

UPCC Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 14, 2023
6:30-9PM
Chamberlin Observatory

Present: Steve, Rosemary, Tyler, Kate, Laura, Elise, Mike, Rob, Mark, Kristin

Absent: Julie, Debbie, Janet

Discussion topics

1. Chamberlin Observatory “observations” 😊

Jennifer and Naomi provided a wonderful and informative tour of the historic Observatory to the UPCC Board.

There was a general discussion about Ideas for a partnership between DU/Observatory and UP neighborhood.

Some ideas included:

Fundraisers. DU owns and is responsible for maintenance of the building. DU applied for and received State Historic Fund grants in 1998 and 2006 to help maintain the structure. UPCC helped raise matching funds and provided letters of support for these grants and could do that again. Currently, work is being done to maintain inner workings for the telescope, trying to upgrade software for finding coordinates, and would be nice to have cameras for live streaming. The Denver Astronomical Society uses the building for public star gazing and has recently done a go fund me to raise money for technical objects.

Reservation System. Currently tours are booked out till September. Mostly due to a people person shortage. Relies on all volunteers. Naomi is an adjunct. It's been difficult to coordinate so much. Looking to see if possibly can fund an assistant position for Naomi. Funding an Observatory assistant position would be helpful. Could help with creating good documentation, teaching and learning new things, researching history, and being able to engage people more. Plenty of opportunities for DU students to help. Perhaps the neighborhood could help raise some funds?

Maintenance. Would be great to know what maintenance needs the Observatory has. That needs to be a priority. Gary Petri, been doing an assessment of building maintenance and needs.

ADA access. Have had to turn people away. Trying to get access at least to classroom level. Possibly additional pot of money for ADA access.

Signage. No signage that talks about the history of the Observatory. Signage to let people know how to access the Observatory and Open House nights. Might have to have people sign off on signs, such as DU, Denver Parks and Rec, Historical Society.

Strategic Plan. Working on coming up with a strategic plan.

Community Connection. There is an obvious physical separation of DU from Observatory. Thought about conducting events to connect more such as events all down Warren. Other ideas are to connect more to 4th of July, Halloween, Sing and Sleigh.

UPCC Liaison. Consider adding a UPCC liaison position for the Observatory

UPCC website. Consider adding a page to the UPCC website about the Observatory history and link to the DU Observatory site and the Denver Astronomical Society (DAS) website where you can get information about events like the Open House nights, Public nights, and other special events.

UPCC Newsletter. Consider adding DU/DAS links to the UPCC newsletter.

2. Communications

- a. UPwords updates. Last issue went out and was received. We have a new printing company. They've been super responsive, and were also cheaper. Might only need 3 newsletters JAN, SPRING-SUMMER, NOVEMBER issues. Laura has experience doing email marketing and will be taking over website, and hopefully the monthly email blasts.
- b. Web page updates (Laura is learning how to update the UPCC website. Laura and Kristin will also be admins for the UPCC Facebook page.
- c. Other?

3. Events

1st food truck night is tomorrow pm

4th of July. Will have pumper truck, Denver police will have some presence, Scouts Troop will do a color guard, UPark mascot may make an appearance, Otter Pops

Tables

- UPCC table
 - UPARK PTA table (Kristin can help)
 - Denver Digs -Worm Table (Jessica)
4. Treasurer's report. Funding looks good, got a lot more donations after the first mailed newsletter.
- a. IRS update? Julie and Steve got paperwork done. Checked mailbox yesterday and nothing yet, waiting to hear from IRS.
5. Historic District update
- a. *UPCC supports the creation of the noncontiguous University Park Historic District. This proposed thematic district recognizes and highlights our neighborhood's origins in association with the University of Denver and Methodism, and our history as a progressive architectural laboratory for Denver. The Board recognizes that the goal of this initiative is twofold: to retain the most significant physical reminders of our history, and to help preserve our neighborhood character, or "sense of place".*

Will UPCC Board support the above statement?

MOTION, SECONDED, No discussion, all were in favor, no objections.

Rosemary is conducting two more Historic District meetings for the homeowners. (One in person and one on Zoom)

6. Succession plan (Steve)
- Mike Cox put forth as suggestion to be President of UPCC. Steve (current President) is endorsing Mike. Motion to vote Mike Cox to Vice President.

MOTION, SECONDED, No discussion, all in favor, no objections.

If we want to change any of the Board bylaws, we need to have it on agenda for October meeting. Steve will stay on in advisory capacity.

7. Other topics?

Transportation (Mark)

Yale being repaved University to Colorado this Summer. Yale will also be getting protected bike lane (eventually to Logan). Another meeting on July 12 at Schlessman to discuss what City of Denver doing with paving projects.

Safety (Rob)

White Collar crime is up to 8%. Drug and Alcohol related crimes down 79%. Overall, we are down in almost everything.

Nuggets Parade is Thursday.

Parks (Tyler)

No update

Motion to create a Chamberlin Observatory liasion position. Tabled for now. Discuss at next meeting.

Need new Transportation/Mobility person to replace Mark.

8. Announcements

Coming Events

4th of July at Observatory Park

Food Truck Nights

June 15th

July 20th

August 17th

Yard sale August 25-26

Board meetings

August 2nd (MOVING TO Aug 9th)

September 6th

November 1st

General meeting October 4th

Sing & Sleigh December 3rd (Back to Observatory Park)

TO DO LIST:

1. Steve to send out email meeting reminders for next upcoming meetings.

2. Laura/Elise to eventually add a page to the UPCC website about Observatory history and link to DAS Open House, Public nights, and other special events schedule.
3. Laura/Elise to add DAS link to next UPCC newsletter.
4. Laura/Elise to add Membership Dues QR code to next newsletter.
5. Kristin to add DU Chamberlin Website and DAS.org links to the minutes and send email to Board (DONE)
6. Laura is learning website and will help with website updates, email blasts, and FB page.
7. Kristin will add Laura as another admin for the UPCC Facebook page. (DONE)
8. Kristin to bring UPCC QR codes signs to 4th of July for UPCC table.
9. Kristin to email Kid's Walking Tour PDF to Mike (DONE)
10. Mike to make 100 color copies of Kid's Walking Tour to bring to 4th of July
11. Kristin picking up chairs for 4th of July and deliver at 9:30 am on 4th of July
12. Rosemary and Debbie to work UPCC table at 4th of July
13. Kate/ and PTA volunteers to work UPARK Elementary table on 4th of July
14. All to discuss addition of Observatory liaison position at next meeting.

Observatory Web Links:

Chamberlin Observatory DU Site:

<https://science.du.edu/physics/chamberlin-observatory>

DAS Site and where to make reservations:

<https://www.denverastro.org/das-events/>