



# SOUTH CITY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (SCPNA)

## Meeting Minutes

*Date | time* 9/20/2017 7:00 PM

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### In Attendance

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~50 attendees

Special guests:

Lt. Donna Starr-Gimeno, Denver Police Department

Danny Paulson, State of Colorado Deputy District Attorney

City of Denver members of Neighborhood Planning Initiative

Scott Robinson, Senior Planner, City of Denver Planning Office

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### Agenda

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- Annual Meeting
- Neighborhood Social
- District Attorney's Office
- Denver Police Department
- Neighborhood Planning Initiative
- Conservation Overlay District (COD)
- Accelerating Neighborhood Climate Action
- Other Updates
- Next Meeting
- Board & Committee Contact Information

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### Annual Meeting

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SCPNA's Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 15 at Montview Manor. Anyone interested in running for a board position should send an email to [southcitypark@gmail.com](mailto:southcitypark@gmail.com).

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### Neighborhood Social

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A social will be held on September 26, 2017 at Steve's Snappin' Dogs from 6:00-8:00pm. All members in the neighborhood are welcome!

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## District Attorney's Office

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Danny Paulson, Deputy District Attorney attended the meeting. He gave an update about Beth McCann's office – who was elected District Attorney last November. Beth wants more transparency into the DA's office.

There is a new unit in the office which addresses serious substance abuse and mental health issues. Imprisoning is not the best way to deal with these issues. There is also a new elder abuse intake process to which a detective and lieutenant have been dedicated. There are changes to juvenile justice – which has been the main focus for the office.

There are a range of options for handling defendants without changing laws. Beth has been conducting performance reviews on all the district attorneys – getting feedback from judges and defense attorneys.

The office is applying for grants to house juveniles if their home life is not supportive. Currently, there are detention facilities but some shouldn't be there and should not be incarcerated.

The office is also working with ICE/immigration victims. Many illegal immigrants are afraid to use law enforcement to protect themselves for fear of being deported. The office would like to create visas to provide immunity if they've been victims of crimes. They are working to get ICE out of courthouses.

A member asked if Denver is a sanctuary city. According to Mayor Hancock, not technically.

Ultimately, their office does not have control over the Federal government or ICE.

\*See attached handout for more information regarding the DA's office.

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## Denver Police Department Report

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Lt. Donna Starr-Gimeno attended the meeting. She reiterated that the best way to see decreases in crime is to keep valuables out of your vehicles and keep them locked. Most of the crime in our area are crimes of opportunity. Lt. Starr-Gimeno checked the parking lot to Montview Manor before coming inside and found several cars with laptops and cell phones visible as well as five unlocked vehicles. She also noted that you should not leave your registration inside your vehicle. Also, if you don't use your garage door opener on a regular basis, do not keep it in your vehicle (or at a minimum, hide it within the car and do not leave on the visor).

Late model Hondas and Subarus (1990s to present) are the two most stolen vehicles in the county. You can pick up a Club at the District 2 offices on Holly St. but you have to use it consistently.

She talked a little about home alarm systems and feels most are not good. The best idea for protecting your home is to have good neighbors who watch what's happening. Also, have a system for leaving the house – she recommends keeping curtains/blinds open during the day when you're not home. Most burglars will close windows when they enter a home. They've been getting good information/video/pictures from Ring doorbells. District 2 officer a discount on Ring. Contact their office for more information.

For alleys, she recommended getting an inexpensive concave mirror that can be mounted to a utility pole so you can see the full alley before leaving your garage or walking back there.

The holidays are coming soon. Amazon and some other websites offer lockers or secure delivery places to reduce the number of package thefts.

Concerns about Royal Palace Motel were brought up. There is new graffiti on the building. Residents can call 311 for the graffiti hotline. Graffiti is usually removed within 24-48 hours so the artist can no longer see their "creations".

Call the non-emergency number to report anything suspicious to the Police Department: 720-913-2100.

District 2 is now live on Pocketgov and is no longer on Facebook or Nextdoor.

Contact info for our neighborhood's Community Resource Officer:

Sgt. Mary Prestel

[mary.prestel@denvergov.org](mailto:mary.prestel@denvergov.org)

720-913-1063 (direct)

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## Neighborhood Planning Initiative

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Members of the City of Denver's Neighborhood Planning Initiative attended the meeting to discuss the project. Many questions were asked members about the South City Park neighborhood and how we felt about the types of businesses located here, safety, etc.

A break-out session was held where members were asked to mark on a map of the larger City Park area three likes, three dislikes and three big ideas for improvement.

Some likes: City Park, Museum, Zoo

Some dislikes: goose poop, traffic on 17<sup>th</sup> St is dangerous

Some big ideas: create zoning laws so houses cannot be scraped, find ways to support our tree canopy, improve bus lanes on Colfax, trolley on Colfax, covered tennis courts at City Park, better traffic control on Colorado Blvd, install a light rail line between I-70 and I-25 along Colorado Blvd.

The information gathered will be used as a foundation for the project. Members were give homework to tell two neighbors about the project and to send them the website so they can also give feedback ([www.denvergov.org/eastcentralplan](http://www.denvergov.org/eastcentralplan)). We ALL need to participate and have ownership in the process. The project wants to hear from a diverse group. An online survey was recently sent out to our neighborhood and a great response rate was received. Thanks for everyone who completed the survey.

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## Conservation Overlay District (COD)

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Scott Robinson, Senior Planner from the City of Denver Planning Office attended the meeting to discuss Conservation Overlay Districts (CODs). This is a restriction placed in a zoning code to determine what happens in a certain geographic area related to scrapes, new builds and remodels.

The criteria usually focuses on distinctive building features and natural features of the neighborhood worth preserving. It would specify building heights, setbacks, roof pitch, etc.

The COD committee could decide which areas of the neighborhood it would apply to – wouldn't necessarily include the whole neighborhood. The NPI East Central Plan will be adopted in 18-24

months. If we want to City's help with the COD, we would have to work within that timeframe. If we don't need the City's help, we could institute changes before that without much City assistance. The NPI could give us a COD in their plan.

There are only five CODs in Denver at the moment. They represent a fairly small footprint. Scott discussed the COD for Krisana Park that was adopted last year. The City definitely feels CODs are valuable. A COD could discourage scrapes if you can't build a duplex and need to build something similar to what is already on the lot.

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## New Committees

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An in-person vote was held (followed up by an online vote for those not present) to ask for the formation of two special committees: Conservation Overlay District Committee and Accelerate Climate Action Committee.

The new committees would be in effect for a period of one year. They would report out to the South City Park Neighborhood Association on their findings/recommendations.

Accelerate Climate Action Committee would like to support the City of Denver's Sustainability goals. They have created a tentative mission statement and four actions. Battery Giant is a sponsor of the committee and there will be battery recycling at the next meeting on November 15. For more information about this committee, contact Jim Slotta at [jslotta@earthlink.net](mailto:jslotta@earthlink.net).

Mardi gave information about the Conservation Overlay District Committee. A tentative mission statement was also created for this committee. If you want more information about the committee, her email is [mardi48@gmail.com](mailto:mardi48@gmail.com).

**Vote update: The neighborhood voted to create the two special committees.**

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## Next Meeting

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The Annual Meeting will be:

11/15/2017 at 7:00 pm at Montview Manor, 1663 Steele St.

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## Board & Committee Contact Information

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President, Trent Thompson	<a href="mailto:southcitypark@gmail.com">southcitypark@gmail.com</a>
Vice President, Emily Clark	<a href="mailto:scpnavp@gmail.com">scpnavp@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer, Brian Friel	<a href="mailto:scpnatreasurer@gmail.com">scpnatreasurer@gmail.com</a>
Secretary, Jen Morrison	<a href="mailto:scpnasecretary@gmail.com">scpnasecretary@gmail.com</a>
Zoning, Rhonda Knop	<a href="mailto:scpnazoning@gmail.com">scpnazoning@gmail.com</a>
Membership, CJ Wera	<a href="mailto:scpnamembership@gmail.com">scpnamembership@gmail.com</a>
Communications, Lance Hostetter	<a href="mailto:scpnacommunications@gmail.com">scpnacommunications@gmail.com</a>