

Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.

Minutes: November 2007 Monthly Meeting

Attendees:

- Board: Tom Conis, Brent Hladky, Maggie Price, Joe Ely, Mel Patrick
- Others: Nona Jones (Newsletter), Heather Barry (Neighborhood Liaison, Mayor's Office), Rory Seeber (Life on Capitol Hill), John Van Sciver, Jim Slotta (SCPNA), Shayne Brady (CHUN), David & Alicia Gillis

Absent: Sue Carrizales, Jonah Bradley, Petra Schroeder, Wendy Moraskie

September minutes not available for review/approval

Heather Barry (Neighborhood Liaison, Mayor's Office): Heather updated us on the situation at 1275 Colorado. The City Attorney's office has filed a case against the owner to force the creation of an abatement plan. This will require her, through the courts, to come up with a plan to reduce criminal activity at 1275 Colorado Blvd. She has been given 20 days to respond, and we are still within that 20 day period.

Crime Report – Joe Ely. Overall neighborhood is down, reflecting a trend throughout the City, but we have seen a sharp increase in auto thefts (40 in the last 2 months), and two car thieves have been arrested. Recently there have also been 20 thefts from automobiles (primarily cell phones and laptop computers) – so these are “crimes of opportunity.”

Membership – Mel Patrick. Membership stands at 154 residents, 3 businesses, 1 organization.

Newsletter – Nona Jones. For the next couple issues Wendy Moraskie and Kathleen Hynes will be working with Nona on this transition. Nona is hoping to go to press shortly with our Winter Edition of the Newsletter. She would like to see how we can

utilize the newsletter and/or website to grow membership. Jim Slotta mentioned that they were quite successful increasing membership by adding a separate insert together with a return envelope to their newsletter.

Website – Maggie Price. Maggie is continuing to add content to the website. Two of the latest added were links to new City pages which allows anyone to determine (A) how much and what kind of crime has happened with a certain distance (500, 1000, 2000, or 5000 feet) of any location within certain fixed date ranges, and (B) how many liquor licenses were within ½ mile of any location. There was also a brief discussion on reducing/eliminating the spam that is being generated to one of the CPN email addresses.

Zoning:

- 1300 Elizabeth: It was confirmed that this rezoning application will be going before the Planning Board on January 2nd. CPN will provide a letter of support for this effort, as was approved by the Board on a recent conference call.

- Encore Restaurant: Considerable discussion on the apparent loose interpretation of State Liquor Regulations by City Excise and License to allow for this location to apply for liquor licenses, including the property owner being permitted to place a fence on City property to block access to East High School and a well worn foot path onto the property that was judged not to be an entrance point to the school property. David and Alicia Gillis expressed their concern about the impact of the noise from the property on their quiet enjoyment of their residence and others' in close proximity to the Encore. It was unanimously decided, on a motion by Mel, seconded by Maggie, that CPN meet with the liquor license applicant in an effort to sign a Neighborhood Agreement to address neighbors' concerns. Jim Slotta said that SCNPA will support any agreement reached by CPN with the applicant.

Adjourned unanimously on a motion by Mel, seconded by Joe.