



DENVER

INC ONNECTION

www.denverINC.org

March 2015

Neighborhoods work better when they work together



What's Inside

- 2 Message from the President
- 3 Calendar of Events
- 4 INC Meeting of Delegates & Neighborhood Leaders
- 5 Needs of the Community
- 5 Volunteering with INC
- 6 Committee Corner
 - INC Delegates
 - ZAP
 - Education
 - Transportation
 - PARC
 - Executive
 - Safety

From the President



Money talks: When candidates listen, neighborhoods lose

INC's mission statement is to advocate for Denver citizens, empowering Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing city issues. We do that by engaging City elected, appointed and career officials and attempting to effect policy matters

in a democratic, reasoned and sensible manner. Ultimately, those who are elected have a lot to do with INC's effectiveness or ineffectiveness.

So INC, along with the League of Women Voters and Channel 8 have for many years sponsored a series of televised forums, "Denver Decides", in which candidates for City offices are compared and contrasted under questions from, hostess, Beverly Weaver. Channel 8 also runs revealing interviews with the candidates both on the air and on their website. "Denver Decides" is an opportunity that few voters take time to attend and hear their prospective representatives in person and even fewer voters take the time to watch Denver 8 TV and are ignorant of candidates positions and qualifications.

Denver's municipal election process will take place over the next 3 months. How do voters decide how to cast their ballot vote? Too often the vote is based on name recognition through mailers and TV ads. Creating name recognitions costs lots of money. It is estimated that for City Council alone one needs at least 65 to 70 thousand dollars to compete. City wide offices cost even more.

Why are more good people not running for City Council, Auditor and Mayor? Because, it is becoming increasingly clear that the playing field is not even at all. Money, with rare exception, will carry the day and buy the vote. It is difficult for all but those who have spoken in favor of or demonstrated allegiance to special interests to raise the necessary money to win in our local elections.

What is apparent is the inordinate role that money plays in our elections and more directly in our municipal elections. Money from developers, lobbyists and other special interest groups will significantly surpass any amount that can be raised by grassroots candidates. A special interest can get around campaign contribution caps intended to limit undue influence. Special interests simply have many, sometimes dozens of individuals and associated entities, contribute to a candidate. Some will say, especially those who benefit, "It's the American way and market driven." Poppycock, it is a system lacking integrity which contorts and perverts our democratic system.

Every few years Congress gives lip service to "campaign finance reform" where government funding of campaigns would provide an even playing field and candidates could compete on their merits. Campaign finance reform never gets very far though because of the influence and benefit to those who can "raise" the large sums of money for a candidate.

Almost all campaign finance laws at all levels of government allow campaign contributions from special interests even when the elected officials are going to be in decision making positions which could benefit the contributors. Campaign contributions can and do pour into elected representatives' coffers in anticipation of crucial votes that benefit their contributors

What can you do about the lack of real democracy at the local level? One, inform your neighbors and voters about the City candidates running for office. Attend the Denver Decides Forums and let friends everyone in your RNOs know about them. Post links to "Denver Decides" candidate forums and interviews everywhere you can. Send links to your Denver friends by email, put them on facebook and twitter, Next Door and on every social media outlet of which you can think. Go out and work for the candidate of your choice over the next two months. Since media coverage of City elections is abysmal, we, as community leaders, must create the media and buzz that informs people about their choices.

It is unlikely that anytime soon, public campaign funding is going to happen. But a second thing that can be done is to affect the influence of the money that special interests give to Council and Mayoral candidates who are in a position to directly benefit their contributors. We can advocate to change Denver's campaign finance rules and Code of Ethics to control the timing of campaign contributions from special interests and require public officials to recuse themselves from processes and votes where their contributors and personal business interests benefit.

Denver neighborhoods have had to deal with unreasonable noise, increased density in stable neighborhoods and swallow unsightly developments. Our elections are controlled by campaigns accepting large sums from powerful special interests, diminishing the democratic process and minimizing neighborhood influence. These contributions simply do not pass the smell test. Visit the Clerk and Records office-Campaign Finance (<http://tinyurl.com/osouhqy>) to review campaign contributions before and during terms of our elected officials. It may create some of your own questions about reform.





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Calendar of Events March



INC Exec Committee Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2015 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Daniels Foundation Building - 101 Monroe St



INC Transportation Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2015 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
1201 Williams St, 19th Floor



INC Delegate Meeting
Saturday, March 14, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
District 3 Police Station,
1625 S University Blvd.



INC Parks & Recreation Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Brookdale U Park, 2020 S Monroe St



Council District 4 Election Forum
Tuesday, March 24, 2015 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Calvary Baptist Church - 6500 E. Girard Ave.



Council District 10 & Auditor Election Forum
Wednesday, March 25, 2015 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Denver Botanic Gardens - Mitchell Hall - 1007 York St



Council District 9 & At-Large Election Forum
Thursday, March 26, 2015 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Colorado Miners Community Center - 4809 Race Street



INC Zoning and Planning
Saturday, March 28, 2015 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
1201 Williams St, 19th Floor



Council District 11 & Clerk & Recorder Election Forum
Tuesday, March 31, 2015 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Evie Dennis Campus - 4800 Telluride St

Calendar of Events April



Council District 1 & Auditor Election Forum
Thursday, April 1, 2015 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
The Oriental Theater - 4335 W. 44th Avenue



Council District 2 & At-Large Election Forum
Thursday, April 2, 2015 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy (KCAA) - 2250 S. Quitman St.



Council District 7 & Clerk & Recorder Election Forum
Tuesday, April 7, 2015 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Cameron United Methodist Church - 1600 S. Pearl St.



Council District 6 & At-Large & Auditor Election Forum
Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Evie Dennis Campus - 4800 Telluride St





INC Meeting of Delegates and Neighborhood Leaders

When: Saturday, March 14, 2015

Where: District 3 Police Station, 1625 S University Blvd.

Agenda: 8:30am Networking with your fellow RNO members, coffee, continental breakfast
9:00am INC General Business Meeting
We will be electing board members at this meeting
10:00 am Special Program

All INC meetings are open to the public. Please feel welcome to bring your neighbors and friends.

<http://denverinc.org/short-term-rentals-forum/>

We will vote on the following motion at the Delegate Meeting in March:

Motion Regarding Short-Term Rentals in Residential Neighborhoods in Denver Colorado

At a time when Denver faces a severe housing shortage and an increasing number of apartments, condominiums, houses and portions thereof are offered and advertised as short-term rentals by several short-term rental platforms and other forms of Internet communication such as Craig's List and E-Bay, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) strongly urges the Denver City Council and the Mayor of Denver to enforce and fund the provisions of Article 13, including but not limited to Division 13, Division 11.12, Section 11.12.1 and Article 13, Division 13.2.120 of the Denver Zoning Code adopted June 25, 2010, prohibiting short-term rentals in Denver residential neighborhoods.

Further, INC urges the Sharing Task Force and the Denver City Council to consider a variety of options for appropriate regulation of these rentals including taxation and licensing or permitting measures, and limitations

MAY 5 CITY ELECTIONS

Hark citizens! As we are all aware, on May 5 we have important public servants to select who will guide the city for the next four years. Now is not the time to be complacent. We all need to keep our ears keenly open for the next two months, so as to sort out the deceptive gibberish from the 'real' commitments of concern for our great neighborhoods. We can't just vote for our favorite candidate and expect all to be well. It is far too easy for someone to be elected and then have them persuaded or influenced by a score of forces to do things in a different way. We have all seen that happen a thousand times. Elected officials' feet should always be held to the fire in the best interests of our citizens.

The May election is a non-partisan election. It's time for us to look beyond party affiliation, ethnicity, gender identity, or any stereotype when making our choices. All of those identities are understood and already accepted as a vital part of Denver's diverse community. Government policies need to rise above special interests and work for the greater good of all citizens.

of density and locations as well as retaining and strengthening the prohibition(s) of short term rentals in residential neighborhoods. Over 1,000 illegal short-term rentals currently exist in Denver and for the most part violations have been reported by neighborhood residents. INC strongly urges ordinances and regulations be enacted which provide comprehensive enforcement by the City of Denver, including staff and personnel sufficient to ensure neighborhoods are adequately protected.

Further, INC strongly urges City Council to include representatives of the INC Zoning and Planning Committee in the City Council Sharing Economy Task Force, including advance notice of the Task Force meetings in sufficient time so that they may arrange their schedules to participate and attend the Task Force Meetings devoted to solutions and the process relating to short-term rentals in the City of Denver. INC recommends that Sharing Economy Task Force meetings be televised or, at a minimum, recorded for those residents in Denver who are unable to attend City Council meetings.

Contentious divisiveness, as we have seen in another great American city in the east, must not be allowed to occur in 'The Queen City of the Plains'.

In a CBS interview, the late Christopher Reeve said: "I still believe that the purpose of government is to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people. And that's a great concept." That concept can be great right here in Denver, in our neighborhoods across the city. And that is where we the voters come in. To cast a vote for someone is to give them your trust that they will do what is right for you and your neighborhood needs. Elected officials need to respect the trust of the voters as well. Never forget that elected officials are working for us, the citizenry.

The citizen's responsibility is critical in these matters. INC is a partner in 'Denver Decides' along with; The League of Women Voters, Historic Denver, and Denver 8TV. Denver Decides has scheduled eight (8) forums across the city where we can hear the philosophies of candidates running for city office. Be there or be lost in the shuffle. The Denver Decides Forum Schedule can be found on the following page of this issue or at www.lwv.denver.org.

Needs of the Community



Please attend these events to learn more about the candidates for elected office in Denver.

The Forums will start at 6:30 p.m. and each Forum will run from 30 to 90 minutes depending on the number of candidates involved. Programs will be recorded by Denver 8 for TV and online viewing.

Note: with this May 5th Municipal Election, City Council District boundaries have changed.

If you are unsure of your district, you can find maps on the [Denver Elections Site](http://denverelections.org) or under Voter Information at www.lwvdenver.org or www.historicdenver.org

DATE /TIME	OFFICE	FORUM LOCATION
Tuesday, March 24: 6:30 p.m.	Council District 4	Calvary Baptist Church 6500 E. Girard Ave.
Wednesday, March 25: 6:30 p.m.	Council District 10 City Auditor	Denver Botanic Gardens - Mitchell Hall 1007 York Street
Thursday, March 26: 6:30 p.m.	Council District 9 Council At-Large	Colorado Miners Community Center 4809 Race Street
Tuesday, March 31: 6:30 p.m.	Council District 11 Clerk and Recorder	Evie Dennis Campus 4800 Telluride Street
Wednesday, April 1: 6:30 p.m.	Council District 1 City Auditor	The Oriental Theater 4335 W. 44th Street
Thursday, April 2: 6:30 p.m.	Council District 2 Council At-Large	Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy 2250 S. Quitman Street
Tuesday, April 7: 6:30 p.m.	Council District 7 Clerk and Recorder	Cameron United Methodist Church 1600 S. Pearl Street
Saturday, April 11: 9:00 a.m.	Council District 6 City Auditor / Council At-Large	University Park United Methodist Church 2180 S. University

Volunteering with INC

INC has many avenues for creating social good in our communities. One of our most direct avenues is through our committees. We have externally facing committees that engage member RNOs to help influence the way the city meets the needs of its neighborhoods. We also have internally facing committees that manage and create the infrastructure for our externally facing committees to operate. All of these committees benefit from member RNOs asking their members to participate in INC committees that they are interested in. See below for committee pages that contain volunteer sign up request forms.



External Committees

<http://denverinc.org/parc/>
<http://denverinc.org/public-safety/>
<http://denverinc.org/transportation/>
<http://denverinc.org/zoning-and-planning/>
<http://denverinc.org/education/>

Internal Committees

<http://denverinc.org/budget/>
<http://denverinc.org/communications/>
<http://denverinc.org/newsletters-enews/>
<http://denverinc.org/dictionary-drive/>
<http://denverinc.org/membership-committee/>

INC Needs New Board Members

2014 INC Board Elections are March 14th

INC is seeking members to run for its Board of Directors for the term starting April 1, 2015. To be eligible, you must be a delegate from your member RNO. The election will take place at the Delegate Meeting on March 14th. Make sure your RNO renews its INC membership so that you can vote at the March meeting. The following positions are open and each serves for two years: Vice President, Treasurer, two (2) Directors-At-Large.

The Secretary position is currently vacant. The President will appoint this position, since the former secretary had to resign before the official term ended. They will serve until April 1, 2016. INC is also seeking a Budget Committee Chair.

If you are interested in serving on Denver INC's Board, to fill the vacancy for Secretary, or to become INC's Budget Chair please contact president@denverinc.org (Larry Ambrose).



Committee Corner - Delegate Meeting

The March meeting's topic: The Election Division of the Clerk and Records Office

With the elections close at hand we will hear about the election process and rules for the candidates.

Discussion of how much money can a candidate make. What can an elected official do with the campaign funds from the previous term and what about pac money?

Notice Regarding April 11th Meeting:

INC will not have a Delegate meeting and encourage all delegates to attend Voter Forums in your district.

April 11th Election Forum will have candidates for Auditor and At Large and Council District 6.

Council District 6 & At-Large & Auditor Election Forum

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Evie Dennis Campus 4800 Telluride St. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Committee Reports

Saturday, February 14, 2015

Three Stones Building, Denver Water Department

President Larry Ambrose called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Mr. Ambrose thanked host Denver Water.

Heather Stauffer from Denver Water welcomed the attendees. She told us the historic Three Stone Buildings included one of three Denver Water pump houses built in the 1880's. She invited us to look around at some of the history explained on the building walls and wished us a Happy Valentine's Day.

Attendees: Head count was 115 but only 85 people signed in.

Minutes of the January 10, 2015 meeting: Maggie Price made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Katie Fisher. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Steve Nissen stated that INC has \$12,000 in 2 Certificates of Deposit; about \$11,500 in the savings account; \$1,900 approximately in the Dollar Dictionary Drive account; and about \$4,400 in the checking account for a total of \$29,994.00. The silent auction at the annual dinner made about \$3,000.

Very brief reports were made by the following INC Committee representatives: JJ Niemann: Communications; Katie Fisher: Parks Committee; Merce Lea: Public Safety; and Joel Noble: Transportation; Greg Kerwin and Margie Valdez: Zoning and Planning. There was no report from the Education committee.

The INC Zoning and Planning Committee (INC ZAP) presented the following motion for consideration by the INC Delegates to be communicated to Denver City Council:

(1) that a GDP does not constitute grounds upon which zoning changes should be granted, does not undergo an approval process which has the integrity and scrutiny of a zoning change process, does not receive Council approval, and does not have the effect of law as to its conformance to small area plans; and

(2) zoning changes which would violate the clear intent and language of small area plans set a dangerous precedent for zoning changes city-wide, which must conform by law to officially adopted small area plans. The motion was made by Jane Lorimer and seconded by George Mayl.

Discussion followed about what is a "small area plan" and what kind of legal effect do these plans have compared to zoning. Larry Ambrose explained that neighborhood plans are considered small area plans and involve an extensive, inclusive process involving many interests in the neighborhood including residents. The plans are approved by City Council. Some attendees said that their neighborhood's plans have specific language in them about whether or not they have the effect of law. Some do have legal effect and others do not.

Vote was taken on the motion about which only Delegates from RNOs can vote: The motion carried as follows: 37 in favor; 1 opposed; 5 abstained.

Katie Fisher urged neighborhoods near the old Gates Rubber plant at I-25 and Broadway to get involved in the new redevelopment plans now that there is a new owner of the property. There were 2 INC representative involved in the previous plans.

Larry Ambrose announced that the March INC meeting will be at the District 3 Police station at I-25 and south University Ave. This meeting will be the annual INC elections,

Don Tressler informed attendees that Brad Buchanan, Director of Denver Community Planning and Development wants to start updating BluePrint Denver in the near future and urged Denver RNOs to participate.

Short Term Rentals: Panel discussion

A link containing videos from this meeting can be found on our webpage under the News tab, Delegate Meeting Featured Videos, or <http://denverinc.org/short-term-rentals-forum/>

The meeting featured an extensive discussion of issues concerning short-term rentals (STRs) in Denver. Margie Valdez chaired a panel of five people who presented introductory comments. Then meeting participants provided extensive comments and questions for the panel.

Margie Valdez began with introductory comments about the work of the INC Zoning and Planning Committee's subcommittee on short-term rentals. That subcommittee prepared an information packet distributed in advance of the meeting and available on the INC website. She described recent rulings by the Denver Board of Adjustment, which issued orders on February 10, 2015 directing the owner to immediately discontinue the unlawful short-term rental use at properties at: 1320 Saint Paul and 1129 Pearl Street in Denver. She explained the ZAP committee is seeking a dialogue with the City on the path forward. She noted that Portland, Oregon has reported major problems with property owners not registering with the City, which makes enforcement difficult. She noted that Denver city officials need owner contact information to deal with potential life safety and enforcement issues.

Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman then presented her opening statement, explaining that she regards short-term rentals as a complicated issue. She described the current work of the City Council's Sharing Economy Task Force, and mentioned that the hotel association will be meeting with it on February 23, seeking a "level playing field" with short-term rentals. Susman has asked CPD to prepare a "strawman ordinance" to illustrate what possible regulation of short-term rentals would look like. She looks to RNOs and INC as partners in development of this ordinance, and recognizes the need to address the issue thoughtfully.

Abe Barge, a CPD Senior Planner, then explained how the existing Denver ordinance works that prohibits short-term rentals. The Denver Zoning Code does not define short-term rentals. CPD does not regard a short-term rental as "household living," which is how permanent residents use their home. It also does not view short-term rentals as a type of group living, which exceeds 30 days and is permitted in residential areas, or as hospice or assisted living, which is allowed with special zoning. The Zoning Code allows use of a property for less than 30 days for lodging accommodations, but not in residential zone districts. Therefore, the City's view is that current Denver Zoning Code forbids short-term rentals of less than 30 days in residential zone districts.

Barge explained how Denver Neighborhood Inspection Services (NIS) currently enforces the prohibition on STRs. After NIS receives a complaint, it checks websites to locate a listing and sends an inspector to try to speak with the owner or tenant at the building site. It sometimes has an inspector observe use traffic and occupancy at the property. If NIS cannot speak with anyone, it issues a notice of lawful inspection, with fines if no one responds to that. When NIS reaches owners, they often admit the STR use. NIS issues the owner a notice of use violation, which requires a response within 10 days. Ultimately such a notice can lead to a cease and desist order, which can be appealed to the Board of Adjustment. Sometimes the BOA allows an owner some transition time to honor existing reservations, but in the two orders entered on February 10, it required immediate compliance. The City can issue administrative fines if an owner fails to comply, with fines escalating from \$150 (first notice), to \$500 (second notice) and \$999 (third notice).

Kyle Dalton, a CPD Senior Planner, explained that CPD is advising the Sharing Economy Task Force, providing policy direction for how STRs could be authorized and regulated.

Clark Stevens of Airbnb then provided an overview of its rental platform. The company markets its rentals telling customers they can live like a local when they travel, exploring neighborhoods and seeing a city like the people who live there. He said 82% of Airbnb hosts share the home in which they live as their primary residence, using the rental income to pay other bills. Airbnb hosts receive an average of \$6,000 per year from rental income. Most Airbnb listings are outside of the main hotel districts, where customers may frequent local businesses. Stevens says his job at Airbnb is to increase safety and work with cities

and nonprofits like the Red Cross.

The panel then invited meeting participants to present comments and questions. Those included the following:

- A number of people who regularly rent out their own home, or a room in it, for short-term rentals testified about their positive experience and their support for reasonable regulation by the City for such rentals. They explained that the additional income is helpful for them in covering costs and that they do not like the current situation where such rentals are not allowed by the City. Several of these hosts described how they enjoy meeting Denver visitors through such rentals.
- Others described the harm that has been caused in their neighborhoods by rude owners or customers who create problems for the neighbors. They described issues with an owner who cannot be located or is not accountable for problems that arise. They complained about the burden that falls on neighbors to enforce and monitor when things are going poorly with a nearby STR. Residents do not want to bear this burden.
- In response to questions, Abe Barge explained that although the term "short-term rental" is not defined in the Zoning Code, that use clearly is not permitted as a defined use in residential neighborhoods because it does not qualify as neighborhood living, and use of a property for "lodging" is not allowed in residential neighborhoods.
- In response to questions, Councilwoman Susman stated that if Denver allows STRs it will level the playing field because hotels pay a lodging tax. She says she doubts the tax and licensing fees would create a profit for the City and instead may just cover the costs of enforcement.
- An owner of a bed-and-breakfast testified about the work his family has done over 25 years to renovate a historic building and rent out rooms in it. He explained that he wants a level playing field, explaining his business pays taxes, license fees, and the cost of insurance to operate legally.
- Kyle Dalton noted that there is an exception in the Zoning Code for certain types of lodging in certain residential districts (RO) including operating a bed-and-breakfast. But it must be owner managed or occupied and in a residential structure. He noted this designation is used in higher density zone districts to preserve historic structures.
- One person requested that the City include a "sunset" provision in any new law that is passed to force the rule to be re-evaluated at some stage.
- One person asked Stevens what percentage of Airbnb rentals are run by non-resident owners. He said he did not know.
- Susman noted that it appears having the host present reduces negative effects. She also noted that if owners purchase a house or apartment as an investment for STR income that may be reducing the inventory of affordable housing.
- One person asked about insurance for Airbnb rentals. Stevens said it offers a host guarantee with a certain level of insurance for the host, but also encourages owners to comply with local laws.
- Several people expressed concerns about how the City can effectively enforce new rules to deal with properties where STRs cause problems for neighbors. Some expressed concern with a complaint-based enforcement system.
- One person expressed concern that the licensing cost and burden should be commensurate with the income received from STRs.
- Clark Stevens was asked what Airbnb does to address concerns when its hosts cause problems for neighbors. He did not address this question directly, stating only that Airbnb runs a platform that people use and Airbnb tries to work with local governments. He said Airbnb seeks clear, simple policies in the cities where it has rentals. He added that Airbnb tries to educate its hosts, and would make them aware of clear, explicit laws. One person noted that Airbnb is not addressing problems with problem rentals. Stevens responded that Airbnb has its own policies and if someone goes astray, it can take action.

Adjourned: 11:25am



Committee Corner - INC Executive Committee

INC Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2015, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Larry Ambrose, Ray Ehrenstein, Katie Fischer, Cindy Johnstone, JJ Niemann, Steve Nissen, Gayle Rodgers, David Stauffer.

Committee Chairs Present: Greg Kerwin, Merce Lea, Jane Lorimer, Joel Noble, Maggie Price, Margie Valdez and Meg Schomp.

1. The January 12, 2015, Executive Committee Minutes were approved as presented.

2. Discussion-INC Secretary Position Open Larry noted that it was with regret that INC Secretary, Thad Jacobs, is no longer able to continue in this role. The entire group expressed great appreciation for the years of service Thad has given to INC and his neighborhood organization. This is an elected position of which there are 13 months remaining. The INC President can appoint someone to this position, with the approval of the INC Board. Anyone interested in filling this position should contact Larry Ambrose for specific job duties.

3. Financial Report-Treasurer, Steve Nissen Steve reported receiving a letter from the Regis Groff Foundation and Traci Groff Jones, thanking INC for the \$100. donation.

- Account Balances as of February 28, 2015
- CDs: \$12,136.20
- Savings: \$11,517.85
- Dollar Dictionary Drive: \$1,854.18
- Checking: \$5,499.73
- Balance for All Accounts: \$31,007.96

Many thanks to Steve Nissen for his continued work as our Treasurer

4. Discussion of 2015 Budget, Jane Lorimer This was a continued discussion of a preliminary budget presented last month. Items the EC agreed could be removed from the budget included a bulk mailing permit and additional costs for banners. There was discussion and agreement to maintain budget items requested for the Safety Expo. Additionally, it was discussed and agreed that there be an increase for refreshments for monthly Committee and Delegate meetings. Our projected 2015 budget is \$10,570.00. This amended budget was unanimously approved and the recast budget prepared and redistributed by Jane Lorimer, Budget Committee Chair, with many thanks from the Executive Committee for her expertise and time.

5. Discussion 2015 Municipal Election Question Dissemination and Publication Each committee agreed to develop questions for candidates in the upcoming May City Council and Mayoral elections. It is hoped that by the end of February this candidate questionnaire be completed, and Maggie Price has agreed to format them. Steve agreed to get a complete list of candidates, once the filing deadline passes in early March. The results of this questionnaire will be published via email and online as much in advance of when ballots are dropped in the mail for the May election.

6. Election Forums Steve Nissen reported that work with the Denver League of Women Voters, Historic Denver and Channel 8, as part of Denver Decides, is moving along, with candidate forums being scheduled all around the various council districts, including:

City Council District 4 : Time: Tuesday March 24, 6:30pm
Current Incumbent: Peggy Lehmann
Participants: District City Council candidates, Any possible ballot issues

City Council District 10: Time: Wednesday March 25, 6:30pm
Current Incumbent: Jeanne Robb
Participants: District City Council candidates, Auditor candidates

City Council District 9: Time: Thursday March 26, 6:30pm
Current Incumbent: Judy Montero
Participants: City Council-at-large candidates

City Council District 11: Time: Tuesday March 31, 6:30pm
Current Incumbent: Chris Herndon
Participants: District City Council candidates

City Council District 1: Time: Wednesday April 1, 6:30pm
Current Incumbent: Susan Shepherd
Participants: District City Council candidates, Auditor candidates

City Council District 2: Time: Thursday April 2, 6:30pm
Current Incumbent: Jeanne Faatz
Participants: District City Council candidates

City Council District 7: Time: Tuesday April 7
Current Incumbent: Chris Nevitt
Participants: District City Council candidates

City Council District 6: Time: Saturday April 11, 9:00am
Current Incumbent: Charlie Brown
Participants: District City Council candidates, Auditor, and City Council-at-large candidates

Larry asked Steve to request the Committee to use some of the questions that are being developed for INC's candidate's survey, during these forums.

7. INC Elections INC elections of officers and at-large delegates will take place during our March 14, 2015 Delegate's meeting. A few of the Executive Committee members indicated their intent to vacate their positions so that other, new INC members can become more involved at leadership levels.

8. INC Awards Dinner Update Larry Ambrose shared that the dinner appeared to be a success from all standpoints. Over 250 meals were served in 20 minutes. the billing from the venue was \$6844 which Visit Denver agreed to cover. Since VD budgets for up to \$10,000, Larry will pursue getting the INC out of pocket costs covered by them as well. (Out of pocket = about \$2000). Visit Denver were very pleased with the dinner and the turnout. Many thanks were expressed for the efforts of Jane Potts and Jane Parker-Ambrose and the delegates and students who volunteered for this dinner. Cindy Johnstone noted that an auction committee was being formed now to begin working on the dinner for 2016, with a concerted effort to nail down sponsors by June.

9. Old Business JJ reported that INCs attendance at the Mayor's Cabinet in the City in February was a success from many standpoints. INC "ambassadors" were able to do outreach to potentially new member organizations, and we met service organizations that could provide us with valuable information and activities for our upcoming delegate meetings (No More Violence student performance group, for instance). The Mayor acknowledged that INC was present and had a table for citizens to visit. It became clear that INC delegates needed business cards when attending events like this, with information including our website and mission statement. This discussion grew into the concept of having a similar sort of RNO/HOA trade show, with the target audience being non-INC members who might be interested in knowing what RNOs can do for their neighborhoods.

10. Committee Reports/Briefings PARKS AND RECREATION – Maggie Price reported that the appeal filed by John Case, protecting Hentzell Park, unfortunately failed. She also noted that there had been some recent activity mentioned around Burns Park, which is the triangle located at Colorado Blvd. and Bayaud (known to many as "Sculpture Park," directly across from Cableland). There has been no solid evidence, other than a news article, this is being looked at for development.

ZONING AND PLANNING – Margie Valdez reported that short-term rentals and home-sharing continued to be a hot topic, and reiterated INC's members concerns over supporting short-term rentals. Concerns council has looked at include homeowner occupancy, licensing and inspections and how to avoid amending zoning codes to accommodate these concerns. It is very likely INC being ahead on this issue has slowed down the process quite a bit Margie discussed upcoming meeting and format in discussing and facilitating the forum. She discussed Portland's ordinance around short-term rentals. In closing, Zoning and Planning has also been discussing GDP and Small Area Plans

A motion to purchase two more microphones for our forums was made and unanimously approved. There was a discussion about additionally purchasing a LCD projector, but it was deemed unnecessary.

TRANSPORTATION – Joel Noble noted that a subcommittee of the Transportation Committee is reviewing a platform at this time.

PUBLIC SAFETY-Merce Lea is hoping this committee can begin meeting more regularly, and initiate having the Denver Police Department (DPD) attending and working more closely with their Commanders & Citizens Advisory Board (CAD). DPD would like to see the Safety Expo occur on September 12, 2015 and to get a permit to have it at East High School. There is also the possibility of having it at the Police Protection Association in Highlands.

EDUCATION – Meg Schomp reported that the committee is working toward developing their platform and reviewing meeting schedules. The work of recent co-chair Karen Taylor has been appreciated and her retirement from the committee has left an opening for anyone who would like to assist in co-chairing this committee and helping develop a

new structure going forward. Discussion with the INC EC about the DPS Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) included inviting Karen to continue to act as a liaison between INC and DPS as this bond winds down, and the proposed 2016 Bond and Mill Levy campaign are launched, including the appointment of community members to the CPAC for the upcoming bond request. Karen will remain on the DPS BOC for another year.

11. New Business David Stauffer updated the EC on membership and renewals. Several RNOs still have outstanding requests to renew their membership. Dave has been working on updating the website and Facebook.

Steve Nissen requested the Executive Committee meetings be moved to begin at 6:30 pm, and it was unanimously approved by the committee members to change the start time of Executive Committee meetings.

Upcoming Delegate Meeting Locations and Topics on the Agenda:

March 14: District 3 DPD Police Station /Campaign Rules
April 11: Denver Decides Candidate's Forum, 2015
Municipal Elections, United Methodist Church
(2180 South University)

May 9
June 13

The EC meeting was adjourned around 8:30 pm, with the next monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, 9, 2015, at 6:30 PM at the Daniels Foundation Building, 101 Monroe St. Please note time change.

Respectfully Submitted by Meg Schomp



Committee Corner - Parks & Rec

Submitted by Diana Helper, PARC member

A copy of these meeting minutes and previous can be found at <http://denverinc.org/parc/>

INC PARC met February 17 at Brookdale U. Park, 2020 S. Monroe. Present were: co-chairs Maggie Price and Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Cindy Johnstone, Kathleen and Jay Rust, Kathleen Wells, Marlene Johnson, Diana Helper, Hank Bootz, Marie Quinn, Paula Kauffman, Michele Furst, David Matthews, Greg Sorensen, Bridget Walsh, Louis Plachaeski, Karon Miller, Katie McCrimmon, Meg Schomp, and guest speakers Fred Weiss, DPR Dir. of Finance, and Katy Strascina, Exec. Dir. of Denver's Office of Special Events (OSE).

Fred Weiss gave an overview of the work of the OSE, as discussed by the original Stakeholder group including several citizens and representatives from 17 city agencies. The complexity of managing special events led to formation of the OSE by the Mayor. From results of the Stakeholder meetings, OSE staff determined action to take to handle the increasing number of permitted events in Denver's parks. There will be no new race events or festival events in 2015, and for enforcement additional rangers have been hired and on-call staff is available. The permit office has a new staff member, and new software improves connections, communication, and accuracy. A national research organization is hired to assess best management options, based on similar concerns in other cities. PARC urged that Denver's situation include its unique characteristics of space and capacity, and that parks and parking be a focus.

Katy Strascina said OSE will pull together the complex parts of managing special events. New rules and regulations about future fees, capacity, dates, types of events, and a complete check-list of permits needed, will enable OSE to say "no" to some events, but will be "rolled out" gradually, as the longtime festival promoters must be respected. Each City Council member will get to schedule additionally one race and one event each year which will be added to the city's event schedule. A

311 link is being made. A website will show event information. An OSE outreach liaison person will work with RNOs and businesses, setting up focus groups, imparting information and getting feedback. Also there are two event liaison staff members.

Jay Rust stated INC PARC's opposition to commercial use of parks. PARC spoke about: determining a balance of public park use, including open space; the need for ball parks separate from public parks; having a citizen advisory group for OSE as part of the process; tracking the money and cost analysis; categorizing event types; adding parkland and festival park. OSE believes right now it must work on the present picture, improving the situation at hand.

Katie Fisher said PRAB (Parks/Rec Advisory Board) talked about POFA [?] which permits commercial groups such as yoga classes in parks. DPR is adding five more sites for this use although there has been little request. One new site is in a parkway, which is not a venue for commercial use. PARC opposes this and asks about policy for commercial uses on river-ways, trails? The public meeting on the Pofa changes is at Prab on April 9, 2015 PARC members are urged to send comments on POFA to their council and copy this committee.

Katie McCrimmon spoke on Crestmoor Park, where a developer wants to build a large apartment adjacent using the park as its open space. No traffic study has been done. These matters of capacity, open space, air quality, and safety are of concern to many RNOs. PARC will push with INC ZAP (Zoning and Planning) and INC Transportation groups. Bridget Walsh has posted pollution info for City Park on her website – the Zoo incinerator is a "park use" so the city deems it OK. Marie Quinn said developers must give a percent for public art, and ought to be held to a percent for public open space. She reported that Ruby Hill Park is getting considerably over-activated.

**Next PARC meeting: Wednesday, March 17, 6 - 8 p.m.
2020 S. Monroe**



Committee Corner - Transportation

The next Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Transportation Committee will be on Thursday, March 12th, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 1201 Williams Street, 19th Floor.

We hope your neighborhood can send a representative to the committee as we discuss a range of transportation, transit, and streets topics, build connections with the agencies and organizations involved, and ensure that neighborhood input is included in plans at all levels! Attendees do not need to be INC delegates – all are welcome. Even if your neighborhood organization is not a member of INC, you are welcome to participate. Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested in joining the committee – write to transportation@denverinc.org to be added to our growing e-mail list!

Thursday March 12th, 6-8 p.m.

We have three topics for our March meeting:

1. Bike/Auto Crash Study - Rachael Bronson, Associate City Planner, Denver Public Works.

The City and County of Denver is dedicated to building a world-class bicycling city that is safe for all road users. Improving street conditions, educating motorists and bicyclists, and enforcing rules of the road will create safer streets and a safer Denver. As improving safety is a critical goal for Denver, in 2013 the City began work on a report to analyze bicycle/motor vehicle crashes that occurred between 2008 and 2012. The purpose of the report is to help Denver improve road safety across the city, to understand the overall context of bicycle/motor vehicle crashes, and to identify strategies to reduce them. Come to this presentation to learn more about the findings of the report and tools to make a more bicycle friendly Denver.

2. RTD Fare Structure Proposal - Lacy Bell, RTD Planning Project Manager for Operations.

Paying to ride transit in the Denver area can be confusing at times. How do you figure out how to transfer from one bus to another or from a bus to a train? What do all of those light rail zones mean? With five new transit lines opening in 2016, it's time for RTD to simplify its fare structure to make riding across the district easier. Lacy Bell will present RTD's new recommended fare structure which simplifies fares and products, eliminating light rail "zones", and introducing low priced day passes sold on the bus and at all rail stations. Now entering into the public input phase, later this spring the RTD Board will approve a new fare structure for implementation in early 2016.

3. CDOT's 2040 Statewide Transportation Plan - Michelle Scheuerman, Colorado Department of Transportation Statewide Planning Manager. Colorado has one of the most diverse and challenging transportation systems in the country, with over 23,000 lane miles, 3,400 bridges, and 35 year-round mountain passes. In order to provide, operate, and maintain a multimodal transportation system that best supports the needs of the state, CDOT has developed a Statewide Transportation Plan (SWP) that is a roadmap for the next 10 and 25 years on how to safely move people and goods in the most effective way. In particular, the 2040 SWP is focused on improving safety, enhancing mobility, promoting economic vitality, and maintaining our existing transportation system in the face of limited funding. This presentation will provide an overview of the vision and goals of the Statewide Transportation Plan, how it was developed, and how it will be implemented and assessed in the years to come.

Call for Topic Suggestions

Do you have a topic you'd like the INC Transportation Committee to consider or to find a speaker to discuss with us? Please send your ideas to transportation@denverinc.org!



Committee Corner - Zoning & Planing

The INC ZAP (Zoning and Planning Committee) met on February 28, 2015 for a long meeting from 9:30 am to 12:45 pm, at 1201 Williams meeting room. CPD senior planners Kyle Dalton and Steve Nalley attended the meeting.

The Committee discussed the following topics: 1) the City's proposed bundle #1 of zoning text amendments; 2) current plans for the National Western Center; 3) proposed zoning text and map amendments for Highland Overlay Districts; and 4) current issues with non-licensed marijuana growing in Denver. In addition, the Committee passed a motion concerning short-term rentals in Denver residential neighborhoods.

Denver zoning code text amendments: Bundle #1

CPD senior planner Kyle Dalton described the function and process for adopting text amendments, which change the text of the Denver Zoning Code. He also described the highlights for CPD's "Bundle #1" of text amendments for 2015, which will be posted on the CPD site soon. That bundle replaces previous "omnibus" amendments, and addresses both corrections and substantive changes. The substantive changes include changes for: codifying CPD's new practice of early notice to RNOs of rezoning applications; marijuana legalization; bicycle parking standards; and parking structure design to allow more parking levels within a fixed building height in certain circumstances.

National Western Center proposed text and map amendment

CPD senior planner Steve Nalley described proposed zoning text and map amendments to facilitate current plans for redeveloping the area around the National Western Stock Show site. The amendments

create a new zone district, with elements for a campus context. Proposed site elements are available at the CPD website and include an outdoor event facility along the Platte River. Committee members asked CPD to enter into a MOU with surrounding neighborhoods and move more quickly with zoning changes to implement the new small area plans for those neighborhoods. They also asked for support for nearby Garden Place Elementary School.

Highland Overlay Districts

Steve Nalley also provided a brief overview of a new text and map amendment for a conservation and design overlay for the Highland neighborhood, which has stable residential development with unique building forms and small lot sizes. The amendment creates standards for: Potter Highland, the Scottish Village, and a Side Interior Setback Design Overlay.

Non-licensed marijuana growing issues

Ashley Kilroy, who is overseeing marijuana policy for the Mayor's office, and Stacie Loucks, Director of Excise and Licenses, discussed and sought feedback on certain issues with non-licensed marijuana growing facilities in Denver. The City is starting to see very large non-licensed grow facilities, with 1,000 to 2,000 plants in one location, when the City limits grows in individual homes to 12 plants. The City Council will review a proposal on March 3 to limit non-licensed growing operations outside a home to only 36 plants. Committee members expressed support for this limitation. The City also is considering whether to expand the allowed hours for retail marijuana facilities from 10 am to 7 pm, to allow for a later closing time like 10 pm

(to match Aurora) or midnight (to match the State's limit). Committee members do not support later hours for retail facilities in residential areas.

Approved motion on short-term rentals

Finally the committee unanimously approved, for review by the INC Delegation in March, a revised motion that urges the Denver City Council to: enforce the current prohibition on short-rentals; consider a variety of options for regulating such rentals including taxation and licensing/permitting with limitations on density and locations, and adequate enforcement to protect neighborhoods when violations



Committee Corner - Education

The Education Committee will NOT meet in April, but will resume meeting in May, on the first Wednesday of the month, May 6, 6:00 pm, location to be determined. You can check on our meetings on our Denver INC Facebook Page. We would like to find a better location for our meetings, and would welcome any suggestions or offers for a central location with good parking. Contact Meg at mmschomp@gmail.com. Our apologies for the inconsistent meeting schedule as we are restructuring. Our committee has been continuing to follow issues on local and state levels and has highlighted some of them below:

March is the month when all eyes in education are on the dreaded TESTING. This year, the Partnership on Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) tests are finally being administered in the coming weeks from March 9- May 22. These are the tests many districts are using to align with the new Common Core State Standards you may have heard controversy over. While our DPS Superintendent is feeling the heat and expressing some willingness to reduce the hours of testing, the opt-out movement is growing.

Here are a few articles which speak to the specifics of the test, and why some want to just say "no."

<http://co.chalkbeat.org/2015/03/03/colorado-crosses-its-fingers-and-starts-taking-the-tests/#.VPzQifnFgIG>

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_27618088/opt-out-movement-just-say-no-new-

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/eletters/2015/03/05/students-teachers-opting-school-testing/36582/>

If you, or someone you know is struggling to opt or not opt-out, here is the Colorado Department of Education FAQ sheet on testing:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/parentrefusal>

Finally, here is the updated Education Bill Tracker, keeping you in touch with what is happening in the State Legislature:

<http://co.chalkbeat.org/education-bill-tracker-2015/>

Have you ever wondered who, in the community is holding the Denver Public Schools accountable? For decades, an experienced group of parents, retired teachers and community activists have tirelessly reviewed budgets, charters school proposals, and tried to reach out

are reported; include representatives of the INC ZAP committee on the City's Sharing Economy Task Force to give neighborhoods a voice in the solution and process; and televise or record the Task Force meetings so residents can see what is discussed there.

Next ZAP meeting:

The next ZAP meeting will be on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at the meeting room at 1201 Williams Street, 19th floor.

to DPS Board members in an effort to provide sanctioned community oversight from the School Improvement and Accountability Council. This group has recently been disbanded by the Superintendent, and a new group picked to provide community oversight to the DPS Board of Education and Superintendent. This is a good article in the Greater Park Hill News about this process. This is the group that looked at the nuts and bolts of where your taxpayer dollars are going, and what schools are being planned:

<http://greaterparkhill.org/2015/03/perennial-question-heard/>

Do you think corporate education reform has/is working in Denver? This is a question that doesn't have an easy answer, and keeps brewing on a local, state and national level. Diane Ravitch has been watching Denver and writes about it here, along with past DPS Board member, Jeannie Kaplan:

<http://dianeravitch.net/2015/02/25/denver-no-reform-isnt-working-here/>

Many parents have been concerned about the data that their students generate through not just testing, but also going online throughout the day, visiting educational sites that follow the students' movement online. This issue is brewing in our Colorado legislature, and you can find out more in this Chalkbeat article this week:

<http://co.chalkbeat.org/2015/03/05/data-privacy-bill-advances-with-a-complication/#.VPzMiVnFgIE>

How much time off are you able to get to care for your child's school activities? Does your employer support you attending an assembly, or a parent-teacher student conference? Do you think parents being more attentive at their kids' schools, improves a child's educational opportunities. This is being debated in the Colorado State House now, and it's going down some partisan lines:

<http://co.chalkbeat.org/2015/03/02/parent-time-off-bill-starts-down-rocky-and-familiar-road/#.VPzQ3vnFgIE>

After a hiatus, many children will be able to attend preschool this summer. You can read about how funds voters approved are being used to help families during the hot months:

<http://co.chalkbeat.org/2015/03/07/denver-preschool-program-resumes-summer-tuition-support/#.VPzLLPnFgIE>



Setting UP Safety Committee

Our INC Public Safety Committee is anxious to get more active and involved with our citizens and the city. I'd like to set up a monthly meeting of representatives from our member RNOs. There is a lot that I think we can accomplish when we get organized. Do you have a Public Safety Chair in your organization that can represent your RNO? Or do you have members who may

be interested in this committee? If so, would you please have them contact me at Publicsafety@denverinc.org? I will go about setting up a time that would be convenient for us to meet.

Thank you all for your help,

Merce Lea - Public Safety Chairman, INC





Have You Renewed Your INC Membership?

Just a reminder that 2015 dues from RNO members must be received by March 8 (at meeting) or sooner in order to qualify for voting at the elections on March 14. If you need a membership application form go to:

denverinc.org/membership

INC BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2015 Positions Up For Election				
	-2014-	-2015-	-2016-	-2017-	-2018-
President	Larry Ambrose				
Vice President	C. Johnstone				
Secretary	T. Jacobs				
Treasurer	S. Nissen				
Delegate-at-Large	David Stauffer				
Delegate-at-Large	Katie Fisher				
Delegate-at-Large	Ray Ehrenstein				
Delegate-at-Large	G. Rodgers				
Delegate-at-Large	JJ Niemann				

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Budget Committee

Jane Lorimer - Chair

budget@denverinc.org

Communications Committee

JJ Niemann - Chair

communications@denverinc.org

Education Committee

Meg Schomp - Chair

education@denverinc.org

Membership Committee

Dave Stauffer - Chair

membership@denverinc.org

Parks and Recreation Committee

Katie Fisher - Co-chairs

Maggie Price - Co-chairs

parksandrec@denverinc.org

Public Safety Committee

Merce Lea - Chair

720-210-4056

publicsafety@denverinc.org

Transportation Committee

Geneva Hooten - Co-chairs

Joel Noble - Co-chairs

Transportation@denverinc.org

Zoning and Planning Committee

Margie Valdez - Co-chairs

Greg Kerwin - Co-chairs

zoningplanning@denverinc.org

INC Membership List can be viewed on our website at <http://denverinc.org/neighborhoods/2013-inc-members/>

Subscriptions are free. Subscription requests and changes of address should be e-mailed to newsletter@denverinc.org. To submit articles and photos please send submissions by e-mail to DenverIncNews@aol.com by the 20th of the month to guarantee inclusion. RNOs are welcome to reprint the articles in their own newsletters. Please cite INC as the source unless otherwise noted.

