



Woodlea Melrose Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

WMNA General Meeting

Tuesday, June 2nd, 7:00 pm, Seventh Day Adventist Church, 777 W Montecito Ave

Attendees: 23

State House Update

General Discussion

Erich introduced Ken Clark, Ken is the Arizona State House Representative for District 24. Ken was elected last year and spoke to us about how neighborhoods play a very important role in deciding bills that affect us directly when we become involved. He spoke to us of 3 recent bills that did not pass largely due to neighborhood mobilization. The first bill was a liquor license bill. Originally the law was that only one person needed to protest a liquor license in a neighborhood for there to have to be a vote and hearing. The new bill would have changed that to 10% of the surrounding area in a one mile radius. This bill never made it out of the house and Ken told us that neighborhood groups helped defeat this bill. The second bill was a bill to override existing laws for selling beer and wine if the entity was also a small grocer. Ken explained that to be considered a "small grocer" the entity would simply need to sell some apples and bread and such but could still have beer and wine as their majority income. This bill would have made it easier for companies like Circle K / Seven 11 to enter neighborhoods that already have a cap on the number of beer/wine licenses allowed. This bill made it out of the house but was defeated in senate, again - neighborhood backing for banning this bill played a large part in it not passing. The third bill involved businesses giving out "flex loans". This bill was backed by businesses similar to "pay day loan" companies which became illegal in AZ after 2010. Ken told us that this bill passed in February and that sadly these types of businesses offer loans very similar to the now banned payday loans. Ken said that a bill like this could have been defeated with more neighborhood involvement. He urged us to get involved and know what bills are up for vote and to mobilize thru letters, emails and phone calls. He told us that calling our representatives is the most effective action and urged us to call and or email - Ken Clark / 602-456-9388 / kenclark@azleg.gov

Finally ken talked to us about "BeAZ" - This group hosts events throughout the city - This is 50% social event, 50% cool tour and 100% new. Ken told us these fun tours / events demystify public policy while you explore how decisions made in our capitol affect things around you, which you've maybe never noticed - things that will entertain you, impress you and maybe even inspire you. To find out more info on upcoming events: BeAz - Powered by You <https://www.facebook.com/pages/BeAz-Powered-by-You/310854772442322?sk=info> or you can call 480-442-6176

Action Items

By Whom

Become involved and call your state house representative on bills that affect our neighborhood and families
Ken Clark / 602-456-9388 / kenclark@azleg.gov

All neighbors



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Block Watch

General Discussion

COA Ben Harris spoke to us of current crime stats in our neighborhood. He said incidents were down since March and that calls to non-emergency number were still strong. The non-emergency call center received 35 calls since March of suspicious persons. Officer Harris reminded us to keep calls up as number of calls directly correlates to police presence in our neighborhood. In the last 4 months there were 2 auto involved incidents / 4 residential and 1 report of graffiti. As many of you know Melrose Pharmacy was robbed twice recently. Officer Harris let us know that the perpetrator had been identified and apprehended. He also let us know that we need to report even small incidents. His example - say your car is broken into and loose change stolen - we need to report these so that our police precinct can follow all crime trends to receive an accurate overview of crimes in neighborhoods and be able to track any type of crime waves. He also mentioned "Patrol Watches", crime is generally up in the summer and during holidays when thieves know many people are away from home for days or weeks. If you are leaving your home for any length of time our police force will do drive-bys and help keep an eye on your home, Call the Mountain Precinct if you would like this service while you are away (602-495-5007). Officer Harris then spoke to us of home alarms. He mentioned that an alarm itself (even without monitoring) is a great layer to add in your home defense. He said there are many inexpensive options on the market and any alarm is better than none at all. Another great deterrent he mentioned was "passive layering" - night time exterior lighting, trimming your trees/bushes so there are no blind spots and maintaining good relationships with your neighbors. Your neighbors are your best defense as most break-ins occur between 10am and 1pm when most people are not home. Finally he talked to us of the success of the Bike ID program. We had a huge turnout at our event - in case you missed it just call the Mountain View precinct (602-495-5007) and they can give you information on when/where to register your bike. He told us the program works and that on the day of the street festival he and Officer Stevens were able to catch a bike thief that day and return to its owner within hours of it being stolen.

Action Items

By Whom

Report suspicious activity - if emergency call 911
for non-emergency call 602-262-6151

All neighbors

Treasurer Update

General Discussion

Woodlea-Melrose Treasurer, Kathy O'Donnell gave us an update on current funds. To date we have @4,400.00 in our treasury. We also have money left in our grant fund that has been earmarked to pay for items such as upcoming newsletters and prepaying APS for our LED alley lights. Also at this time the issue of the roundabout was brought up. As many of you know our new roundabout was struck by a car last month resulting in one of the walls being knocked down. The board is working closely with the city to get it fixed asap. There are city funds available to fix - but since this was an auto involved accident the city first needs to go thru the perpetrators insurance. There is no "hard date" yet on when this will be resolved. But the board will keep the neighborhood updated during this process and hope to have issue resolved quickly.



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Free Little Library

General Discussion

Vice Chair, Carly Rebeck announced that our 3 Free Little Libraries have been installed and are generating much excitement with neighbors. The idea behind these libraries is give a book / take a book. We have 1 kids library and 2 adult. If you have any books you would like to donate feel free to deposit in any of the libraries and make sure you grab a book while you are there!

Locations:

Kids - corner of 9th and Roma

Adult - 11th ave in front of Toolshed

Adult - Mackenzie between 11th and 13th ave