



Minutes of January 12th Meeting of West 38th Ave Neighborhood Association

Introductions: Present were Ray, Autumn, Chad, Carly, Morgan, Angie Rivera (RTD), Ken, Marie and Jeffrey

I. Angie Rivera spoke about the roles she plays with Denver's transportation. Angie.rivera-malpie@rtd-denver.com and about some of RTD's policies and procedures.

- Her background: She is on the RTD Board for our District – C (very roughly bordered by 52nd Ave, Sheridan, Broadway and Evans). She is the second Vice Chair of RTD's Executive committee. She has 187,000 constituents.
- Angie lives on Zuni in North Denver. She rides the #38 bus every day to her job in N.E. Denver.
- She heads a nonprofit, Northeast Transportation Connections (formerly TMA - Transportation Management Association). She is involved with a bike library and programs that empower N.E. Denver community members who need transportation solutions.
- Angie explained that RTD does an evaluation of bus stops 3X per year. The Operations Department reviews 8000 stops. There is a threshold of 40 riders / day that qualifies a stop for a shelter. But shelters can be sponsored by businesses and individuals, as well.
- RTD is in a crisis at the moment. They are down 163 bus drivers and 60 train drivers. There are many applicants but not enough are passing the drug tests. These are tough jobs with starting pay at \$9.09/hr.
- Chis Nevitt is the TOD (Transit Oriented Development) Director. It is now required that all transit oriented development have a Transportation Management Plan.
- **OUR REQUESTS:** Handout: We are asking for bus stop amenities including pads, shelters, benches and trash cans. We have photographed the stops along W 38th Ave and noted what is needed in order to serve North Denver residents who must use public transit as well as those who are wanting to transition to fewer personal car trips for environmental or other reasons.
- **ANGIE'S SUGGESTIONS:** Our Commander of Police would be interested to know what we are working on. She would like to have Jessie Carter's team attend one of our meetings. Rafael might be interested in funding our application for our 501c3 - \$300+. Our requested improvements seem do-able without forming a Business Improvement District. We have valid ideas. Her co-worker, Cory, works with benches and maybe can relocate benches from a discontinued stop to another stop that needs it. We could learn a lot from Dan Shaw, who directs the West Colfax BID and can share how he worked on improvements to W Colfax. He loves community work and he'll have an idea of a time frame. We need to look at the issue of tall buildings shading the areas around bus stops so that ice is a danger to riders walking or standing there.
- **WHAT ANGIE WILL DO:**
 - 1) She will contact Jessie Carter about attending one of our meetings.
 - 2) She will talk with Cory about the possibility of relocating bus stop benches.

- 3) She will give Dan Shaw's contact info to us (Autumn?).
 - 4) She'll check in with Denver Moves. There are pedestrian, scooter, bike issues that are related to our requests.
- **What will we do?**
 - 1) WE (Autumn?) will approach Councilman Espinoza) about money (\$300+) for our 501c3 application.
 - 2) Ray will reconnect with CVS about a bench and shelter for the bus stop at Sheridan on the south side of W 38th.
 - 3) Autumn or Annie will contact Dan Shaw to learn about W Colfax improvements to bus stops.
 - 4) Ray will email photos of W 38th bus stops to Angie and will put them in our Drop Box, along with our improvement list and our bus stop map.
 - 5) Chad and Autumn will post the bus stop photos, map and list on our website? Along with minutes of our meeting?
 - 6) Annie and Ray will invite Angie back for a future follow up meeting.

- **Discussion:** (after Angie left meeting)

- We are encouraged to be working with her.

Each of Denver's corridors has a unique character and a story. West Colfax was once Rte 66, that crossed the U.S. and its stakeholders are trying to keep some of that flavor. West 38th was the route that prospectors took to the mines. Tennyson St. and W 32nd were defined by the streetcar shoppers of old and the Powerhouse that is being transformed into a home for new businesses.

- Morgan will take of photo of the historic plaque at W 38th & Tennyson that describes some of the history of W 38th Ave. We will post on FB.
- We will continue to brainstorm ways to share histories and photos of W 38th Ave and use them to bring life back to our corridor.
- Soft Openings of FlyteCo (Aerocraft) Brewing and Barbed Wire restaurant, at W 38th & Utica, are happening in February and March!

II. Treasurers Report: Jeffrey had to leave early. He'll be out of town for a few days. Chad will ask him about using his own Pay Pal account for Membership dues until we have enough \$ to pay for the 501c3 application, which is needed for opening a bank account.

III. INC: Inter Neighborhood Cooperation: Chad and Autumn will attend the INC Award Ceremony. They look forward to meeting more folks, networking there and then reporting back to us.

IV. Membership:

- WE can print out Membership forms and collect cash & checks to give to Jeffrey, until we have a W38ANA Pay Pal and bank account.
- It should be easy enough for Jeffrey to hold 4 in his personal Pay Pal account?
Chad will ask him.
- We need a MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

V. Facebook and Website presence

- Going well.
- Marie is "editor" to help Autumn with neighborhood postings.
- All can send photos and stories to Autumn (autumn@enigmabazaar.com) Chad (chad@enigmabazaar.com) or Marie (edgardm1@msn.com) for posting.

- We look forward to sharing some posts from Enigma Bazaar and FlyteCo, as well as Denver Puppet Theater and the plaque giving some W 38th Ave history.

VI. What else is happening “On the Avenue?”

- TRAFFIC: There is some zipping through neighborhoods and alleyways that may be related to the use of apps to avoid traffic congestion. Do we want to find ways to resist this trend?
SIGNS: Do Not Enter, 10mph, Wrong Way – at each end of an alley. Learn about apps.
- Pot Shop on Wolff/W 38th Ave seems to have parking worked out. This marijuana business is moving from a building next door. We can reach out to see if Mr. Harris wants to support the neighborhood work that we do.
- Neighbors of W 38th Ave have concerns: Gleam Car Wash is still affecting residents’ lives with parking, trash and traffic. The car wash seems to have enough business but they don’t back up into the street.
- Yates Theater at 44th & Yates: We are in the boundary for their Liquor License Hearing on Jan. 24th. Parking, permits, traffic and noise are being considered at a Good Neighborhood Agreement is being worked on. The Oriental Theater, a similar venue, somehow is able to have customers park on neighborhood streets without A LOT of complaints, as far as we know.
- Enigma Bazaar has concerns about its narrow front sidewalk.
- FlyteCo is working on their Certificate of Occupancy and March 9th will be their Grand Opening to the public.
- FlyteCo’s **NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN HOUSE** will be 11 – 4 on March 2 if approval is given for that date. **Morgan** will let us know. There will be Beer Samples - Appetizers - Our W38ANA presence – And, BRUN will be invited to have a table/booth there, as well. West Highland NA should be included. BRUN and West Highland are included in the w38ana boundaries.
- Rico’s restaurant, Barbed Wire, will open soon with wild game and seafood.

OUR NEXT W38ANA MEETING: Saturday, 9:30am, February 9th at Zook’s Café.