

Walnut Hill Volunteers In Patrol (VIP) Minutes

November 20, 2024

Attendees:

VIP Active Members	Present	Absent	Excused Absence
Barron, Bert		X	
Beall, Francey	X		
Cardillo, Tony	X		
Carporal, Christy		X	
Cree, Betty	X		
Gonzales, Gillian		X	
Gonzales, Pete	X		
Griffin, Randy	X		
Hineidi, Scharmagne	X		
Joersz, Jeremy		X	
Khoury, Terei	X		
Krepper, Suzanne	X		
LePoris, George	X		
Montigue, Tre			
Noyes, Bob	X		
Noyes, Monica		X	
Petersen, Michelle		X	
Rafter, Kathryn	X		
Shaw, Erin		X	
Smith, Denise	X		
Spica, Andrea	X		
Stevenson, Laurie	X		
22 VIP Current Members			
VIP Leave of Absence/Medical Leave of Absent Members	Present	Absent	Excused Absence
WHA	Present		
Denton, Taylor	X		
Shelby Spak			

Dallas Police Department	Present		
Officer David Kim			
Officer Sims	X		
Officer Taylor	X		
Officer Brookins			
City of Dallas	Present		
Mildred Carter Robinson – Code Compliance			
Odie Hayes (Manager II)	X		

Meeting Minutes

The WHHA VIP November 2024 meeting convened at 6:32 pm at the Walnut Hill Recreation Center with 14 members attending. Several neighbors, including 1 who is planning to take VIP Training, were also present.

Dallas Police Department:

Officer Sims & Officer Taylor filled in for the coming few months. These officers cover the beat south of Love Field, and provided updates.

- Statistics for WHHA include:
 - The normal crime report was not available (system outage).
 - Non-Violent crime, particularly package-theft, is on the up-swing.
 - With the upcoming holidays, front-porch package theft is expected to be UP.
 - **REPORT package theft!** The data for these crimes is tracked, and can assist DPD in solving/trapping thieves. “Every report counts.”
 - Consider having packages delivered to a delivery point (Amazon uses Whole Foods, other retailers may use other retail-shops), to a neighbor who’s always home, or to your office.
 - Be CAUTIOUS when shopping. Shoppers are particularly vulnerable in parking lots. Store purchases out-of-sight.
 - **Question: Is it likely that the approved/additional 500 police officers will be hired and deployed?**
 - Answer: The current Police Academy roster seems to have enough candidates to fill the approved positions, but the limited capacity of the Academy currently limits the number of candidates that can be trained/tested/graduated/deployed. The city recently broke ground on the NEW Police Academy with expanded facilities, which should help the capacity/graduation situation.
 - **Question: Is retention an issue with DPD?**
 - Answer: Pay raises, and the potential resolution of the pension situation are expected to resolve the retention issue. The service is still a bit top-heavy (18+ years of service occupy key positions that limit officers with fewer years from moving up)
 - **Question: How should illegal dumping be reported?**
 - Answer:
 - 311. If the dumping is on city property (in this case, Betty Jane Park), cameras can be mounted to monitor activity.
 - NOTE: if dumping has occurred on a resident’s property, and the resident cannot identify/contact the guilty party for clean-up, the resident is responsible for cleaning up the litter/trash. Contact City Code Compliance to identify the problem so that a citation is not issued!

City of Dallas Code Compliance:

Code Compliance Manager Odie Hayes took inquiries:

- Question: How should Illegal dumping in Betty Jane Park be handled?:
 - Answer: SEE ABOVE
- Question: Is the “Ride Along” program for Code Compliance offered again?
 - Answer: The “Ride Along” program was suspended during the pandemic, but Code is willing to start up again. Contact a VIP officer to get in touch with the right person about scheduling at ride-along with City Code.
- Question: How does the City handle abandoned vehicles? Do they make owners aware of “donation” options?
 - Answer: The City attempts to educate an owner about donation options, but most often vehicles are simply abandoned. The City tows and appropriately disposes of these vehicles.
 -

VIP:

NEW VIP Member!! Congratulations:

- Denise Smith

Minutes: October 2024 VIP Meeting Minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: No money in, no money out!

Equipment:

- Remember....
 - Revised equipment (less bulky) is streamlined and easier to install/use
 - Teams who patrol often may secure their own VIP gear ; gear is also available at the firestation #35 on Walnut Hill Lane
 - Reporting VIP patrols via TEXT is quicker and streamlined

Patrols:

- 9 patrols were performed in November.
- Please consider patrolling between 4:30-4:45 in a small corridor by TJ high school in an ATTEMPT to slow speeding vehicles driven by students leaving school:
 - Coppedge – Killion - Crestover
 - Even a short-patrol positioned in this area would be an enormous help to slow-down the abusive traffic and safety problems during this limited time period

Membership: Nothing to report

Old Business:

- **VIP Training** : Information will be provided when we receive an update from DPD.
- **Homes under construction/renovation:** 25 homes are under construction or major renovation as of November 2024.
- **VIP Bylaws:**
 - VIP Bylaws will be modified once the WHHA Bylaws are confirmed.

New Business:

- **ENP Discussion:**
 - Crimewatch officer Pete Gonzales had analyzed and review ENP patrol reports and found inaccuracies related to hours actually worked/patrolled vs. billed. Treasurer Taylor quickly stated that no false reports had occurred.
- **VIP Officer Nominations:**
 - Positions include:
 - VIP Captain
 - Alternate VIP Captain
 - Secretary
 - Additional positions (Scheduling Captain, Equipment Captain) have been filled in the past, but given our current scheduling & equipment environment, these positions are no longer necessary.
 - Please CONSIDER whether you would like to be nominated for one of these positions. We will discuss further when VIP meetings re-start in January 2025.

There will be NO December VIP Meeting. Our next meeting will be held January 29, 2025, 6:30-7:30 at the Walnut Hill Rec Center.

Respectfully,
Terei Khoury