

September 12, 2017 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was convened at 6:03pm

Reminder of the upcoming WeCAN cleanup day coming up on October 7.

DPD District 1 Community Resource Officers, Bob Anderson

- Update on crime statistics
- Continuing issue of theft from motor vehicles
- Pups on Patrol training coming up
- Mobile neighborhood watch program, there's a new section on pocketgov for communicating directly with the police
- Women's self-defense class coming up
- Next citizen's advisory group will be Sept 25 at 6pm.

Presentations were made from local schools in West Colfax. Represented were Rebecca Marques-Gerrero of Lake International School, Sandra Beruman of Colfax Elementary, and Susan Morris from STRIVE Prep Lake Campus.

House Representative 4 Dan Pabon shared about some of the work he has been doing in the legislature.

- They are working on a state-based work permit program for the people who will be losing ability to be employed because of the recent announcement of the DACA program changes.
- Some money from marijuana taxes was provided for schools to hire new counselors.
- School districts can also apply for technology grant programs to receive educational learning tools such as computers, ipads, etc.

Presentation of the Lakewood Gulch Safety and Homeless Outreach

- Cathy Alderman and Lisa Thompson spoke first from the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. They shared about the efforts their organization has been making to take care of the homeless population.
 - CCH does street outreach, connecting to resources, deals with mental health issues, and substance abuse
 - Harm Reduction Center does a needle exchange program
 - Follow a co-responder model, DPD and mental health provider
 - Housing crisis in Denver, need to encourage city representatives to provide affordable housing
 - Social Impact Bond program - CCH is housing 250 chronically homeless, but there are over 2,000 people in need to housing and resources
- Councilman Lopez shared his opinions and perspectives on the homeless issue.
 - Spoke on the recent unfair urban camping ban
 - Affordable housing throughout the city is needed, mixed with market rate
 - Adding more Accessory Dwelling Units may help
 - Must ask ourselves, what are we willing to do/take on as a neighborhood?
 - Bring back legalized camping
 - Hospital and psychiatric beds are available
- Sergeant Orin, DPD Homeless Outreach, presented
 - Works with referrals to the homeless outreach department
 - Off the street but not in jail

- Report homeless camps to 311 or the DPD non-emergency number
- Encourages neighbors to attend monthly CAG meetings
- There was time for Q&A and comments
 - Foreclosure issues, gentrification, renters suffer
 - Connect with the city's Economic Empowerment office
 - A need for money management experience and lenders that aren't predatory
 - Current wage crisis
 - HUD provides rapid response vouchers for episodes of homelessness
 - Social Impact Bond is for families in need too

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.