

FCA Business Meeting, January 8, 2013

Present were board members and officers: Gary Dawson, Vicki Schmitz Block, Kim Petram, Mike Dey, Susan Lantz-Dey, Bruce Butterfield, Gordon Wiehler, Phil Sweetland, Vlad Oustimovitch. **Also present were guests:** Tracy Record of the West Seattle Blog, Officer Raphael Rivera of Seattle Animal Control, Larry Carpenter with Seal Sitters and Alki Community Council, Tom Linde (re. dogs off leash), and Frances Gifford and Anna Sheer with Alki Art Fair.

The meeting was called to order by president Bruce Butterfield at 7:05PM. Introductions were made all around, and several new items added to the agenda.

Animal Control will be one of several topics presented at the FCA-sponsored “Celebrate Lincoln Park” event on April 23. It will probably be an information table with one-on-one discussion, rather than a general audience presentation, so as to not hijack the meeting...although a final decision has not been made.

Officer Reuben Rivera stated that Seattle Animal control presently maintains a 91% “live rate” for animals taken in. Euthanasia is limited to severely aggressive animals.

Off Leash code pertains only to *public* property such as parks and streets, not private property. A fine for a dog off-leash increases if the dog does not have a current license and/or the owner does not have a scoop bag. There are no “warning tickets” given. The fine for a first offense is \$54, and escalates with repeat violations. A fourth violation is \$168, and the owner and dog are banned from all parks in the area. Despite signage of a \$500 fine for a dog in the water, the citation given would be for a dog off-leash.

There are 12 animal control officers to cover the entire city, and only one officer in West Seattle. However, teams of officers do patrol the 425 Seattle parks. Response time is not fast, unless an aggressive animal is involved. They rely on citizens to register complaints to help them know the extent of problems, and about chronic offenders. When reporting, including the time of the offense is helpful, eg. Saturday at 4:00PM. All called-in complaints receive a case number. **PHONE: 206/386-PETS** between 9AM and 7PM. Areas that receive the most complaints get patrolled more often. Officer Rivera recommended avoiding confrontation with owners of off-leash animals. He suggested trailing the offending owner and dog back to their car and taking down the vehicle license plate. A photo of the owner included in a written or emailed complaint also helps officers to recognize chronic offenders who frequent more than one park. With several complaints, an officer will follow up with the offender at his/her residence.

Folded into the discussion were concerns regarding dog owners refusing requests to leash their dogs in the vicinity of resting seal pups, as well as out of control dogs going after other wildlife.

The FCA committee arranging the community meeting on Celebrate Lincoln Park will follow up with Animal Control regarding the particulars for the April 23d event.

Alki Art Fair

The fair will be held July 20-21 this year. Planning meetings will start Jan 17. They are looking for planning committee members and volunteers, vendors, sponsors, silent auction items, and board members to fill several vacancies. The board is also looking to expand the number and variety of community outreach events this year, such as make & take booths at community events.

Celebrate Lincoln Park

The planning committee has met once. Discussion at tonight's meeting was tabled because the board member who documented the committee meeting was home ill. The event remains Tuesday, April 23 at the Hall at Fauntleroy. There is a strong possibility of a related in-park event the following weekend.

FCA Elections

Election of the board will be by voice at the annual meeting/ Food Fest on March 19. A new president must be offered for election, as Bruce is terminating his presidency. A nominating committee was suggested, but consensus was that the **board** should be the nominating committee.

Food Fest

David Haggerty will chair the event again this year. A special mailing packet to current membership will go out Feb. 1 – 10, with the Annual Report for 2012 and a letter from the president reminding people to renew their membership.

Fall Festival

Kim Petram reported that the Fall Festival has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from Seattle Cultural Arts Council for the purpose of capturing the younger teen population through targeted activities at the Festival.

Neighborhood Grants

Persistence pays. After repeated (6) submittals, Leon Harman's grant application for a paved connection on SW Cloverdale between Fauntleroy Place SW and 46th SW was approved by the Neighborhood Park and Street Fund, to the tune of \$39,000. The work will be completed this year. Also, Mardi Clements spearheaded an application that won a \$63,000 grant, also from Neighborhood Park and Street Fund, to repair and repave the tennis courts in the Lincoln Park Annex on Fauntleroy Way.

FCA Survey

Gordon Wiehler noted that postcards directing readers to the FCA website to take the community survey will be sent out this week or next. Mailing cost of postcards was approved at the December meeting. Results of the survey will be presented at the FCA table at the Food Fest.

Ferries

Gary Dawson led a discussion regarding the recent increase in cancelled sailings affecting Fauntleroy service and traffic. Maintenance on an aging fleet has been a factor. A crew member no-show can also cancel or delay a sailing. A recent Coast Guard audit determined that Washington State ferries require additional crew, leading to increased hiring and consequent budget impacts.

Neighborhood Parking

There have been enough complaints that Parking Enforcement is starting to ticket overtime parking (2 hours) on neighborhood streets. The problem has increased since parking at the pump station was lost to ferry workers, and additional workers have come on the scene for the RapidRide and pump station projects.

It was also noted that **Christine Kramer** of King County Wastewater Management is *very* interested in and responsive to, community concerns regarding the **pump station** upgrade project. (206) 296-2999 (24-hour project hotline), kristine.cramer@kingcounty.gov

Southwest District Council

Vlad Oustimovitch

reported that the Southwest District Council is planning to submit a grant proposal with the city to study the history of the California Avenue business district, seeking to utilize historical data in developing design requirements to preserve the character of a main street business district.

Emergency Preparation

Gordon Wiehler reminded about an upcoming “tabletop drill” on Saturday, January 12 from 9:00AM to noon at the Emergency Operations Center downtown. He has space in his car (leaving around 8:30) for anyone who wishes to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Susan Lantz-Dey