

**Winston Downs Community Association  
Annual Meeting – Meeting notes**

**Date: 04/18/2023**

**2022-23 Board members in attendance:** Jane Lorimer, Brandon Harrellson, Joanna Milewski and Tim Rooney

**Residents in attendance:** total attendance of 36 residents. A total of 22 representative households were paid which meets quorum.

**Guests:** Owen Brigner, Council Aide District 5 and Paula Cuervas from DGS Sprouts Garden

**Time started:** 7:10 p.m.

**Annual Meeting Notes**

Jane Lorimer provided an overview of the WDCA, its budget and activities during the past year. A slide presentation summarized this information and other resources-see file.

The presentation also included an overview of some upcoming city events, including the June 6 Mayoral runoff election and July 17; when Winston Downs will be entirely under Denver City Council District 5. In addition, Jane Lorimer provided an overview of WDCA's participation in the development of the Near Southeast Area Plan.

Some highlights of WDCA activities:

- **Quebec snow shoveling and vegetation maintenance:** City set a precedent to shovel snow on Quebec corridor in the past when the sidewalk built. WDCA would like the City to agree to resume that. The City mandates sidewalk snow shoveling; noted this is not a WDCA mandate. WDCA will see if it is possible to get sidewalk fees exempted for S. Quebec sidewalk areas for S. Poplar Street residents.
- **Maintenance of S. Quebec open space south of E. Exposition.** Happy Hanes agreed that requiring residents to mow 70 x 65+ foot right of way is unreasonable and is taking over mowing for that right of way area.
- **Watson's property:** WDCA is engaging with owners of Watson's property to get them to clean up the lot – they currently have numerous code violations and have failed to meet terms of city led mediation to resolve the clean up of vehicles, containers and trash.

Crime prevention is a priority for WDCA. Mickey Greenberg presented information on ongoing crime issues and crime prevention resources.

- **Recent areas of concern** include the Walgreens shooting fatality, February 15 gunshots on E. Exposition, drug distribution and people sleeping in cars (which is legal but can be alarming).
- **Crime prevention activities** include locking gates, removing valuables from cars, and using a "Club" on Car. Mickey Greenberg introduced the DenverTrack program. Through this program, participants provide DPD with access to vehicle locator/tracker data in the event of a crime and provides participants with a sticker to help deter potential thieves.

An open forum for discussion of issues affecting the neighborhood included several concerns and interests:

- Start date for sidewalk fee not clear yet – is it still possible to vote it out? Is there any way to adjust fees for corner lots – they can be quite expensive. Residents expressed concern that while the City is obligated to fix sidewalks, we are unlikely to see any benefits in terms of new sidewalks in our neighborhood but we still have to pay into the fund.
- There is interest in attending a scams and frauds presentation
- Residents can apply to be a Snow Angel- to volunteer to help residents with snow removal and can sign up to request assistance [online](#), call 720-913-SNOW (7669) or email snowangels@denvergov.org
- Fairmount Cemetery has event center noise issues – residents can hear exercise classes 3 blocks away. WDCA recommends calling them directly to let them know of our concerns first. We have tried a Good Neighbor Agreement in the past to address other issues with Fairmount. It is not an uncommon approach to address issues between neighborhoods and businesses, but we have not had success in this area with Fairmount.
- Residents expressed interest in installation of Shotspotter technology at key intersections (e.g., Alameda & Quebec and Leetsdale & Quebec) as one way to address ongoing gunshots in and around neighborhood. Jane Lorimer expressed sadness at ongoing gun violence and personal connection to several victims.
- Jane Lorimer noted that residents should try to learn the language and procedures that the City uses to get an effective response from City staff. As an example, residents need to request "Ice blading" when talking to 311 staff when attempting to get accumulated ice removed from city streets after snowstorms. Using the right term can help ensure successful outcomes to requests. WDCA will try to communicate this kind of information to residents.

Lorimer noted that residents should get involved in the comment process for plans that affect us. There are many opportunities to get involved in important City issues, including:

- Join WDCA committees and volunteer to be a Board member when positions become available

- Getting involved with INC. INC has numerous opportunities to get involved and educated about ongoing City policy and development issues: Parks, DEI, transportation subcommittees. WDCA also needs another voting delegate for Inter Neighborhood Cooperation, the umbrella organization for all RNO's.

Board member elections resulted in reelection of Joanna Milewski and election of new board member Susan Bernard. A candidate not present, Courtney Grosso, received multiple write-in votes. If she becomes current on dues and is still willing to serve, she will be approved as a director.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:40 p.m. (approximate)

Submitted by Tim Rooney, Secretary