



Historic Preservation Committee Meeting Agenda

15 Aug 2006, 7:00 pm, 242 South Lincoln Street

I. Introductions

- A. Attendees included Dave Burrell, Gertie Grant, Doris Burd, Madeline Melichar, Rob Melichar, and Martin Toth.

II. Oral History

- A. To kick off our series of informal histories (to be contrasted with the more formal plans still under development), we had a lively conversation with longtime WWP resident Martin Toth. Having moved to Denver in 1952 (before Denver had a television station), Martin lived around 15th & Race and 17th & High before moving to the 200 south block of Lincoln Street in 1962. He told of his wife Dorothy's beauty parlor on Broadway, as well as the multitude of shops there, including a Safeway. Lincoln was a quiet street back then, before the advent of the one-way Broadway couplet. He told many stories of the great restaurants in the area, as well as the throngs of people who came to the area's bars. History Committee members were astounded by his intricate recollection of names, especially regarding the vibrant big-band music scene, with which he was deeply familiar. We learned of El Chapultepec downtown as well as The Rossonian in Five Points, plus several former professional footballers who graced the area. As a disabled vet, former VA specialist, and later US Air Force employee, Martin told of violent crimes against his friends, deaths in area homes, and the widespread problem of crooked Denver cops.
- B. The conversation, which lasted nearly 90 minutes, was digitally recorded by computer (thanks to Gertie's tech-savvy kids). Though we recognize that neither the questioning nor the sound quality was ideal, we hope to use this first effort as a learning opportunity. We'll test speech-to-text software in a first pass, and then ask Madeline to review the transcript for necessary corrections. Hopefully, too, this will not be the last of conversations with Marty, as we all are sure there are many more stories to be told.
- C. Plans
 - 1. A recording device is being approved by the Board (8 in favor, with 1 abstention so far), and will be purchased so as to facilitate future discussions, as well as possible other uses in recording minutes and the like.
 - 2. We need to invite another longtime resident to the next History meeting in October. Perhaps Marty's friend, who also worked in an area beauty shop and still lives nearby on Ogden street?

III. Certified Homes

- A. A new home was registered this month at 440 East Kentucky (Dineen)
- B. Kathryn Smith is relinquishing leadership of this project. A replacement would be welcome, as would thoughts on a smooth close to the active campaign.
- C. Passive advertising (a one-line notice) in the WWPNA newsletter was suggested by Kathryn in an earlier email, as was the idea of making articles from these stories.

IV. Demolitions

- A. We had little time to discuss the new surprise demolition at 28th & Stout, but mentioned that the new draft ordinance from the demolition taskforce met considerable resistance. City Council staff think a revised ordinance is still several meetings away from agreement, so please stay tuned.
- B. Protection parity is, however, ready for Council consideration. On August 23, the Blueprint Denver committee will consider granting the same protection to individual landmarks as currently is given to landmark districts.

V. What's New?

- A. Country Club Gardens is currently undergoing change. As one of WWP's very few historic structures, it's incumbent upon us to be knowledgeable and involved. Interested members are encouraged to attend this Thursday's meeting regarding the proposed changes, and especially consider the plans from a preservationist perspective.
- B. A Norfolk Pattern Book, received by Dave Burrell a few weeks ago, was not discussed, but will be available for review in future meetings.
- C. *The Denver Post* wrote a rather hostile article on the landmark process on Aug 4. Interested readers are encouraged to read and respond.
- D. The website is going to be our primary means for distributing History Committee emails. Even if you don't want to subscribe to all the postings online, a separate History Committee label will enable very simple, email-based notification of plans for and by the committee. All members are enjoined to sign up forthwith.
- E. A California neighborhood known as Bungalow Heaven provides an interesting story of preservation and incentives for area homeowners. Check out the basics online at <http://www.wwpna.org>.
- F. Temple Events Center has been saved, thanks to the Pathways church. More information available in Historic Denver News and other outlets.
- G. A new book entitled "25 Miles of Colfax Avenue History," may interest folks as a general reader on Denver's *other* "miracle mile."

VI. Events

- A. Country Club Gardens - neighborhood meeting (Aug 17)
- B. Getting to Know Denver (Aug 17)
- C. Tattered Cover Colfax - Congress Park History (Aug 17)
- D. Blueprint Denver Committee – protection parity (Aug 23)
- E. Downtown Area Plan (Aug 26)
- F. Congress Park Neighbors - Sensitive Renovations (Aug 30)
- G. Daniel Liebeskind's concept of Civic Center Park (Aug 30)
- H. Character Preservation (Sept 5)
- I. Historic Denver house tour
- J. Krisana Park house tour (Sept 10)
- K. Molly Brown House - Speakeasy Cocktail Party (Sept 23)
- L. Congress Park - Maintenance of Brick/Masonry (Sept 27)
- M. Historic Denver – Urban Roots Garden Tour (Sept 30)
- N. Congress Park – Historic Landscapes (Oct 25)
- O. Colorado Brownfields conference (Oct 27)

VII. Plans

- A. We need people to fulfill a number of roles
 1. Recruiting storytellers
 2. Leading the certified home campaign
 3. Rewriting histories for the newsletter or Wash Park Profile

4. Being involved with the contentious Country Club Gardens redesign
5. Helping with the planned discussion on historic neighborhood pattern books
6. Writing a committee article for the upcoming WWPNA newsletters
7. Keeping in touch with what's happening at the former Gates plant
8. And others you may think of...

B. Next meeting:

1. We are canceling the Sept 19, 2006 meeting. Our next meeting will be held at 242 South Lincoln Street on Oct 17, 2006, 7 pm. Put it on your calendar!