

Meeting Minutes
AHNA General Membership Meeting
Monday January 18, 2010

Meeting called to order by Makenzie Carpenter.

Announcements

- Girl Scout cookies are for sale in the back. Need more cookies after the meeting? Contact Mike Beaupre.
- If you could help AHNA by putting a sign up in your yard for the monthly meeting reminder, please contact Makenzie.
- Attorney David Wynn is having a probate clinic January 30th from 9-5 at their office at 5128 Birchman Ave. Even if you aren't interested in the clinic, feel free to stop by and tour the home they have so lovingly restored into their offices.

Crime Report and Presentation

Officer Teri Majors is our Arlington Heights Neighborhood Patrol Officer.

If you want get on Officer Majors email list, please send her an email and ask to be added. She sends out emails with crime reports in the area.

The biggest concern in the neighborhood right now is burglary of homes. From December until now, there have been 12 homes broken into in our neighborhood. In the same time frame only 2 cars have been burglarized. All of these burglarized homes have taken place during the daytime hours, usually on Thursday's. Some doors have been kicked in and other times rear windows have been broken. Targeted homes are usually on corner lots with vacant homes next door (either for sale or rent). Businesses are being targeted too right now. Because of budget constraints there are minimum officers on the street right now, so if you see suspicious activity, please call! If you don't call, the beat areas will continue to get larger.

Q: What number should we call? A: To report suspicious activity call Officer Majors cell phone and leave a message. Also call the police non-emergency number. 335-4222 In an emergency, always call 911.

Q: When a call goes in, who responds? A: Your beat officer may respond, but if they are busy then an officer from another beat will respond. Two police officers will initially respond to every call.

Q: Do you (Officer Majors) want to know about things that have happened in the neighborhood that were not reported? A: Yes. If you call about suspicious activity and the officers respond but don't find anything, they do not write a report. So please leave a message on my cell phone or email me so I know that you reported suspicious activity.

Q: Was the person posing as a Union Gospel Mission employee asking for monetary donation caught? A: No. Please be on the lookout for solicitors and people posing as solicitors. People may knock on your door if they have a permit issued by the City of Fort Worth to do so. Please ask them for this permit. Also, you can put up a no soliciting sign, and then people cannot legally knock on your door. Do not give personal information to anyone!!! When the 2010 census people begin knocking on doors, please be sure to check their badges before answering their questions.

Other issues that Officer Majors receives calls about: panhandlers, prostitutes, and dogs off leash. If you see any of the above, please call, officers will issue tickets.

COPs – Citizens On Patrol

Jan Bourne speaks for AHNA COPs. We are looking for new members of COP. If you are interested please contact Jan or come to our monthly meeting. They meet once a month, the first Monday of the Month at Thomas Place Community Center.

The AHNA COPs are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood in assistance to our beat officer. You volunteer to drive the neighborhood looking for suspicious activity 2 hours every 31 days. If you see something suspicious you simply call the police and document what you see. The city reimburses you if you drive your own vehicle.

Upcoming General Membership Meetings

February – American Heart Association

March – Gardening, presenting the Community Garden idea

Zoning

Blue Bonnet Bakery is moving to the Christian Science Church Building. They have re-zoned the property from CF to E. This was approved by the Zoning Commission on Wednesday. There is a demolition delay on the building (which was built in 1922) so that it cannot be torn down. The bakery will be making modifications to the interior of the building.

Council Initiated Rezoning – Because of letters of support and opposition sent to Councilman Carter Burdette, he has sent the Council Initiated Rezoning of Arlington Heights back to the Zoning Commission. The plan is to have the neighborhood divided into three areas, west of Eldridge, between Eldridge and Belle, and east of Belle, and then vote again on each section separately.

It is important to clarify what the Council Initiated Rezoning is supposed to do. The purpose is to make sure that properties in our neighborhood are zoned correctly. If a block is primarily used for single family residences, then that block should be zoned A-5. If a block is primarily used for multi family residences, then it should be zoned B. This Council Initiated Rezoning process will allow our neighborhood to be zoned correctly (by block usage) all at one time. So we don't have to go and zone our neighborhood one block at a time, which is our current process. AHNA believes that by properly zoning our neighborhood, we can protect the integrity of our neighborhood. AHNA has received complaints of flooding and brown outs from neighbors of new duplexes and townhomes, not to mention the lack of sunlight from an extra large house being built next door. We believe by properly zoning our neighborhood, we can make our area more desirable for homeowners.

There are letters in the back for residents to sign and send to Carter Burdette. If you could not make the meeting and would like a sample letter, please contact Makenzie Carpenter.

Meeting Adjourned