

Volunteers In Patrol Minutes November 26, 2008

Members present: Bob Noyes, Art Befort, Joyce Tepley, Phil Hughes, Ilda Manriquez, Paul Figel, and new member, Jean Ryan. Guests were Art's son, Jeff, and Neighborhood Patrol Officers Fuentes and Gregorich. Also present was Officer Dac Nguyen who is replacing Officer Spivey.

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Noyes at 7:08 pm.

Officer Fuentes reported that we had a 71% reduction in crime in our area since last year at this time. There were two motor vehicle break-ins, one at St. Monica's and the other on Duchess Trail.

Officer Nguyen passed out security tips for the Holidays. The police department Tip Line number is 214-671-0567. A favorite MO of house burglars now is to knock on the front door and if no one answers, they go to the back and kick in the back door. He also warned that when shopping at malls it is best to be with someone else when walking to and from the car and not carry a purse.

The officers invited us to sit in one of the new Sky Towers that are being deployed where there has been a spike in crime. It's a booth that takes up about 4 parking spaces and is hoisted about 20 feet in the air on a cherry picker, thereby giving a panoramic view of the area under surveillance. VIP members are encouraged to man the booth for a couple hours at a time and report suspicious activity to the police. If interested, contact Officer Steve Fuentes at 214-671-0576.

Art Befort moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Art reported that the Crime Watch treasury balance is \$5,964.23. Expenses were toner, batteries, and National Night Out party expenses, all paid to Paul Figel of \$89.41. Pending expenses are \$53.13 to Czarina Domingo for the website and \$30.18 to Paul Figel for a Property Marking Kit.

The Extended Neighborhood Patrol treasury balance is \$37,676.65 which represents 277 households out of 1030 in our neighborhood. Phil moved that the Crime Watch treasury make up the difference between the current amount and the goal amount. Paul seconded and the motion carried. Art will inform Ross Coulter so that he can arrange for an off-duty police officer to start patrolling our area as soon as possible.

Paul Figel reported that he purchased a Black Light pen for marking one's possessions (www.blacklight.com) Members are welcome to borrow it and use. Officer Fuentes encouraged us to mark our things with either our driver's license or cell phone number. Pawn shops are supposed to report items they receive to the police and must keep them for 30 days before reselling. The pawn shop on Harry Hines and Willowbrook is the closest to our neighborhood and has a good working relationship with the police.

Paul also told us that he replaced the torn magnetic sign for our cars when we patrol. He plans to go to the opening of the new fire station this Tuesday, December 2nd at 2:30 pm. It was requested of Paul to scout what the firemen might need for their new station, and in the January VIP meeting we will discuss what kind of gift to give them.

Fire House Security Code: When we pick up our equipment from the new station, the firemen request we park in the back and use the security code to get into the door. Paul emailed the code to patrolling members last week. Call Paul if you need to know it.

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 28 at 7 pm. Everyone is requested to call Chuck Pomatto after Dec. 8 to schedule a patrol for December.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Tepley