

East Colfax Neighborhood Association (ECNA)

General Meeting - January 15, 2019

Counterpath - 7935 E. 14th Avenue

Lt. Ernie Martinez, CRO Sharon Avendano, Sgt. Mark Rossi – Denver Police Dept, District 2

Good news: Steady decrease in crime since November.

Don't hesitate to call in anything suspicious.

Call data drives the allocation of patrol resources in sectors.

Prevention – keep garages, doors and windows locked, etc.

Closures of 7 Star Inn and Hanger Bar helped reduce crime. 7 Star future still being determined.

New owners of Hanger Bar (may rename) are cooperative and establishing reasonable hours.

Question about a certain situation in the neighborhood. Crime data is available online.

Question about traffic along this corridor. Over 30 citations issued last fall. Call Dispatch.

Question about shots-fired. Shot-spotter detectors have been very successful.

New system naturally showed a spike in reports, but baseline will need a year's data.

2CAB – District 2 Community Advisory Board – Meeting January 30th, 39th Avenue and Holly St.

Citizens are also invited for "ride-alongs" to see what the officers do. Call 720-913-1000.

Daniyum Bekele – Immigrant and Refugee Services, Plaza Program, Schlessman Family Library

Helps people develop and improve English conversational skills. Not a formal classroom.

Spanish, Russian, Farsi, Arabic, others. Good volunteer opportunities.

Plaza Program (recognizable language program name) is offered in 10 different branches.

Usually serve 24-70 people, many of whom are children. Need more volunteers to help.

Phone: 720-865-0000. Website: denverlibrary.org/services-immigrants

Robert Lucero – Ute Tribe

Not an Ute but has deep family ties and works with the Ute Business Committee (tribal council).

Also works with the Ute Political Action Committee – fights back on restrictions on reservations.

UtePAC is opposing Rob Bishop's nomination in the Dept of the Interior.

Ute Land Trust – non-profit conservation and land protection.

Number of parcels of land already donated back to the Ute Tribe.

Christine Sleeter is contributing funds as well as inherited proceeds from Ute land sales.

Check out her book and website. Proceeds go to the Ute Tribe.

Acknowledgement: Arapahoe, Cheyenne and Ute ancestral lands are here; spirits are still here.

Emails: robert@utepac.com and robert@utelandtrust.org

Max Nardo – Denver Digs Free Tree Program

Slide presentation. Tree coverage – East Colfax has only 32% coverage.

Emerald Ash Borer – insect larva affects every ash tree, killed one out of 6 trees in Denver.

Need to plant hundreds of thousands of trees (not ash) to replace the loss of ash trees.

Trees provide cooling shade, transpiration, animal habitat, and psychological benefits.

Also good for slowing down and calming traffic.

“The Park People” host the Denver Digs Trees annual program.

Apply by February 15 – www.TheParkPeople.org or 303-722-6262.

Text "TREE" to 797979 to get information.

Street Trees are FREE. A "street" includes up to 10 feet from a sidewalk or a grass strip.

Yard Trees - \$10 to \$35, depending on target neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Canvas (knock on doors, provide info) on Sunday morning, **April 27th**, 9:30-12:30.

Meet at Max Nardo’s house – 1763 Xenia St.

Sign up to volunteer. Mimosas provided afterwards.

Renters need to get permission from owners to plant trees on their property.

Question about maintaining trees after planting to prevent die-off:

Planning to provide better follow-up instructions, as well as email watering reminders.

Question about removing old trees and testing soil – not part of the program.

Trees provided through the program are selected for local soil conditions.

Steve Elkins – Proposal for Rezoning for Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)

Trying to make housing affordable. Cost of ADU is \$150,000-250,000.

Allowing smaller units takes the incentive off going large and expensive (e.g. \$750,000).

West Denver Renaissance Collaborative – active in ADUs but is on west side of the city only.

Steve plans to provide for aging parents, other relatives. Long-term rental in future is possible.

Also, ADUs on the Colfax transportation corridor can help with less driving, closer to services.

Zoning rules differentiate between “carriage house” and an ADU.

Can’t sell an ADU off, and ADUs cannot be on its own parcel of land.

Application process is extensive and has a \$1000 application fee. Not just a “permit.”

Neighbors are generally supportive, but not willing to apply for ADUs for their own parcels.

Zoning: E-SU-D1X (Single Unit). Owner needs to reside on the property.

Financing and zoning may affect each other.

Steve is willing to provide his application to be used as a template for other people to use.

Historically, two small dwellings on the same plot were allowed, but not under new regulations.

After application, the case goes to Planning Board for comments (and sign posted), then to the City Council for approval.

Email for questions or additional information: SteveElkins82@gmail.com

Neighborhood Organization – recommendation to research current zoning codes, setbacks, etc.

Suggestion to table any endorsement until this can be researched.

Factors to consider: Setting a precedent, increasing population density, increasing rentals.

Example of alley beautification – paving/lighting reduced crime and created more community.

Would ADUs enhance alleys or have more structures blocking community-building?

What do we want the neighborhood to look like and be?

ADUs are currently not allowed, require approval. Older carriage houses grandfathered in.

Only a few ADUs have been approved in last 5 years on a case-by-case basis.

ECNA endorsement or opposition is not as critical as neighbors showing up at hearings.

However, ECNA needs to provide a “comment” within a window of less than 60 days.

Motion to table the vote. Not seconded.

Motion to vote on an RNO endorsement tonight. Seconded. Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention.

Note: Individuals can write letters of support or opposition.

Note: Renters and owners can be either vested in the community or not.

However, data shows that more community participation does reduce crime.

Comments can be emailed to the Case Worker: stueve@denvergov.org

Tom Fesing – East Area Plan Update

East Area Planning Meetings need more ECNA members to attend in order to voice concerns.

Other Items

Suggestion to have ECNA General Meetings available live online. Email any objections to Tim at eastcolfaxneighborhood@gmail.com.

70% of residents in ECNA area are vulnerable to displacement.

40% of residents in ECNA area are in poverty level (less than \$12,000/yr/individual).

ECNA will have a food bank for non-perishables. Suggestion to create a task force.

ECNA Sidewalk Development task force is planning to develop action items for much-needed sidewalk construction in the area.

Outreach efforts – model from Park Hill – finding representation from other parts of the neighborhood – possibly base representatives on district voting populations.

Membership Fees – suggestion to kick fees out in order to not have a barrier to participation.

Voluntary support plus one or two fundraising events per year with food vendors and music.

Don Johnson will host workshops in house repairs. Details forthcoming.

Other workshops on other topics are welcomed.

A reading group is starting. First topic is “blight”

Outreach initiative – if each member got one other person to join, perhaps someone of a different background, ECNA could grow. “Each one, reach one” group challenge for February.

Contact Councilman Herdon’s office about the summer high school leadership program.