



**March 16, 2022
7:00pm – 8:30pm
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by Ellen Roth at 7:05pm

In attendance: Ellen Roth (President), Mardi Mathers (Vice President), Kathy Price (Treasurer), Lindsey Martin (Secretary), Rodney Sanchez, Hana Ruiz, Adam LeVasseur, Anne Ercolani, Brian Friel, Chad Rounds, Danielle Lucas-Adam, David Lancaster, Eleni Sarris, Jacqueline Altreuter, James Mulligan, Jeff Harbaugh, Jennifer Rosen, Jim Slotta, Matt Fariss, Michael Nicks, Robert Greer, Sarah Barton, Wendy Rouder, James Mulligan, Jacob Hurley, Robert Britt, Martha & Trent, Tony Vaida, Woody Faircloth, Bob Red, Jessica Lowery, Taylor Molaris, Jeff Bader, Tracy Huggins, Eileen McCarron, Bryan Touver

7:05 – 7:08 Committee Update

- Earth Day April, Friday 22nd
 - ◆ Cleanups at the park & in the neighborhood
 - ◆ Toxin Recycling Opportunities (Batteries, Paint, etc.)
 - ◆ More information coming soon!
- Pipestorm Construction Update on 17th Ave
 - ◆ Delays due to staffing relating to COVID as well as weather
 - ◆ New completion date is the end of April to June. Phased reopening (West side of Colorado will open before East).

7:08 – 7:24 Denver Police Department Report – Hana Ruiz & Rod Sanchez

- Resource packets have been created for mental/ medical health guidance as well as job listings.
- Template is in the works for information for the best number to contact: 311 / 911 / non-emergency numbers
 - ◆ 311 is not a live monitored system - 4-5 day minimum review
- The Neighborhood Police Officer assigned to City Park will be attending the next meeting!

Questions from the community:

Q: Who do you contact if you hear gunshots 311 or 911?

A: 911. Sites are investigated that night or next morning. Shell casings are tested and reviewed against neighborhood reporting and reviewed for pattern crime. Even if you don't see anything, please call 911 if you hear gunshots.

Q: Are we doing neighborhood watch?

A: We don't have a neighborhood watch but we work to have block captains for each street. Block captains monitor the comings and goings on the block and share concerns with the association or the community officers. See something, say something!

Q: Has Shot Spotter deployed in City Park? Are there any other districts that have been deployed? What data have you collected? Can we get access to the data?

A: Yes, Shot Spotter has been deployed in district 1, 2, 4, & 6. Shot spotter is a qualitative and quantitative report that monitors and tracks gunshots. Microphones are set up throughout the area and monitor these sounds which are run through the computer system and reviewed by a live person. If it is believed to be a gunshot, within 30 seconds a live alert is sent straight to a police officer to investigate. Shot Spotter has 15-20 feet of accuracy. Officer Sanchez will look into whether or not this data can be shared with the public.

Q: Can we request speed monitoring? There has been repeat speeding on Monroe & 17th during East High School lunch time as well drag racing on 17th from Garfield to East High.

A: Two speed monitoring signs recently became available. Committee to connect and determine location for signs so Officer Sanchez can place them. There are staffing issues at the police department traffic control but Officer Sanchez will monitor this area for speeding.

7:24 – 7:29 Budget Update – Kathy Price

- 2022 Budget shared and reviewed
 - ◆ Proposed budget is the same as last year
 - ◆ Hoping for in person events this year (block party, etc.)
 - ◆ Grant funds - Chun Seed award was not used in 2021, hoping to use in 2022
- Budget will be sent out for review and approval to all paid members
 - ◆ You can also become an free member by electing to waive your dues

7:29 – 7:57 Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability & Resilience Taylor Molaris and Jessica Lowley, Department of Transportation & Infrastructure

- Review of the expanded waste service proposal that will be presented at City Council
- Current Waste Service
 - ◆ Trash service for 180k customers (single family homes & apartments up to 7 units)
 - ◆ Provided by DOTI
 - ◆ Paid for by sales and property tax. No fee for trash or recycling. Compost is \$9.75/mo.

- ◆ 74% of waste goes to landfill. 26% diversion rate (recycling & compost). National average is 34%.
- ◆ Recycling in Denver started in 1991. Compost pilot began in 2008
- Denver's Climate Future
 - ◆ Goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - ◆ Increase diversion rate
- Proposal - Implement Denver Metro Trash Service Fee
 - ◆ Monthly service fee for weekly trash, recycling & compost
 - ◆ Move to weekly recycling (currently every other week)
 - ◆ Composting for all customers
 - ◆ Other services remain - large item pick up, leaf drop, etc.
 - ◆ Exact rollout schedule TBD
 - ◆ Customers choose the size of carts
 - 95 gallons is \$21
 - 65 gallons is \$13
 - 35 gallon is \$9
 - ◆ Affordability program
 - ◆ Reviews income & number of people in the house
 - ◆ Renters are also eligible
 - ◆ Estimated timeline
 - Q1: Targeting focus groups & gather community feedback
 - Q2: Draft ordinance & present to council for a vote
 - Q3: Customer education & discount program enrollment
 - Q4: Implementation begins
- <http://www.denvergov.org/expandedcollection>

Questions from the community:

Q: Will there be a tax impact if we go to a private pay system?

A: Currently paid for by sales and property taxes. The new fee is only for individuals for the service. Currently the city is subsidizing the residential trash & recycling pick up. Any additional freed up tax revenue is put towards the purchase of additional trucks, workers & funding the affordability program, etc.

Q: How do you apply for a discount/ affordability program for a multi-unit property?

A: This is in the process of being developed. More information to come.

Q: What are the estimated expenses to the city for labor & trucks for the additional pick up?

A: Cost of service study is currently being drafted. Initial implementation cost for the program is about \$14M (this does not include trucks for expanding compost service). More information to come on the DOTI website.

Q: Does the city plan to address the waste caused by construction?

A: DOTI has a pulse on this as it is 50% of our city's landfill waste. Right now, DOTI can't provide services to anyone over the 7 unit limit. There is a citizen led initiative called Waste No More. It

will be on the November vote. It addresses requirements for construction & multifamily units.
<http://www.wastenomoredenver.org/>

Q: Is what we are putting in our recycling bins actually being recycled?

A: Every single city has its own recycling facility and has their own relationship with the end markets. Denver's facility is JFL Environmental. DOTI receives updates on where each material is going. We have never depended on the overseas markets for remanufacturing. The only thing that goes to Southeast Asia is paper. Everything else stays in North America.

Q: Is there a concern that people are going to use neighbors trash/ recycling cans?

A: Yes, it is a concern. It is recommended that the carts are brought back to their property between collection days. DOTI is leading with education and awareness and will be on the lookout for illegal dumping.

Q: Is there something going on with cart replacement. There has been a delay in the work order that has been submitted 6+ weeks ago.

A: Cart maintenance crew has been pulled to help with collection routes. Solid waste had staffing issues with Covid and have fallen behind. DOTI will follow up on work order.

Q: Why are some neighborhoods front pick up vs. back alley?

A: It depends on the size of the alley, the routes through the neighborhood as well as the type of truck in the area.

7:57 – 8:17 Denver Urban Redevelopment - Jeff Bader & Tracy Huggins on 3015 East Colfax Redevelopment Project

→ Overview:

- ◆ Evaluating the space since 2019
- ◆ Owner/ Redeveloper: Inspire Colfax, LLC Bryan Tourver
- ◆ Purchased the property in 2016, applied to DURA in 2019
- ◆ Current Use: All Inn Motel & Parking Lot - 0.85 acres
- ◆ July 2020: Motel is listed on National & State Register of Historic Places
- ◆ Council District 9

→ Proposal:

- ◆ Construct 81 room boutique hotel with ground level commercial use (restaurant, coffee shop, affordable commercial space- community serving uses or business vulnerable to displacement)
- ◆ Hotel operator: New Waterloo based out of Austin, TX

→ DURA:

- ◆ Responsible for urban renewal activities across the city. Core objective is to remediate blighted areas across the city and stimulate regrowth in those areas through affordable housing, establishing parks & open spaces, historic preservation, economic revitalization, and sustainability.
- ◆ DURA is able to do this by filling a financial gap for redevelopment projects and tax increment financing.
- ◆ Governed by Urban Redevelopment Plan

- ◆ Approval is by the DURA Board of Commissioners, Denver Planning Board, Denver City Council and agreements with DPS and UDFCD if TIF is requested.
 - ◆ Not a city department, not under the government umbrella, rather a civic entrepreneur that works with and through city government.
 - ◆ Two departments: Redevelopment & Housing
 - ◆ Projects come to DURA via the public sector (mayor, committee group, etc.) or property owner/ developer. DURA reviews the case using a Conditions Study.
 - ◆ Tax Increment Financing (TIF) allows DURA to capture the increase in tax revenue attributable to the increase in property value as a result of the redevelopment project above what was already existing.
- Project Timeline
- ◆ Community Outreach March - April 2022
 - ◆ Planning Board Approval April 2022
 - ◆ DPS & DURA Board Approval May 2022
 - ◆ City Council Approval
 - First Reading May 23, 2022
 - Public Hearing May 30, 2022
- Developer Bryan Tourver
- ◆ Original intent was affordable housing development on this site. Rerent the rooms out at affordable housing/ micro units. City Council reached out to Bryan to support redevelopment and sparked a hotel. The National Jewish Hospital reached out to the city for a need for outpatient hotels. Bryan revisited affordable housing only to determine with the city that the rooms/ units were too small.
- Contact information: Tracy Huggins: thuggins@renewdenver.org

Questions from the community:

Q: Is there a reason UDFCD and DPS approvals are required because they are giving up tax revenue?

A: Yes, DURA is asking for the ability to use the revenue generated by their mill levy within that TIF area. DURA is required to negotiate the agreements with them to make sure that the proposed project doesn't negatively impact their ability to provide services. Whatever taxes a project is currently generating continue to flow to those tax entities. There won't be any additional revenues if this project doesn't happen.

Q: Is there a full proposal to review including TIF & draft of urban renewal plan?

A: DURA can make the information available, see below for their contact information. The proposal is not on the website because it is not an approved project, City Council needs to approve it. The Urban Renewal Plan hasn't been shared with the planning board but DURA will work with us to share the information on the project.

Q: Why not consider affordable housing for this location over a boutique hotel?

A: The project started as affordable housing but it was determined by a then Council person

that this use on this corridor wouldn't provide the same injection of energy and economic development that the councilmen would like to see. The developer then changed course to meet the councilman's criteria. The project is looking to obtain its original contribution to the corridor.

Q: What kind of financial assistance is the developer asking for? What is the tax increment that's being projected and what is it based on?

A: DURA works to minimize the financial investment into a project to make it financially feasible. This project has a total development budget of \$30M. What is being requested is a tax increment reimbursement (developer is paying upfront) of \$3.5M, just over 11% of total project cost. This would be reimbursed through a combination of incremental property taxes and sales taxes. What we are not able to capture is the lodger taxes, those continue to flow to the city. This is based on projections by third parties as well as DURA's experience with like projects.

Q: Confirming this has zero effect on the neighbors?

A: Correct, the tax increment area is drawn around the boundaries of the project. DURA doesn't levy any taxes. It is a result of the enhanced operations of the project once developed. It is the new taxes above the base that DURA is able to capture to help repay the investment made by the developer.

Q: How will this impact the property taxes for the surrounding business?

A: If nothing else happens, it shouldn't change. This type of strategic investment can help catalyze other development along the corridor.

8:17 – 8:38 Eileen McCarron, Colorado Ceasefire on Colorado Firearms Legislation

→ Gun Laws in Colorado

- ◆ 2000 Lawsuit Ban
- ◆ 2000 Gun Show Loophole closed
- ◆ 2003 Conceal Carry & Preemption
- ◆ 2013 5 Laws including UBC DV relinquishment, Large Capacity Mag Ban
- ◆ 2019 Extreme Risk Protection Orders

→ 2021 Legislation

- ◆ Shaping events: 2019 Columbine Remembrance, 2019 STEM School Shooting, 2021 Boulder King Scooper
- ◆ 2021 Laws- Part 1: Domestic Violence Relinquishment, Safe Storage & Reporting Lost & Stolen Guns
- ◆ 2021 Laws- Part 2: Expanded background checks (violent misdemeanor prohibition, close Charleston Loophole), Repeal of Preemption & Establishment of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention

→ 2022 Session of General Assembly

- ◆ 2022 Defeated Bills: Guns in School, Allow Large Capacity Magazines at Competitions, Stand Your Ground Business, HB1147 Sheriff Chief Authority (these bills were all bad bills per the firearms legislation).

- ◆ HB1168: Hunter Training in Public Schools - Ceasefire position is neutral. Ceasefire endeavoring to amend to prohibit guns and ammo on school grounds. Passed the house, moving to the Senate.
- ◆ HB1086: Vote Without Fear - Prohibit open carry of firearms 100ft from voting site, ballot drop box & electric processing center. Passed House, moving to the Senate.
- ◆ HB1257: Colorado Criminal & Juvenile Justice Commission Recommendations - Possessions of a Weapon by a Previous Offender (POWPO)- if a previous offender, you are not allowed to purchase a weapon. Returns more felonies to the list of POWPO eligibility. Passed House, moving to the Senate.
- ◆ Bills yet to be introduced: Ghost Guns (nonserialized guns made from kits or 3D printers) & Lawsuit Ban Repeal.
- ◆ Gun Fatalities
 - Nationally: 45k+ gun deaths. $\frac{2}{3}$ were suicides
 - Colorado: 918 deaths / 70% were suicides/ 70% of homicides were by gun/ 50% of suicides were by gun.
 - Surge in guns purchased & surge in gun deaths. Correlation is R is -0.75
- ◆ It is up to us! Vote!

→ Contact information: Eileen McCarron info@ColoradoCeasefire.org

Questions from the community:

Q: How would this impact the JROTC programs such as the one at East High School?

A: It will not affect it at all. Anything on the amendment deals just with that class. The bill only applied to 7th grade and they amended it to all grades.

8:39 – 9:00 Questions for DURA & Colorado Ceasefire (Q&A noted above)

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm