



History Committee Meeting Minutes
20 June 2006, 7:00 pm, 800 South Corona Street

I. Introductions

A. Attendees included Debbie Jones, Kathryn Smith, Ginny Gelbach, and Dave Burrell.

II. Certified Homes

A. Status: No new applications received this month; still at 12 total.

B. Plans: Letter for homeowners in potential historic district completed by Dave Burrell and Kathryn Smith. Kathryn printed up 500 copies (~\$48) for the 400 "A" listed homes, determined delivery routes for 4 participants, and detailed the assignments most excellently. Discussed not leaving fliers on home indicating "No solicitations" and preventing damage/litter claims by placing the fliers next to glass security doors or under mat. All participants took approximately 100 for delivery by the end of next month, preferably close to the time of newspaper delivery (later this week). Made guesses as to the anticipated response rate: Kathryn, 12; Ginny, 20; Dave, 30. If successful, we will do the same for the 700 "B" listed homes.

III. Oral History

A. Status: Debbie contacted all participants, and outlined some of the more interesting potentials. Have 12-15 at this point.

B. Funding: Debbie discussed funding with Colorado Historical Society, but the prospects appear unlikely: the State Historical Fund is more directly focused on the history of specific structures and/or creation of professional reference materials. Dave spoke with the Denver Public Library, which agreed to catalog the materials and provide technical help (e.g., best digital recorders, etc.), but no money is available. Gertie Grant also sent an email regarding the National Trust, but they also seem unlikely for a few reasons: they're focused on preserving "historic places," require that we be a nonprofit incorporated organization or public agency, and don't start the next funding cycle until October 1. Margie knows folks at the National Trust and also suggested the Colorado Council on the Arts or Colorado Endowment (via email) so those may be our most likely options at the moment.

C. Training: Debbie would like more commitments for potential interviews, plus a more complete training program, perhaps administered through the Boulder public library.

D. Plans: Talk to people at 4th of July picnic and other WWPNA events. Post something in the next newsletter.

IV. Character preservation

- A. Sherri Way has asked Jim Lindberg to speak at our September board meeting regarding historic character as relates to neighborhoods and home styles. Help for that may be useful, and would also be a good place to solicit participants for History Committee projects.
- B. Articles online (www.wwpna.org) relating to character preservation include a Wall Street Journal article, Park Hill scrapeoffs, Belcaro Park victory (covenants), new construction in WWP since 1971, and overview of landmark options

V. Other projects

- A. Demolition permitting process was discussed at some length. WWPNA committee will have an email vote regarding the definitions of adjacency, notification recipients (Council, RNO, HD), notification process (physical, online), timeline (60 days? 10 days?), and staff control. Proposed language is as follows: "that the WWPNA History Committee recommend that the Board approve a letter to the City requesting that the demolition permitting process include direct notification of adjacent neighbors, RNOs, and City Council members as well as a posting of the demolition plans on site and online, with a 30-60 day window would be most appropriate for the purposes of historical review, and the removal of any barriers to notification (such as the proposed filtering mechanism wherein city staff would first have to decide that a structure had historic merit before notifying any of the above-listed parties)."
- B. The website (www.wwpna.org) is online and working fine. Please visit and become a member of the site, as this "content management system" enables very specific and helpful updates via email in a targeted way. If you would like to receive notification for all new updates on the site, you can do that. Or you can just receive more targeted information: e.g., just History Committee info, or History News, or History Events/Polls, or History Projects, or Historical Preservation. And if you have information to add, please let us know and we'll be happy to put it online.
- C. No news received regarding Country Club Gardens
- D. No news received regarding Gates redevelopment

VI. Events

- A. Online polls regarding scrapeoffs & demolitions
- B. Maintenance of Historic Wooden Windows (July 26)
- C. Historically Sensitive Renovations in Congress Park (August 30)
- D. Maintenance of Brick and Masonry Buildings (September 27)
- E. Landscapes for Your Historic House (October 25)

VII. What's New?

- A. The Washington Park Preservation Plan regarding the history and preservation of the park itself is online and very engaging. Kathryn discussed the "Committee for Washington Park" formed by the Washington Park East neighborhood association (but open to all), which is striving for funds to plan the implementation of these

preservation plans. Interested parties are encouraged to contact her for more information.

- B. The proposed DeBoer District in the Harvard Gulch area was discussed by Dave Burrell, including the amazing (and chaotic) response of neighborhood groups and the concerns of the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission in the process. All led to discussion of downzoning and other issues of character preservation, and the careful role of history to prepare information and avoid giving support to zoning-directed inquiries.
- C. A city-wide Denver history forum is being pushed by Dave Burrell, with hopes for involvement and financial commitments for the creation of a true "historical community" in Denver. A meeting is planned for Sunday evening, June 25th at 7 pm. Please contact Dave for details.
- D. City Ditch sesquicentennial: on hold.
- E. Be a Historian opportunities: they're out there!

VIII. Closing Out

- A. Next meeting: July 18, 2006 @ 7:00 pm (3rd Tuesday of every month). Location TBD.

