



WHNA

Whispering Hills Neighborhood Association

March 14, 2016 7:00 pm

Liberty Junior High School

Board Meeting

Call to Order: 7:01 p.m.

President's Report –Ron Galloway reported in order to close Deermont all 4 contiguous neighbors have to sign the petition. There is one hold out in Garland which blocks the petition. It may be possible to have speed bumps put on Deermont. A petition would be required for the speed bumps.

Guest Speakers – Josh Cooper is the NPO for the Northeast Division. He gave a report on his division which is the largest in Dallas that there has been a trend of increase in crime in this division. The Audelia/Forest area is one the highest crime areas in Dallas. There are 270-280 patrol officers in our area that patrol in a 24 hour period. These officers have a 400,000 population to patrol. A metro task force is deployed in the highest crime areas and then the NPO unit follows after the task force. Cooper said that he needs cooperation of property owners where the crime is occurring. Sometimes it is necessary to put pressure on property owners by issuing fines, etc. to cause them to comply with safety/anti-crime measures. The police use intel to stop drug houses and also use neighborhood patrols to observe and report any drug activity. A task force was started on March 2nd and since then crime is down 63%. The task force is moved to wherever there is a spike in crime in other areas. The federal government allocates money to areas where there is an increase in crime. This is why it is important for neighborhoods to report any crime that is witnessed.

Steve Estrada is a Ranger with the Dallas Parks Department. Park Rangers have 3 major priorities – 1) Promote safety by responding when called upon. 2) Educate citizens of the parks rules and regulations. 3) Provide the best customer service. Rangers have to handle vandalism, alcoholics/drug offenders and the homeless. Park Rangers used to be part of the police department, but have now been assigned to the Park Department. Park Rangers are on duty until 8:30-9:00pm. Estrada is in District 6 and it extends to Harry Hines. He reports that there is hope for more employees to be hired by the end of the year so that there will be 2 rangers in each district.

Questions for Estrada – The basketball court at Friendship Park is being used for drug transactions. Can this court be taken away? Mike Gorman informed that it cannot be removed unless there is a certain percentage of residents on Benardin and Hornbeam complaining that the basketball court is causing a problem.

Other question – Is there a way to limit access to Friendship Park

Neighbors want to control parking in park and limit access by outfitting the alley with humps that used to be there. Estrada will report these questions to his supervisor.

President's Report Cont'd – Ron reported there will not be any cuts on Walnut. Walnut was designated a 6 lane road and that will not happen any time soon or never. Ron wants to get petitions for stop signs at Deermont and Bunchberry. Ron congratulated Mike Gorman for winning the VIP award for the year. Ron asked for a motion to approve \$400 of WHNA treasury for more VIP signs. Motion was carried. Plans are being made for spring and summer events in the neighborhood. The board would like to have a family oriented event at the park or at Liberty. The event will have food and kids' attractions.

Secretary's Report – Crystal Hughes asked if there were any corrections to February's minutes posted on the website. Upon hearing of no corrections to the minutes, approval was requested. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Mary Walraven gave a report for February. Previous balance was \$14,196.34. Income was \$1,269.72 and expenses were \$732.99 creating a new balance of \$14,733.77.

Safety/VIP Program – Mike Gorman gave a slide show of graphs for crime in our area. The incidents reported on social media by neighbors in February were mostly burglary. The most incidents reported by DPD for February were in multi-family units. DPD city wide crime report is spiking for 2016. Mike had a plastic bag that was found in the park. It contained dime bags. He said that NextDoor is useful to alert neighbors of anything important happening in the neighborhood.

Social and Dine Out – Since Paulette Standefer was absent Lynn reported that the next dine out will be on March 17th at El Fenix.

Social Media – Lynn Peltier reported that the chili supper fundraiser event in February brought in \$320. The expenses were \$33 making the income from the fundraiser \$287. Lynn also reported that the house on Whispering Hills has gone through probate court. An administrator has been assigned for the house and it is being renovated so that it can be sold soon. April 29, 30 and May 1st date has been set for the neighborhood garage sale. If neighbors want to participate they will have to get a permit from the city.

Grounds and Park- Tim Wilburn and Mike Adams have been pulling weeds in the bushes at the entrance to Whispering Hills. Tim reported that the Eastside sprinkler is not working. Ron asked Tim to get an estimate to see how much it will cost to get sprinkler repaired. Tim thinks it might be good to put mulch around bushes to help keep the weeds out.

President Ron Galloway asked if there is any new business to discuss. Since there was not any mention of new business, the President declared the meeting adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned – at 8:00pm

Crystal Hughes, Secretary

Whispering Hills Neighborhood Association