



Community Services Department
 PO Box 27210
 Tucson AZ 85726-7210



DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD

Trap Neuter Return returns to Dunbar/Spring

YOUR HELP NEEDED TO
 HUMANELY ADDRESS FERAL
 CAT POPULATIONS WITHIN OUR
 NEIGHBORHOOD!



We have an excellent and unique opportunity right now to make an impact on the feral cat populations in the Dunbar/Spring neighborhood. Volunteers are currently working on a plan to Trap-Neuter-and-Return (TNR) unaltered feral cats within our neighborhood boundaries. This plan was supported by the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association at our December meeting (see minutes inside this newsletter) with a hope of placing an emphasis on the west and south areas of Dunbar/Spring before the spring breeding season begins.

We are working with long-time resident and animal advocate Jessica Shuman who has access to humane traps and high-volume veterinary clinic discounts. Jessica has generously offered to match up to \$1,000 in funds raised by the neighborhood to go toward a TNR program in Dunbar/Spring, as well as to share her experience and help to educate residents on providing ongoing care for feral cat colonies. The neighborhood association voted to contribute \$400 toward this effort, and we're hoping neighbors can come together to pitch in to this worthy cause and add up to make a big difference. If we raise an additional \$600 in individual contributions from neighbors, we will be able to make use of the entire match for a total of \$2,000 going toward spay/neuter surgeries for our local feral cat populations. This amount will cover the cost of approximately 50 cats.

While the plight of feral cats in the neighborhood is no one individual's responsibility, the unchecked growth of feral cat colonies affects us all. Let us take advantage of this humane opportunity to improve the quality of life and health for the cats and for our neighbors as well.

I will kick this fundraising effort off by making a \$25 contribution to the fund, which covers the expense of one male cat (females average \$45 each). Please share any amount you can. Checks can be made out to the local nonprofit Tucson CARES (the memo line should read "Dunbar TNR Fund") and sent to Tucson CARES, PO Box 41702, Tucson, AZ 85717. Donations are tax deductible.

You can also deliver a contribution in person to any of the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association board members. Cash donations are also accepted and will be put toward the TNR program. If you would like to use a credit card, please contact Jessica for instructions at citykid7@hotmail.com.

For more information and resources about TNR, visit: http://www.hsus.org/pets/issues_affecting_our_pets/feral_cats/feral_cat_resources.html. For questions about the TNR effort in Dunbar/Spring specifically or to volunteer, contact Ian at 628-4318 or Jessica at 622-0724. We hope to begin trapping cats in early February.

Thank you for your generous support on behalf of our neighborhood critters!

-Ian Fritz, DSNA President

Dated Material

DSNA President: Ian Fritz
 628-4318 ✉ sprocket@riseup.net

Vice President: Natasha Winnik
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 322-0285 ✉ skyjacobs@gmail.com

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Newsletter: Available

Dunbar Coalition: Lisa Scoblink
 792-6377

**Ward One,
 Councilwoman Regina Romero**
 791-4040 ✉ regina.romero@tucsonaz.gov

Dunbar/Spring Email Listserv:
groups.yahoo.com/group/DunbarSpring

Upcoming DSNA Meetings:
General meetings are held the third Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Dunbar auditorium (325 W. 2nd St.). January meeting is one week later to avoid conflict with Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
Next meeting: January 26

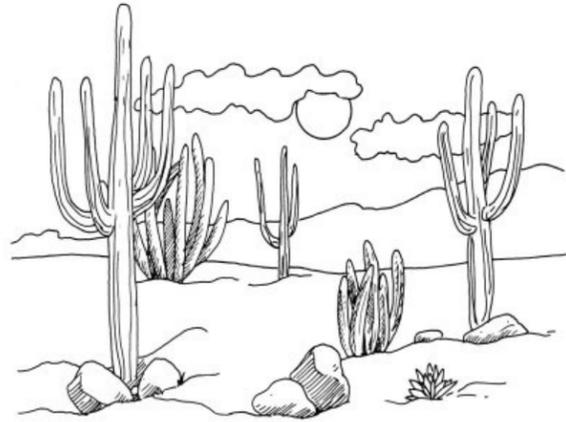
Dance, Drum and Shotokan Karate Classes in the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood

Barbea Williams Performing Company offers dance, drum, and Shotokan Karate classes in their newly renovated performing arts studio and gallery located inside the Dunbar Cultural Center at 325 W 2nd St. Ongoing classes for children, teens and adults are offered. For registration information, fees, and dress code, please contact Barbea Williams at 628-7785 or barbeabwpc@gmail.com.

The children's classes offered are ABC – African, Ballet, Creative. Mixed age and level classes offer various styles of Afrikana Dance, including Brazilian, Cuban, Haitian and West African, drums from the Old Mali Empire, the dance technique of the renowned Katherine Dunham, Hip Hop, and Shotokan Karate. Adult classes include Egyptian Style Belly Dance. Various instructors.

The Barbea Williams Performing Company's Studio Space is available to use for meetings, classes, lectures, and more. Barbea Williams Performing Company is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and can be reached by mail at PO Box 2775, Tucson, AZ 85702.

DSNA upcoming monthly meeting: January 26th (4th Monday)



MINUTES FROM DSNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2008

I. Call to order; sign-in

- November minutes recapped and unanimously approved.
- Treasurer's Report: \$2,200 in account; \$700 earmarked for sign sculpture at 9th and University; \$100 earmarked for the 9th Ave. bulletin board mural; \$50 earmarked for repairs to traffic circle signs at 1st and 11th Ave; \$1,416 available funds.

II. Announcements

- Turtle still looking for someone to take over the newsletter.
- There are a couple of items that did not make it onto the December agenda but will probably be on January 2009 agenda: 1.) Ian's meeting with TEP regarding their equipment upgrade and increasing the voltage to 138 KW plus some additional work. 2.) The construction at the Salvation Army Hospitality House; their groundbreaking ceremony; the incorporation of the neighborhood plans, zoning concerns and exceptions. Ian attempted to contact the Salvation Army but hasn't heard back. He has the file with the history of the issue and requested help from residents who were part of that process. Possible delay with the single family residence portion. Their official groundbreaking ceremony to be in October 2009 with possible completion of the project in 2010.
- Officer Ramirez of TPD asked if we had any concerns. Resident asked if TPD knew of the homeless resident living on 5th St. in the triangular park area near railroad tracks. The officer said they did not but will check it out. Residents also mentioned the problems we have been having with the campers in the community garden; asked what does TPD need in order to enforce the rules. We need to post the hours of the garden and the playground. Resident asked how it will be enforced; someone would need to call TPD at which time they would act on it. Resident requested if it was possible to give the campers warnings before moving forward with prosecution; officer said yes.

III. Downtown Links update

- Median at 6th St./9th Ave.: Downtown Links plans to install a temporary median at 6th St. and 9th Ave.
- Mike Barton of HDR presented the following: HDR met with Union Pacific Railroad and the city. The project is a railroad maintenance project being conducted by Union Pacific. The existing gates on angled alignment are causing stress; they want to realign them to be perpendicular to the roadway and to adjust length.
- They ultimately want to remove one of the gates, so suggested the median barrier instead. This will prevent eastbound traffic from turning north onto 9th Ave. This portion of the project is not part of the no whistle zone; it is simply interim maintenance.
- There will be gaps for bicycle traffic and pedestrians with a crosswalk.

Bike opening is currently 6 to 8 feet wide; the American Disabilities Act requires a minimum of 6 feet.

- No timeline from the railroad at this time.
- Resident requested that the "right turn only" signage include language stating that bicycles are exempt from this. Mike will check on the width of the gap for bikes with the designers.
- Union Pacific is probably doing the design now, then they must go to the city.
- Railroad paying for the project.
- Crosswalk will be high visibility, including zebra strips. Residents expressed concerns regarding the amount of space allowed for vehicles going south on 9th and turning right onto 6th St. Pedestrian crossing is not wide enough for someone to wait at the median.
- Sign for 6th St. traffic to yield to pedestrians will be installed.
- HDR was called out because of the other work HDR has done for the city and to ensure that there won't be any conflict with HDR's work. Mike stated there are no conflicts.
- The median prohibits traffic from shortcut around the railroad gates.
- Mike will email the city with our concerns and will cc: Ian.
- Closure of 5th St.: This was a railroad issue, not HDR's project. The meeting minutes with the railroad discussing the closure of 5th St. was only documentation of what was said by the railroad and not actually being implemented. There are some grade issues with the railroad at 5th St.; the city could negotiate with railroad to add another bike/pedestrian crossing elsewhere if vehicle crossing removed at 5th St. City is willing to work with Dunbar/Spring to develop plan to address traffic concerns. Some discussion regarding other traffic issues (e.g., Speedway/Main, increase in traffic since removal of the traffic circle at Drachman, etc.).

IV. Pima County reinvestment grant

- Awarded and will be funded for around \$489,000. Board of Supervisors to vote in January, an intergovernmental agreement will be issued, then Dunbar/Spring can start planning. We can do the art portion of the proposal sooner than other portions, possibly in 2009. We need to gather signatures from neighbors close to traffic circles and other elements. Ian asked for volunteers to collect signatures.

V. Campers in community garden

- Dunbar Coalition to possibly be brought into the discussion regarding liability issues. With campers present, garden is unusable for its original purpose. DSNA makes up one quarter of the Dunbar Coalition.
- Brad has repeatedly found campers and has had to deal with their trash and excrement. He proposed more obvious signage stating hours from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; no pets, smoking, alcohol/drugs; tobacco is a

- concern because a tomato virus is conveyed through tobacco.
- Use of the garden is shifting; no longer being used by neighbors.
- Paul Buckwalter supports no trespassing signs; wants a clear signal. This type of signage has already been discussed in previous years.
- Concerns were stated regarding residents of neighborhood misinterpreting; suggested no trespassing after certain hours; the areas being effected are the garden, the playground, and the basketball court. Need to get signage for all areas first and then implementation.
- Homelessness is a larger issue.
- Resident suggested that DSNA approve the board to enforce signs that are already there. Need to move toward enforcing signage by Dunbar/Spring and the Dunbar Coalition.

Motion: DSNA clearly post rules that we want enforced at all five gates in the garden and the playground, then support the enforcement by TPD of the rules by first asking campers to leave. If campers repeat the offense, then arrest them (five signs to be created to include hours that the garden can be used plus no camping, no smoking, no alcohol/drugs, and no pets). Motion seconded; 15 in favor; 1 abstention; motion carried.

Motion: Lisa Skoblink to attend next Dunbar Coalition meeting and ask for support and enforcement of the above motion plus ask that Dunbar Coalition do likewise with signage (with the exception of the "no pets" portion) and enforcement in the basketball court and the parking lot. Motion seconded; 13 in favor; 2 abstentions; motion carried.

- Brad looking into the metal signage. Dunbar/Spring to pay for them. Brad asks that once the signage is up, that all residents who want enforcement act on it; if someone sees misuse, approach the individuals and ask them to leave. If they return, follow through by calling TPD.
- Possible additional signage regarding where services and support can be found.
- Please use the garden; the neighborhood needs to reclaim it and make things happen. We need more garden stewards; Brad asking for support.
- Paul spoke with the La Frontera RAPP representative. Someone should come to January DSNA meeting. RAPP suggested motion lights.
- Brad contacted Dan Lehman, a metal worker, regarding repairs to the light box under the ramada.

VI. Feral cats: trap, neuter, return

- Some residents have concerns regarding feeding of cats on paper plates and resulting mess; suggested possible utilization of the trap/neuter/return (TNR) system for the feral cats in Dunbar/Spring.
- Feeding has been an issue on Alder for many years now. One resident in particular used to do the feeding but their house was condemned; feeding continues anyway. Cats are defecating in yards; health concern because this occurs in areas where youth play. Resident requested that they stop feeding, however still every night.

- There are no ordinances at the city level regarding cats; hoping for city-wide ordinance.
- Six plus years ago Dunbar/Spring paid for feral cats to be neutered. Cats are now healthy and, since they are also territorial, there has been no increase in populations in this particular area.
- South side of Dunbar/Spring has a large feral cat population.
- Someone suggested approaching the person feeding on Alder and educate them on how to set up feeding stations.
- Ward 1 aide stated that the city financially supports mediation through Pima Animal Care Center (PACC).
- Resident drafted a resolution regarding the feral cat population supporting the Humane Society's TNR program.
- Jessica Shuman, an expert with TNR and Dunbar/Spring resident, presented; there are low cost spay-neuter programs in town.
- Dunbar/Spring could be a pioneer with TNR. There are benefits to feeding feral cat colonies.
- Central feeding areas make it easier to manage the colonies.
- One way the program works is to do two days of back-to-back, high-volume trapping; can then get two days of clinic time.
- Tucson Cares, a non-profit TNR agency/program, will match up to \$1,000 from the Dunbar/Spring neighborhood; donations are tax deductible.
- Jessica will give Dunbar/Spring access to traps plus do some training of feral cats in neighborhood.
- Cost of spay/neuter is about \$25/male and \$45/female.
- Ian suggested that Dunbar/Spring decide on funding amount and request individual donations for the remainder.
- Jessica suggested doing this before late February due to breeding season in the spring.
- The Spay Neuter Intervention Program (SNIP) offers funding for spay/neuter of animals in households with disabled residents.
- Motion made that Dunbar/Spring approve a contribution of \$400 from the treasury and that a fundraising effort occur to collect the remaining \$600 of the match funds in order to reduce the feral cat population through TNR by end of February.** Motion seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.
- Jessica suggested that we possibly do this annually. This is the most humane and long-term solution for this problem.

VII. Solar easement law

Motion made that Dunbar/Spring support, through a letter to the city, state, and county, passage of a Solar Rights Act that includes Solar Easement and Solar Access. Motion seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

VIII. Tabled until a later date

- Matt Weber's letter re: Dunbar Barber Academy parking
- Committee reports

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER POSITION AVAILABLE: Interested in volunteering to put together the Dunbar/Spring newsletter? Basic responsibilities include acquiring content (including monthly meeting minutes), layout, and forwarding it to the City once a month in PDF format. Time commitment varies each month. Please contact Turtle for more information at 628-4318 or mydogellen@greenbicycle.net.