

Meeting Minutes – Meeting January 20, 2015 - East Montclair Neighborhood Association

John Russell, Secretary

The EMNA General Meeting was brought to order on January 20, 2015 at 6:30 pm by the Tom Fesing, President. The meeting agenda was reviewed, guest Hilarie Portell was introduced and it was noted that 2015 marks the 43rd year of EMNA as a Registered Neighborhood Association.

Members Present:

Tom Fesing (President), Larry Drees (Vice President), Duane Viedt (Treasurer), John Russell (Secretary), Greg Nelson (Board Member), Isaac Schloss (Board Member)

Hilarie Portell, Executive Director of the Fax/Mayfair BID (Business Improvement District)

Denver Police Department District 2 leadership team

25 Community members

Fax/Mayfair BID:

Hilarie Portell, Executive Director of the Fax/Mayfair BID gave a briefing introducing the Fax/Mayfair BID, how it was formed and issues they are focusing on in the East Colfax corridor.

The BID is self-funding through voluntary tax assessments of property and business owners and will work on improvement projects along the East Colfax corridor. Assessments are based on the sq. ft. frontage of a property/business and averages \$1,500 per business annually. The BIDS finances are spent within the BID area and will focus on economic development, public improvements, public safety and advocacy to improve the economic vitality of property located along both sides of Colfax from Elm Street to Monaco Parkway, and includes the area known as the Mayfair Town Center area between Kearney and Leyden from Colfax Avenue south to 14th Avenue. The involvement that EMNA has shown in recent years has shown a bright light on our stretch of Colfax and could be a viable area of rejuvenation in the coming years.

The Fax/Mayfair BID is interested in places like a youth center being created along the East Colfax corridor for neighborhood kids and gives them a place to go, learn, and not become part of the issues that we are currently having.

The EMNA leadership team will be working with Hilarie Portell and in the future as the BID grows eastward past Quebec we will work together with them on that process.

Denver Police Dept. – District 2 Update:

Reyes Trujillo, DPD Community Resource Officer educated the group about creating a block-by-block Neighborhood Watch program. If residents or businesses are interested in starting a watch program they can email or call Officer Trujillo at: Reyes.Trujillo@denvergov.org or (720) 913-1089. Canvas the neighbors on your block to see who is interested in having a watch program. If 51% of the residents on the block are interested a watch program can be started and the City of Denver will install Neighborhood Watch Signage for free. Officer Trujillo will work with you and your neighbors and come and speak to all those concerned, teach/train on what is to be done, and ensure a sign is put up to let everyone know that your block has active and concerned residents . Information will be posted on

Nextdoor and the EMNA Facebook page with specific information for those who are interested in a Neighborhood or Business Watch Program.

The wooden fence at Verbena Park which separated the apartment complex from the park has been removed and with replaced with wrought iron fencing by the new apartment owners, Advenir. The DPD and residents believe the new fence is a great improvement and will help reduce criminal activity.

Lieut. Ernest Martinez spoke about a lighting survey that is being completed in the area. For areas that are not as lit as they should be, DPD will work with Excel Energy on mid-street and mid-alley lighting being installed with the approval of residents on each block. Street and alley lighting significantly reduces criminal activity. DPD will use their helicopter, Air One over the area at night to get a better sense where lighting is scarce and set up a plan to get an action plan going.

DPD Officers will be using foot patrols along East Colfax Avenue to reduce criminal activity this spring and summer. Lieut. Ernest Martinez said this is something that will enable officers to get even more involved with the residents and businesses in our community.

Having porch lights turned on at night as well as alley lights will deter crime. Also, having pad locks on gates to your property will also reduce potential criminal activity.

When you witness a crime in progress, call 911 immediately; for all other concerns call the Denver Police non-emergency number at (720) 913-2000. Officers emphasized calling in all suspicious activity; this will not only help you, but will assist DPD in order to pin point trouble spots.

The next DPD District 2 Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting will be held at District 2 HQ at 3921 Holly Street on February 25, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

Tom Fesing, President suggested having your house number on your alley gate, fence or garage. This will help officers know where your property is when called for a crime in progress or when suspicious activity is reported. Also security signs can be purchased from any vendor but Tom recommended www.mysecuritysign.com An example was brought in that states "Warning: This property is protected by video surveillance. You and your car are being videotaped". Custom signs can be created on their site too.

Marilyn Kaub, Denver DIGS Trees

Marilyn is a volunteer for the Denver DIGS Trees campaign and gave a short briefing on the program and how residents can get involved and get low-cost trees. The East Colfax/East Montclair neighborhood is eligible for \$10. Trees this year and is one of the areas being focused on as a target neighborhood. You can get trees for \$10 (yes, ten dollars). It is sponsored by the The Park People and the City of Denver Parks and Recreation department. You can apply and get more information by going to <http://theparkpeople.org/programs/denverdigtrees/applyfortrees.aspx>. It was emphasized that even though we consider ourselves "East Montclair", you will need to click on "East Denver." Marilyn's contact information will be posted on Nextdoor and East Montclair's Facebook page in order to find volunteers to canvas door hangars reminding the community about the program. Deadline for ordering trees is February 15, 2015

EMNA Board:

Tom Fesing, President

The EMNA board has scheduled meetings with business, property and motel owners from the East Colfax corridor within the next 2 weeks. These closed-door meetings with the board will open up a dialogue with business, property and motel owners along East Colfax and allow a conversation by both sides about the direction of the east Colfax corridor. As we are all part of the neighborhood, EMNA wants to ensure we create a symbiotic relationship that would benefit us all. The discussions will be shared with the community after the meetings.

EMNA memberships will now be annually from January 1st to December 31st each year. This will allow current and future EMNA leadership to keep bookkeeping efficient and easy to navigate. Members will pay their dues within the month of January each year. If your membership expired in 2014 and you still need to renew; once you pay your membership will retro activate to January 1, 2015. If your membership expires during 2015 you can wait to pay your renewal in January of 2016.

Memberships will now be \$10 per family and \$25 per business annually. There will no longer be a \$5.00 mailing fee charged per the newsletter will be distributed electronically via email sign-up and social media in order to reduce mailing costs and make creation easier. Also the newsletter will be bi-monthly at this time. The February 2015 newsletter will be coming out in the next few weeks. For members that would like to receive a printed copy of the newsletter due to health reasons or lack of internet we will make arrangements to have it delivered to their home. If a member paid their 5.00 mailing fee in 2014 and would like a refund we will assist them or they can donate the remainder of their mailing fee to the association's general fund.

Sign-up sheets are available at the meetings for those who would like to get involved in other areas of the neighborhood; including, Beautification, Public Safety, Housing, Events as well as representatives of other associations or community organizations. If you are interested in becoming part of one of these areas or want more information, please let the EMNA leadership team know.

The EMNA Goals for the East Colfax corridor were reviewed and include:

- Actively engage business and property owners along the East Colfax corridor in our community discussions, meetings and events.
- Advocate for new solid business development and investment along the East Colfax corridor within our neighborhood.
- Advocate for transportation improvements within the neighborhood including pedestrian, bicycle and transit.
- Advocate for quality affordable & traditional housing within the neighborhood.
- Pursue solutions for nuisance properties along the East Colfax corridor.
- Create multiple community events throughout the year that take place on the East Colfax corridor along with residents & business owners.

Duane Viedt, Treasurer

The association currently has \$2,705.25 in the general fund. We have had few expenses. A more detailed report will be given at the next meeting.

Larry Drees, Vice-President

Larry announced that this year's DPD District 2 "National Night Out" public safety event will be held Verbena Park on August 4, 2015. EMNA will be looking at getting folks out to be part of this. Please remember, that this is not only for folks in the Verbena Park area, but for ALL neighborhood residents. This is a great opportunity to learn about the National Day Out, but also to meet your neighbors.

Community Round Table:

Janice McGuire brought up sidewalks in some of the areas in our community are very scarce or nonexistent where they really should be. EMNA is working with both our councilwoman's and mayor's office to find out what can be done to get some more installed. Tom Fesing, President has been in talks with Brendan Kelly of the Public Works engineering team and is going to ask a few contractors to come out to provide some bids to see what kind of cost would be looked at and is also gathering information for a formal application to create a Local Improvement District (LID) if approved by residents in order to fund sidewalks.

The BIG news is that EMNA now has a new website created by Duane Viedt, Treasurer. It is www.eastmonclair.org and it has a lot of information available. The old site (emnanews.org) will now redirect visitors to the new site. Please go online and take a look at it, we think you will be pleased. We now have the following ways for the community to join the neighborhood conversation:

- EastMonclair.org: <http://www.eastmontclair.org/>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EastMontclair>
- Nextdoor site: https://eastmontclair.nextdoor.com/news_feed/

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm. The next EMNA meeting is on February 17, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the East Montclair Community Center, located at 6740 East Colfax Avenue on the eastside of the Mile High Youth Corp building.