

## **Cranmer Park-Hilltop Civic Association Minutes**

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Temple Emanuel

In attendance: Andrea Dikeou, Matt DuPree, Dick Heider, Ken Malo, Colleen McKinley, Joanna Moldow, Lisa Peloso, Jeff Poland, Wende Reoch, Ted Rounds, Marilyn Shaw, Brian Spano, Tracy Willis, Mary Nell Wolff, ,

Board President Andrea Dikeou welcomed board members and began the meeting at 5:35pm. She noted the majority of the work of the board is conducted within the committee structure. With the addition of several new board members she thought a meeting to explain the board's structure would be useful.

Treasurer Dick Heider reported on board finances, noting the board's fiscal calendar was Oct 1 through Sept 30 and the Association was in good financial state with a balance of approximately \$54K. Revenue for the Association is (mostly) membership dues and adequately covers the yearly expenses 1) the printing and mailing costs of the once a year membership newsletter and appeal – the major expense and 2) the cost of insurance for the board – approx. \$4000. Membership levels are static at approx. 450 from a high of 600 in the mid-2000s when the Association conducted multiple mailings. There was a brief discussion of diminishing returns on these mailings due to the increasing costs of printing and postage. It was noted the Association membership generally tracks with the email addresses we have, but email addresses are difficult to acquire. Finally, Dick Heider mentioned the Association's last revenue generating project, other than membership drives, was sponsoring Alice Bakemeier's history book and receiving a portion of the sales. Proceeds were used to support improvements to the athletic fields and sign at the Hill Campus for Arts & Sciences.

Andrea Dikeou mentioned she and Tracy Willis were members of a group organizing to raise funds for the restoration of the Sundial at Cranmer Park. Another \$900K still needs to be raised to meet the \$1.5M cost of the restoration. The city has hired a fundraiser, Denise Sanderson, to work on the project. At some point, the Association/board may want to contribute to this fund once the formal fundraising effort is announced.

Andrea then introduced Brian Spano, Chair of the Zoning Committee, noting this was the most active committee including handling of all variance requests, commercial construction within our Association's boundaries and monitoring projects in adjacent neighborhoods. Brian reported the committee meets on an ad-hoc basis, occasionally at a restaurant and via email communication. He noted the committee's philosophy is to act as a neutral observer and take a position only when there is a negative effect on the neighborhood as a whole. He noted the committee believes this philosophy has strengthened the committee's reputation with Board of Adjusters and Appeals.

Andrea Dikeou reported on Traffic. Jeff Poland agreed to join Andrea on this committee. Our City Council Representative, Mary Beth Susman, has offered to facilitate a meeting with City

traffic engineers regarding our concerns. There has been staff turnover in this department. The Buckley Annex is a concern going forward in terms of traffic.

Marilyn Shaw invited board members to join her on the Crime Committee and briefly mentioned several neighborhoods in the District north of Hilltop were experiencing burglaries in staged houses – vans pulling up to the houses and emptying the contents. She encouraged members to spread the word and contact the non-emergency DPD line if we note suspicious activity of similar nature at homes for sale.

Tracy Willis, Chair of the Parks Committee, provided some additional comments regarding the “Save the Sundial” effort.

Lisa Peloso reported on the success of the annual Halloween Parade. She estimated over 350 participants, enthusiastic and positive response and noted it was a missed opportunity, in light of the earlier discussion about membership, to raise awareness of the Association. She also suggested the board considered expanding this outreach and hold a similar event in the spring or summer. Several ideas were suggested and it was agreed these would be forwarded to Lisa via email and she would bring a more formal project back to the board for consideration.

Mary Nell Wolff reported on Colorado Blvd Health Care District, specifically the 9<sup>th</sup> Ave Redevelopment. She discussed issues with addressing public concerns about the CBHD meeting schedule (specially the time of the meeting at 4 pm) and perceived conflicts of interest with the developer handling administrative tasks for the CBHD after city budget cuts resulted in the loss of the city staffer who supported the CBHD. She reported that the dissemination of information about the development would no longer flow exclusively from the CBHD, and this duty will now be shared by the Mayor's Office, DURA, and the Councilwomen for Districts 5 and 10. DURA will be making the decision on whether this is a viable project in terms of being able to support issuance of municipal bonds for infrastructure at the site. This ability will most likely hinge on the project's ability to generate sales and property taxes in order to repay the bonds. When asked what the CBHD role would be in the future, she stated they would take parallel tracks moving forward of the redevelopment of 9th and Colorado and the regular business of the District.

Andrea Dikeou gave the updates on the Membership and Communications Committees. She discussed the need for an updated mailing list, as many changes to lot configurations have resulted in significant returned mail. Currently, emails are collected from membership postcards or entered through the website. The email addresses received through mailings are being maintained on a simple Excel spreadsheet and uploaded to the Mail Chimp server, this is very time consuming and not always timely. Larry Cohen and Jay McCormick agreed to join the Communications Committee. Other priorities include updates to the website, increasing email collection and a updated membership campaign.

There was a brief discussion of outside board representation. We currently have individuals serving on the Colorado Boulevard Health Care District, Lowry Citizen's Advisory Committee, Cherry Creek North Steering Committee, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperative and Save the Sundial Committees.

The 2013 Slate of officers was presented. Ted Rounds made a motion to support the slate and Dick Heider seconded his motion. All present voted yes to affirm the slate:

President:	Andrea Dikeou
Vice-President:	Open
Secretary:	Wende Reoch
Treasurer:	Dick Heider