



Fall 2022

Martin Acres VOICE

Newsletter

Vol. 44, No. 2

2022 BALLOT INITIATIVES IMPACT MANA

There are ballot measures in this Fall's election that could impact our neighborhood. Pursuant to MANA's mission statement to a) promote quality of life in the neighborhood; and b) promote actions by city, state and federal government that will enhance quality of life in the neighborhood; we have extensively researched two local ballot measures, and offer the following recommendations on them:

Ballot Measure 2E: Moving Local Elections to Even Years

The MANA board believes the following to be true:

- a) Local elections greatly impact the course of our city and everything in it. Residents elect local City Council leaders, who craft policies that affect many aspects of our lives, from Open Space, to the environment, traffic management, public works and streets maintenance, growth and development, housing, local taxes, light rail, addressing local crime, public safety, police and fire, homelessness issues, public fund allocation, and more.
- b) Accordingly, we feel that local elections are important enough to merit their own odd-year elections, when local residents are able to devote adequate time to research local issues, separately from state and national matters. It's important that voters have time and space to research between 15 to 20 (in most years) City Council candidates' differing, nuanced positions on the local topics listed above.

Boulder's current 2022 even-year election has 39 separate county, state, and national candidates and ballot issues. Thus there are 78 "pro" and "con" sides informed voters need to familiarize themselves with. That's without City Council races in the mix.

Many neighborhood residents we've spoken with feel that voters don't have unlimited bandwidth and research time. Most feel local issues are important enough to deserve their own election cycles, separate from the 39 even-year ballot items mentioned above.

A potential unintended consequence of 2E is that voters succumb to "ballot fatigue," and never get all the way down to the last items on the ballot - local issues and candidates. When local items are relegated to ballot page 10, 11, or 15 - a significant number of voters will simply bail out prior to local issues. We're concerned that people may vote for President, Governor, Senator, Congressperson, and then stop - resulting in less, not more, local participation.

Finally, we're concerned that Measure 2E would only

Ballot Initiatives, continued

move Council elections to even years, but would keep school board elections on odd years. Martin Acres is a family neighborhood with many schoolchildren. We're concerned that 2E would "orphan" school board elections as the only ballot item in odd years, and as a result, very few people would vote for school board. We feel local issues belong together.

Recommendation: We support keeping local elections on odd-numbered years, and therefore recommend a No vote on 2E.

Ballot Measure 2F: Repeal CU South Annexation

The MANA board has studied the proposed CU South development for many years, with four principle concerns:

Traffic: CU's own traffic study predicted 7,000 additional daily vehicle trips on south Boulder roadways, because of CU South. But that was based on the previous, smaller campus. CU subsequently increased the size of CU South by 50%, but didn't do a new traffic study. However, mathematics suggest 10,000 additional vehicle trips, from the 50% larger campus.

CU points to a "trip cap," but upon research, the proposed trip cap will lack enforcement. CU was directly asked whether a gate would come down to stop additional traffic once the trip cap is reached. The answer was no. Traffic above and beyond the trip cap will be permitted to happen.

Housing: A factual analysis leads to the concerning conclusion that CU South will bring thousands more unhoused students, faculty and staff than CU will house onsite. This additional demand on Boulder's already-strained housing market will increase housing prices city-wide, making it harder for young families, young professionals, and anyone seeking housing.

Online searches reveal that typical college campus density in lecture halls, classrooms, and offices averages 50 to 100 square feet per person.

So, at 750,000 sq. ft. of classrooms, offices, etc., CU South will be able to bring at least 7,500 more students, faculty and staff to Boulder. But CU plans to house only 2,300. As such, the new campus will draw at least 5,000 additional unhoused people to Boulder, significantly worsening the city's housing crisis.

Questionable flood protection: A 2014 City of Boulder report on the 2013 flood shows that only 30% of the damage to the Fraser Meadows neighborhood actually came from the South Boulder Creek drainage way. So

it's not clear why the City is building a flood wall at CU South, on the South Boulder Creek drainage way. It's unclear why the City isn't researching, and mitigating what caused 70% of Fraser Meadows damage – elements that had nothing to do with South Boulder Creek.

Cost: Finally, every Boulder residential and commercial water ratepayer will have to cover the \$64 million dollar costs of CU South. Resident water bills have already tripled since 2008. Many Martin Acres residents on fixed incomes are already paying over \$100 a month for water, and we're concerned for their ability to pay more.

Recommendation: We recommend Yes on 2F, to repeal the CU South annexation, and give our community a second chance to get it right.

BARKING AND NOISE UPDATE

We have received several messages from Martin Acres residents about the following topic, so we're running this public service announcement:

1. Nuisance Dog Barking: We encourage residents to keep in mind that it is not kind to leave one's dog outside barking for hours. The Humane Society says that allowing a dog to bark for lengthy periods is not good for the dog. This also applies to letting dogs bark continuously *inside* homes if there is a screen door or open window that allows this noise to disturb neighbors. These things are violations of the city's Unreasonable Animal Noise Ordinance 6-1-19. Boulder's Humane Society has a printout on why dogs bark, and suggestions for dealing with this common problem.

2. Unreasonable Noise: Boulder's relatively strict noise ordinance has two components:

a) The objective decibel threshold. The City recently changed this to be in effect 24/7, not just after 11 pm. The new ordinance essentially states that it's a violation if a police officer can hear the sound 200 feet away, any time of day.

b) The subjective threshold, which states, "Ordinance 5-9-5 Disrupting Quiet Enjoyment of Home: No person shall engage in, or be responsible for, a course of conduct which is so loud that it materially interferes with or disrupts another individual in the conduct of activities at such individual's home." Note, this subjective clause can be invoked at any time of day or night, it's not restricted to certain hours.

As an additional update, MANA recently hosted a meeting about neighborhood crime, with the Boulder Police Department. They told us that they're shifting to a 100% data and metrics-based system for ascertaining whether various parts of Boulder have issues. The data is 100% derived from the log of complaints phoned into the Police non-emergency dispatch number of 303-441-3333.

So, in order for the BPD and our City leaders to understand that problems exist in neighborhoods, residents should phone in complaints to the police. That's the only way they'll know. If neighbors demur, the City will perceive the neighborhood to have no issues, and the City and police won't allocate attention or resources to us. While we encourage everyone to be neighborly, we also feel that people need not suffer in silence. If you're dealing with persistent noise, barking, thefts, failure to clear sidewalks of snow, or other issues, please call the police non-emergency dispatch number: 303-441-3333.

MANA STEERING COMMITTEE 2022-2023

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****The MANA Steering Committee meets at 7 pm on the first Monday of most months. MANA is temporarily meeting online only due to COVID concerns.**

For info, visit <http://martinacres.org/>

For topics of concern or inquiries, please email:

steeringcommittee@martinacres.org

MARTIN ACRES VOICE CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads are \$15.00 for the first 3 lines, \$3.00 per line thereafter. Contact Voice@martinacres.org to place an ad. Payments: Treasurer, MANA, PO Box 3514, Boulder, CO 80307

ARBOR VITAL TREE CARE, Certified Arborist, 27 yrs experience, fully insured. Trees & shrubs pruned, removed, consultations. Mulch delivered. Martin Acres based for 20yrs. David Schaldach david@arborvital.com 303-919-8183.

As is Will No Longer Be

South Campus Photos

Notesfromtheprovinces.com/photography

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STEPHANIE WATSON, PORCHLIGHT GROUP. Local Real Estate agent living in MA for 10 yrs & Boulder for 20 yrs. Dedicated to taking clients through the buying and selling process 1-step at a time! Stephanie@watsonboulder.com 303-506-2137.

TINKER ART STUDIO. Join us in the studio for art making and community! (Pro Tip: Sign up for our email newsletter to be the first to know when classes open!) With a wide variety of classes for toddlers, children, teens, and adults, you're sure to find a great fit for the whole family. Located in the back, SW corner of the Table Mesa Shopping Center, come check out our Shop full of art supplies, kits, and more — Tues - Thurs 10am-6:30pm and Friday 12pm - 6pm — perfect for gifting and shopping small! Visit tinkerartstudio.com for more info and to register.