

Walnut Hill Volunteers In Patrol Minutes July 29, 2009

The monthly meeting at the Walnut Hill Recreation Center was called to order by Chairperson Bob Noyes at 7 pm.

Members present were: Margaret and Mike Conlin, Phil Hughes, Joyce Tepley, Bob Noyes, Linda Befort, Bob Turney, and Chuck Pomatto. Guests were Dallas Police Department Officer Steve Fuentes and Dallas City Code Compliance Officer Rodney Patterson.

Mr. Patterson reported that he is the liaison officer in our area working with property owners who have been cited by our code inspector, Anthony Cooks. During this July there were 16 code violation tickets written, mostly for high weeds on properties or in allies. All weed violations were resolved through citizen action. There was also 1 ticket given for bulk trash violation on Morning Glory that was resolved and 1 ticket given for illegal dumping of charcoal in alley easement behind homeowners on Princess that was "closed unable to confirm or locate problem." Also a ticket for littering was given to a homeowner on Gooding and it was resolved.

Mr. Patterson gave hand-outs of Helpful Telephone Numbers, Energy Efficiency Hints from Oncor, and Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Centers. These will be posted on the neighborhood website.

A discussion followed about the Dallas Morning News throwing a briefing paper to houses that do not take the paper and problems with them piling up in front of peoples' homes. They are considered litter if they stay there for some period of time. Mr. Patterson suggested calling DMN and request stopping the delivery of it. DMN has been compliant when they know you don't wish to receive it. Also, place a "No Soliciting" sign out where it can be seen. Flyers and unwanted papers are considered litter where there is such a sign and solicitors must avoid your house.

It is also a violation if a car is parked on the street in the same place for more than 24 hours.

Officer Fuentes reported the crime statistics for the month of June, 2009 as compared to June of the previous year. We continue to have a perfect record of no crimes against persons. However, we doubled the amount of non-violent crimes for this June compared to last June.

We had 2 residential burglaries, 1 on Royal Springs in late afternoon. A side door was kicked in, the house was ransacked of flat screen TV, other TV's, jewelry, appliances. The neighbor next door was distracted by a 16 y/o Hispanic male about 190 lbs. and 5 ft. 9 inches. He knocked on her front door and asked if a particular family lived there. While she was dealing with him, his buddy or buddies were burglarizing the other house. Prints were lifted from the scene.

The second house burglarized was on Coppedge where things were taken from the garage. The owner thinks he knows who did it.

There were 3 burglaries of motor vehicles and 1 theft at a store on Marsh Ln.

Officer Fuentes explained the difference between a burglary and a theft. If the perpetrator “breaks the plane,” or enters a space/barrier like a car, house or yard, and takes something it’s considered a burglary. If something is just lying around, like in a store that is public property, it’s considered a theft.

When Officer Fuentes patrols our neighborhood for our ENP program he usually gets about 5 to 6 calls to address. One of them was about a tent sighted in Peter Pan Park. He dismantled it and will check the area from now on to make sure it isn’t set up again.

He also received a number of complaints about a young man walking the neighborhood soliciting for digital phone service. There have been scams reported about such services.

Officer Fuentes invited us to organize a class he teaches on protection of person and property. He requires a minimum of 40 people. It would run about 45 minutes. We will inform Ross Coulter about it for our next homeowners meeting.

He can also do an individual home “security survey” but anyone interested must have an alarm system and pay him with a chocolate protein shake.

Joyce moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting as posted on the website. Motion carried.

Linda reported that the crime watch treasury balance is \$6,281.58. Since the 4th of July picnic we have 153 crime watch paid members or 15% of total households of 1033. The ENP program has 431 paid members or 32% of households.

Paul Figel moved that we purchase 12 police Dallas city crime watch signs to be posted at various place in the neighborhood. They are the blue, black and white signs with the picture of an eye and the words “Crime Watch.” They cost \$18.00 each. Motion carried. Paul will find out who to call and order. The department of transportation installs them.

The following people are congratulated for their willingness to patrol in the month of June: The Noyes’ who again patrolled twice, Paul Figel, Bob Turney, The Conlin’s, Randy Griffin, Bill Marx, Joyce Tepley, and Phil Hughes.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Tepley