

Walnut Hill Volunteers In Patrol Minutes 5-27-09

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bob Noyes at 7:00 pm.

Present were Mike and Margaret Conlin, Bob Noyes, Linda Befort, Bill Marx, Randy Griffin, Joyce Tepley, Phil Hughes, Bill Fay, Paul Figel, and Officer Chris Yaquez

Officer Yaquez reported that crime continues to decrease in our area by 55% since last month. There were 7 BMV (burglary of motor vehicle) last year at this time and 2 this year. A 2007 Ford Expedition on Beaverbrook was broken into by shattering the window. The thieves tried to remove the GPS causing \$4,000 worth of damage to the car. The car was parked on the street. Another car was broken into on S. Better parked in the residents driveway by smashing the passenger window. This same car was broken into last year and the plug in GPS was stolen.

Traffic cones were taken from a property on Crestover and a car was stolen from the parking lot of a commercial site on 10000 block of Marsh Ln.

There were 3 residential burglaries last year and zero this year in the same time period. One house for sale on Cox was broken into and appliances and a desk were taken. Access was from the rear. This was considered a commercial property not residential.

Officer Yaquez commented that even though Dallas is now ranked #2 in crime for cities over a million people in the US, this is misleading. Dallas reports more kinds of crimes than many of the other cities do.

There will be a Health and Safety Fair Saturday, June 13 starting at 9 am at the Northwest Sub Station. 100 children's car seats will be given away to families who can't afford them. Bring old car seats and the officers will inspect them for function and age. There will also be Jump Houses for the kids and other displays.

June 27 from 8:30 to 2:00 at the Northwest Sub Station training will be held for the CHIPS (Citizens Helping In Parking Situations) program. Any one interested in being trained to write tickets for parking violations, such as those parked in Handicapped Parking without proper identification, can attend.

Also coming soon will be training for volunteers to help in the police stations answering phones, helping with mailing, notifying people of upcoming events, participating in community events, etc. The program is called COPS.

There are 207 apartment complexes in the NW division. The police are now working with large apartment complex managers to institute mandatory Crime Watches. First the police do a survey of the complex. Then they meet every month with the residences. There's already been a 42% decrease in crime in the last 4 months.

Our neighborhood is in the top 10% of least amount of crime in the NW division. When the police departments were reorganized we gained some of the Oaklawn area and some of the North Central division, but we gave up South Dallas in the Singleton area.

Joyce Tepley moved to accept the minutes from the last meeting as posted on the website. Motion carried.

Linda Befort reported that we have a total of \$6208.06 in the Crime Watch treasury as of 5/20/09. We had an expense for camera batteries of \$10.82 paid to Paul Figel. To date there are a total of 323 paid members for ENP or 31% of the homeowners. Eighty-four people have paid crime watch and homeowners dues so far this year. Bill Marx suggested that neighborhood churches and stores be contacted to join ENP. Linda Befort will call Ross Coulter to pass on this suggestion.

Paul Figel reported no problems with the VIP equipment.

Phil Hughes reported that traffic to the website was up some from last month.

Chuck Pomatto reported that after rereading our by-laws that were recently distributed to all new and old members, he started taking a more proactive role in encouraging people to patrol. He went out with Barbara Stone, our newest member, to introduce her to how we do our patrolling. He emailed everyone suggesting they pick a time to patrol. There were a total of 7 patrols in April.

Thanks goes to the following people who took their time to patrol: Chuck Pomatto and Barbara Stone, Bob and Monica Noyes, Joyce Tepley and Phil Hughes, Ginny and Paul Figel, Margaret and Mike Conlin, Randy Griffin and Bill Marx. Bill also did a courtesy patrol with Ms. Huston who is trying to start a VIP in the Northhaven area.

Bob Noyes called for nominations for this coming year's officers of VIP. Everyone who is currently in office volunteered to remain in their positions so the following is the slate to be voted on at the next meeting: Bob Noyes, Chairperson, Art Befort, alternate chair, Linda Befort, treasurer, Joyce Tepley, secretary, Chuck Pomatto, scheduler, Paul Figel, equipment, and Bill Marx, membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Tepley
Secretary