

District 5 Registered Neighborhood Organization & Homeowners Association Leadership Lunch

Hosted by Amanda Sawyer, City Councilwoman for District 5

Tuesday, June 8, 2021, Noon-1:30pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Tim Townsend, Denver Human Services; Jesse Villalobos, Denver Human Services; Jenn Gross, City Council District 5; Kathy Head, Lowry United Neighborhoods; Mary Carr, Lowry Community Master Assoc.; Adriana Lara, Denver Fire; Patricia Mulligan, Mayfair Neighbors; Carrie O'Shea, Historic Montclair Neighborhood Assn; Captain Greg Pixley, Denver Fire; Wende Reoch, Cranmer Park-Hilltop Civic Assn; CW Amanda Sawyer, City Council District 5; Jeannine Shaw, Denver Water; Monica Slusser, TAVA Waters Apartments; Brian Campbell, Lighthouse Villas HOA; Cari Ervin, Windsor Gardens; Felicia Rodriguez, City Council District 5; Debbie Weed, Pelican Point Homeowners Assn.

Welcome & Introductions, CW Sawyer

- CW Sawyer introduced Guest Speaker: Tim Townsend, DHS Outreach Case Coordinator
 - ✓ timothy.townsend@denvergov.org, DHS call center 720-944-4347
- Meredith Levy had a work conflict today and could not attend. Her DPR Updates will be included in the Meeting Minutes. Contact Meredith at meredithprab@gmail.com.

Guest Speakers, Tim Townsend & Jesse Villalobos, DHS:

- Outreach Case Coordinators with DHS providing assistance & supports for city residents based in the courts and pretrial services
 - ✓ Ultimate goal is to connect folks with correct programs to help provide assistance in the gaps, helps keep people in their homes.
 - ✓ Focusing on households with elderly/disabled
 - Current threshold for assistance is to earn no more than 130% of FPL, \$1383/month for regular folks, but if 60 yo+/disabled it goes up to 200% of FPL, \$2128/month. Many people don't realize that they are eligible.
 - ✓ Current EBT rate for household of 1 is \$234/month, up to \$329/month as USDA has added \$ due to COVID to all households
 - ✓ Medicare recipients can get assistance for paying Medicare part B premiums from their county, which can offset losses.
 - ✓ Qualified Medicare beneficiary. Those who earn less than \$1,94/month as single household will receive part B premiums and Medicaid as supplemental insurance including prescriptions. As income goes up, benefits diminish but there are some benefits all of the way up to an income of \$2,924/month
 - ✓ Medicare savings programs are administered by county

- ✓ Colorado PTC rebate - property tax, heat, & credit rebate program for 65+ and disabled, apply through the state. Maximum is \$792.
- ✓ Denver County Property Tax Rebate – applies to homeowners and renters and administered through DHS. If property taxes are paid on property and are current, one can apply at the city for rebate. Single applicants 65+ and/or disabled can earn up to 25% of Area Median Income, \$17,500 for 2020 program year, goes up based on household size. Program revised in 2020 to include families as well. Income levels are being adjusted as income levels were so low relative to ability to own a home.
- ✓ Offer to HOA/Property managers – is happy to work with managers to help tenants who struggling with rent and/or mortgage if there are one off situations that would delay a payment
- ✓ Emergency rental services in DHS apart from TRUA and state cares program to prevent eviction
- ✓ Family motel voucher program, includes wrap around case mgmt for long term more permanent solutions
- ✓ **Best phone # to call is DHS main number/call center 720-944-4347, and they can route the inquiry appropriately**
 - End users should be the ones calling the call center, but HOA managers can reach out to Tim directly if they have residents in need of services but are reluctant to call. Tim will then reach out to those in need
- ✓ DHS has document runner program for those who call in wishing to apply for benefits but without computer access, runners will drop off documents to residents and then pick up completed paperwork.
- ✓ There are various programs to meet people where they are with what they need to stay in place.
- ✓ Can make referrals to other agencies, such as office of Economic Empowerment so individuals can stabilize financially if that is what they need to stay in place.

Community Partner Information Sharing

Denver Water: Jeannine Shaw, jeannine.shaw@denverwater.org

- ✓ Continue using water wisely
 - We receive half of our water supplies from the West Slope, which continues to be in a severe drought. CPR story about that [here](#).
 - Follow the [watering rules](#) (our rules that we have all the time are other places stage 1 drought response.) The mailer that went out to residents is available [here](#) if folks would like to share in newsletters.
 - [Do a sprinkler check](#)
 - Run each zone to look for and fix any problems.

- Check and adjust your irrigation controller throughout the season (don't set it and forget it)
 - [Sprinkler rebates available](#)
 - If you want info for your newsletters, Denver Water has tons of content and folks can register to receive emails and/or see the content at denverwater.org/TAP.
- ✓ Virtual community meeting for people enrolled in [the Lead Reduction Program](#) that focuses on getting the most out of your [filter](#).
 - Scheduled for June 17 at 5 p.m. for neighborhoods in northeast Denver. People will get calls inviting them to attend and more info will be posted on our website in the next week or so.
- ✓ Construction updates
 - Hilltop near Crestmoor Park
 - Water main replacement started mid-May and should wrap-up in July. Customer-owned lead service lines will be replaced as we go, at no direct cost to those customers.

DFD: Adriana Lara, adriana.lara@denvergov.org (720) 913-3482; Captain Greg Pixley, greg.pixley@denvergov.org

- Summer fire safety and protection during the summer
 - ✓ More interactions opening up with community; educational opportunities, fire truck appearances at events, tours of fire houses, fire safety talks, other community outreach events. Search for DFD community outreach to put in outreach request, where all requests can be centralized and organized.
 - ✓ Interaction with youth of Denver to emphasize fire safety protection and education, and to introduce youth to education and mentorship should they choose to pursue fire safety career, including a week-long summer camp. Career Exploration Camp – experiential firefighting activities to build empowerment and career potential and capacity. There is still room in the Young Ladies camp for those grades 4-12, July 28th-30th. Day 1 is CPR and First Aide training with certification. Additional details are on the attached flyer
 - ✓ By request, to share with those new to Denver and its regulations, a document on Fire Pits, Chimineas and Open Fires Regulations in Denver per Fire Code is attached.

DPD District 3: Officer Matt Grimsley, matthew.grimsley@denvergov.org (720) 913-1218

- Unable to attend this month

DPD District 2: Heidi Lewis Heidi.Lewis@denvergov.org 720-913-1094

- Unable to attend this month

Denver Parks & Recreation, Meredith Levy, meredithprab@gmail.com

- District 5:

- ✓ **Robinson Park** playground/2nd Ave sidewalk construction has begun. Expected completion date: end of 2021.
- ✓ **Montclair Park:** the tennis court is 'curing' and needs to wait a couple more weeks before the topping and lines are applied. The picnic tables will be replaced in about 4 weeks and the remaining walks will be poured this week. Anticipated completion- end of July.
- ✓ **Crestmoor Park paths:** The walks and accessible picnic area project at Crestmoor Park has received the notice to proceed for construction. The contractor has begun mobilizing and construction is planned to start summer 2021. The project is anticipated to be completed late 2021.
- ✓ **Montclair Rec Center** is open, 7am-3pm. Pool opening on August 16.
- ✓ **Verbena Process** is in design process
- ✓ **Montclair Park** question about the playground needing updating as it was last updated in the 1990s. Capital Improvement Funds are being used for Verbena Park, so that will likely keep CIP funds from other D5 parks until 2023. There will be a Bond Package on the November 2021 ballot and D5 has put in a request for funds for this park, as well as a playground update at Crestmoor and a rec center for East Colfax.
 - Encouraged leaders to organize to put in requests on the city website for funds to be dedicated for these parks should the bonds pass.
- Citywide:
 - ✓ **DPR Outdoor Pools** opened June 7, closest to District 5 is Cook Park. Full schedule of pools and guidelines here: <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Recreation-Centers-Pools/Swimming-Pools>

CW Sawyer Updates

- District 5:
 - ✓ Camping Ban FAQs, are attached to minutes and were sent to the District 5 email distribution list
 - ✓ Eviction Access to Council legislation is just waiting for the Mayor's signature, this will help keep people in their homes and hopefully reduce the increase in homelessness from further upstream
 - ✓ Please send your RNO/HOA Annual Meeting Information to jennifer.gross@denvergov.org
 - ✓ We had over 70 participants for the May Parks Day clean-up event and covered every park on the list. **The next Parks clean-up day is Sunday Oct. 10th 8:30-11am.** Sign-ups should be ready in early September.
 - ✓ **The JAG Grant application was approved,** but not at full amount. Will be looking into alternative sources to fill in gaps. Thanks to all who wrote letters, signed petition, and helped shape program. In addition, the Dept. of Safety has copied the program to put into place in other parts of the city. Press release will come soon.

- ✓ Events in D5 – if you want us to promo your org’s event, send to sara.visser@denvergov.org by 10th of the month. We send out our newsletter on the 15th
- ✓ If you want to sign up to receive the newsletter, email sara.visser@denvergov.org or use this link: [Sign up for our newsletter](#)

Q&A/Discussion

- What is the process for requesting improvements in the neighborhood? Where does one go, where does the money come from? It’s a confusing process, clarification would help create understanding. And, some neighborhoods don’t know/understand the equity process in the city, so an explanation would be helpful.
 - ✓ Starting place is always 311 – the city needs data to proceed and this is point of data collection from residents. The more data, the faster the response.
 - ✓ By request, we can include a write up of the process for the neighborhood publications.
- Trash cans and flower beds not being taken care of
 - ✓ A staffing issue this year, not budget. Positions are open, but there are insufficient applicants.
 - ✓ ARPA money coming from Federal Government must be spent by end 2024. Will back fill the staffing and services left vacant by prior budget shortfall.
 - ✓ RISE Denver Bonds will partner with the ARPA money to address the Capital Improvements needed. It will not cover all needs. The town halls have already been held; the website is <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Departments/Economic-Development-Opportunity/RISE-Denver>
- Mailbox break-ins/mail theft. Pelican Pointe just had 3 thefts in 8 days with \$10K in damages
 - ✓ Federal crime, investigations are handled by the FBI
 - ✓ Lowry neighborhood partnered with Page Specialties to install special locking bolts on mail kiosks – won’t prevent doors from being pried open but will prevent removal of whole kiosk.
 - ✓ Safety mailing from Council District 5 dropped today which includes names/emails/phone numbers of who to contact for what situations.
 - ✓ D5 sends out DPD3 Neighborhood Watch training each month. Data shows that neighborhoods with strong Neighborhood Watch implementation show reduced crime year over year.

The next RNO-HOA Leadership Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3, noon-1:00pm. Guest Speakers from the Airport are expected to attend as featured speakers. October meeting guests will likely be Neighborhood Inspection Services.

Adjourned at 1:10 pm