can it be removed once it's in place, asked Kari? David said we could e-mail Dierdre to say we are in favor of OD-9 but we were wondering if it's a failure, is it possible to remove the overlay? Things are moving ahead on W. 25th and Eliot, largely thanks to Ed, said David. Barbara: the general membership voted to support the exemption for PURE – only if the OD-9 applicants agree on adding the 3rd exemption to the application. The planning review board approved it with the 2 exemptions. "All or nothing" (OD-9 map not a patchwork) is what staff recommended, but the planning review board said it's OK as is and it's going to council with the exemptions.

Safety

Katherine mentioned, and we all agreed, how pleased we are with Officer Martinez. He's outstanding in his dedication. Katherine invited communications about what's going on and she will let Officer M. know. He's proactively dealing with our problems. Barbara and David asked if there is something we could do to recognize him. That problem block was quickly turned around, said Susan. We could contact the District Commander, possibly with a letter for his file, which we all sign, suggested Tim. Katherine and Tim will draft a letter and pass it around. Esther told of her son's mugging incident at the local Safeway last night. He was able to call 911 and got a quick response, and the thieves were caught.

Communications

Joe will design and add a tearsheet feature to the newsletter to solicit donations. The next issue will have a Halloween focus. Our newsletter is very popular, said Tim.

Flower bed

Kari needs some information about our individual participation in maintaining the flower bed for a report to parks. The Flower Buds will meet soon to discuss fall plans.

Special Projects - Town Square

Ed said it doesn't look like much like it yet but there's a lot going on behind the scenes. Ken Wolf and Sprung Construction are working on the former Tepper Building. Also, the building next to theatre is closing next week. The vacant lot in back of Jack-N-Grill is soon to be a condo development, and much more is in the works. Many people are now coming to the Town Square meetings, and the goal is that the city will see that we have laid the groundwork to be selected as one of the 5 neighborhoods for the Marketplace

Initiative program in 2009. Future enhancements will include landscaping, angled parking, street lights. David: parallel parking on the north (shady) side of the Tepper Building, due to ice in winter, might be a good idea. Currently, the Town Square group has 8-9 members working on bylaws. Should the group be part of JPUN or freestanding? Ed is leaning toward having a stand-alone organization and forming its own non-profit status. Councilman Garcia has been involved; he thinks it should stand on its own, said Ed. They also will be electing officers soon. Kari asked if the other groups managing neighborhood marketplace initiatives are independent? Ed said yes, predominantly. A so-called maintenance district, council-approved, is desirable from a financial standpoint. Susan, our treasurer, agreed. The budget for such groups are voted on and approved by Council.

Environment

Bill said that some properties are chronic offenders. Kari mentioned that at the Spanos property, the parking lots are now neatly chalked for the game season, and how is it that they can they profit from parking? Barbara: as long as they have the permit, they're OK, but they've paid \$10,000 in fines for weeds. David said they shouldn't be allowed to have parking. The land is under contract, but it's still owned by Spanos, said David. Rafael could look into the zoning. RMU -20 or -30 doesn't allow it.

Daren, neighborhood liaison, said he'll approach Allied Realty for developer fee. Also the Adair Group on Speer will be approached. He'll keep in touch with David and coordinate efforts with him.

Old Business

Central Platte Valley improvement

Jerry, the chairman, is still out of town with FEMA for months. Barbara said we have a volunteer to come in and coordinate the walkways with ADA ramps to be installed at the W. 23rd Ave. bridge in the first part of October. Jeff Park residents, and others, are needed to assist with labor. Also needed are snacks, bottled water--Daren will donate water. We'll email for help and ask again at the next membership meeting.

Hearing on OD-9 at City Council on Sept. 22

In attendance will be Ed, Tim, Barb, David, and Kari if possible.

New Business

Halloween

Kari and Susan are wondering how much do we want to take on? Our priorities: balloons for safe houses, crossing guards (wearing our safety vests) at major intersections. Kari will contact John Rodriguez at New Life in Christ. Will we be helping out with food? We've spent \$100-\$200 in the past. We should identify specific items (Susan). We're not in a position to offer to manage the whole thing. We can add a flyer to our newsletter which they can also use for publicity (Barbara).

Therefore, balloons, crossing guards, and our newsletter with a Halloween flyer are the 3 top items. The area will be concentrated to include the area between W. 23rd & W. 26th, and Bryant to Federal. We can ask for additional volunteers in the Oct. newsletter.

Another upcoming activity is a holiday party. Erin and Jeremy will be in town before Thanksgiving. Barbara is thinking of a neighborhood potluck and casual get-together for them, the date to be decided. The organizing of a food drive is a lot of trouble for Barbara. Tim: we don't have a lot of people resources currently. We could present this to Lindsey as she is in contact with many additional new residents. Does she have the happy hour for November planned yet? The hayride we had once was very popular. Susan said realistically no other big plans should be taken on.

Ed asked: is the W. 25th & Bryant project on hold? Electrical wires are still in place over the end unit. It's on a private alley there. The lines will need to be buried for the project to be completed.

Meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.