



Cross Creek Neighborhood Meeting Notes (04/30/09)

City staff present:

Neighborhood Planning Program Monique Coleman Neighborhood Planner moniquec@plano.gov (972) 941-5397	Animal Services Department Jamey Cantrell Animal Services Manager jameyc@plano.gov (972) 769-4360	Property Standards Department Scott Neumeyer Property Standards Supervisor scottn@plano.gov (972) 941-7124
---	--	---

Monique started the meeting at 7pm by introducing city staff. Animal Services Manager, Jamey Cantrell, attended the meeting to address resident concerns. Mr. Cantrell gave a variety of information that focused on helping residents learn to coexist with wildlife.

Some of the discussion topics included:

- Personal safety information – To date in U.S. history, **only 1 person** (a 3 yr. old child left unattended) has been killed by a coyote; to date in Texas history, **3 people** have been attacked by coyotes
- There are rural coyotes and urban coyotes; the (urban) coyotes that dwell in Plano normally use the creeks as a means for traveling. If you see coyotes **ADULTS ONLY (NEVER CHILDREN)** should do the following to scare them off:
 - Throw rocks, yell at them, or use a water hose – you will not hurt them but they will associate the fright with humans and stay away!
- People must be mindful of the following:
 - When you leave food out for your pets (cat feeders for example) you might attract coyotes
 - They are capable of surviving on their own so **DO NOT FEED THEM** – they will return and create a problem for your neighbors who do not want them around
 - You are violating a city ordinance when you let your pets roam free – pets that are constantly attended to when outside are less likely to be attacked. This same principle apply to small children
 - Coyotes help maintain the natural balance of rabbits, mice, and other small rodents. If they are removed, there will be an unmanageable and intolerable increase of these rodents
- Animal Services uses a private contractor to trap wildlife when necessary; if we relocate coyotes, they have only a 25% chance for survival; due to the low chance of survival, Animal Services will explore many other options, including resident education before relocating the coyote.
- Please review the following Web sites for more information:
 - [Animal Services home page](#)
 - [Animal Services Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Urban Wildlife Do's and Don'ts](#)
 - [Pet Registration](#) – call for incentives
 - [Low Cost Vaccinations](#)



Next, Scott Neumeyer, Property Standards Supervisor, addressed the following concerns:

- Residents are requesting a comment section on the Property Standards Web site – this is being developed
- Residents had general questions regarding trees, fence, and yard violations. Scott provided the following information:
 - **Weeds/grass over 12 inches high is a violation of Plano City Code.** Homeowner and tenants must keep lawns mowed and clippings mulched or cleared
 - **Trees along streets and alleys must be trimmed 14 feet above these surfaces**
 - **Tree branches and bushes planted along alleys must be trimmed 1 foot back** from the concrete surface.
 - **Trees overhanging sidewalks must be trimmed 7 feet above** the concrete surface
 - **Bushes planted along sidewalks should be kept flush** with the pavement
 - **Fences shall not be out of vertical alignment more than 1 foot (12 inches)** from the vertical measured at the top of the fence
 - **Fences 4 feet or less in height shall not be more than 6 inches** from the vertical measured at the top of the fence
 - **Fences with broken, loose, damaged, insect damaged, or missing parts** (slats, posts, wood rails, brick panels) covering a combined total area of 20 sq. feet or more **shall be replaced or repaired within 60 days of non-compliance notice**
 - **Backyards are NOT required to be fenced EXCEPT if a pool/spa exists. All backyards with pools/spas MUST be enclosed; Fences enclosing pools/spas must be repaired immediately**
- Residents did not want to provide their information when submitting a complaint online - staff will not share complainant's information; the info helps staff provide updates to residents submitting complaints.
- Planning and Property Standards staff is working with residents to host a neighborhood walk-through project to educate residents on home maintenance violations.
- The Neighborhood Planning Team (residents and staff) will continue to develop the neighborhood walk-through project as the meetings in May progress. Project has been planned tentatively for Saturday morning, June 6, 2009. Stay tuned for more details.



Monique adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm

Next Meeting:

Date: May 7, 2009

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: Joint Use Facility

Topics: Fast-Track Summary, and Home Maintenance Project

Please visit the [Cross Creek](#) Web site for more details!