



Woodlea Melrose Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

WMNA General Meeting	
June 11, 2014, 7:00 pm, Seventh Day Adventist Church, 777 W Montecito Ave	
Attendees: 36	
Introductions	
<i>General Discussion</i>	
<p>Pam introduced our invited guests: our CAO (Community Action Officer from the Phoenix PD), Aaron Stevens; and Julie Valesquez and Frances from the city of Phoenix's Public Works Department. She gave a special thank you to Jen and Sophie Paige who provided delicious (and adorable!) baked goods for meeting attendees.</p>	
Phoenix Public Works, Solid Waste Division – New Program Information	
<i>General Discussion</i>	
<p>Julie and Frances, representatives from the City's Public Works Department, Solid Waste Division presented information about two, new City solid waste programs. As a result of the ReImagine Phoenix initiative, a goal was set to reduce trash in our landfills 40% by 2020. (Interesting note: nationally the diversion rate of residential trash from landfills is 30%; currently in Phoenix the rate is 16%. We can do better!)</p> <p>The first program, Save as You Reduce and Recycle (SAY R&R) gives homeowners who currently have curbside collection, the option to request smaller garbage cans and save \$3 per month on their solid waste fees. The Green Organics Curbside Collection program provides a separate, tan bin to interested homeowners, with either curbside or alley collection, for collection of yard waste, branches, grass clippings and untreated wood ONLY. Material in these bins will be composted for use around the City. There will be a \$5 monthly fee per can for this program, which will be phased in. Collection for trash, recycle and organics will take place on the same day. Call the Solid Waste Division Call Center at 602.262.7251 beginning Monday, July 7 to sign up.</p> <p>There was much discussion about the proper placement of collection bins (on the curb NOT sidewalk, 4 feet between containers) and bulk trash (at the front edge of your property behind sidewalk, NOT in the street).</p>	
Action Items	By Whom
Call the Solid Waste Division Call Center to sign up for one or both of the new solid waste programs!	All neighbors
Phoenix PD, Community Action Officer – Bicycle Theft Prevention and Phoenix Police Patrol Reorganization	
<i>General Discussion</i>	
<p>CAO Aaron Stevens first spoke about current crime numbers in our area. Break-ins in our neighborhood are down from the same Jan-Jun time period – 18 in 2013 to 12 in 2014. Calls for suspicious people in our neighborhood are up – a positive – because WM residents are vigilant and active! There have been some notable bike thefts in our neighborhood. As a deterrent, Officer Stevens recommends writing down and saving the bike's serial number, or taking a photo of the bike and serial number. He also advised that bikes be locked up, even if stored in the backyard.</p>	



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Officer Stevens then spoke about the upcoming effort to reorganize the Phoenix Police Patrol areas. An open meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on June 17 at the Devonshire Senior Center, 2822 E Devonshire to receive public comment. Officers will be required to re-bid for their positions, and boundaries for precincts may be re-drawn. For example, there has been discussion about increasing the Mountain View Precinct's squad size to 10 (from 7) but doubling its area by expanding its boundary to SR 51. Any changes will be effective October 20, 2014.

<i>Action Items</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
Record serial number of bikes (and all valuables) as a means of identifying if stolen; lock up bikes, even if in backyard	All neighbors

Candidates (for upcoming elections for public office)

General Discussion

Several candidates for public office were invited to attend and address our meeting, including:

- Ken Clark – State Rep, District 24
- Rich Bauer – State Rep, District 24
- Brian Davidson – Osborn School District Board

Each candidate spent several minutes talking about his background, experience, qualifications and goals if elected. Sam Richard, another candidate for the Osborn School District Board, was also in attendance, and our neighbor, Cheryl Szczepkowski, passed out the bio of another Osborn School District Board candidate, Sue Corbin.

<i>Action Items</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
Vote in the primary election on August 26, and general election on November 4	All registered voters

Neighborhood Updates

General Discussion

Beth Lazare gave an update on our alley lighting project. An unexpected 26% tax/fee was added to the cost of the project, but there were sufficient Block Watch funds that could be reallocated to cover it. The contract was being drawn up. APS was asked to provide an installation schedule.

Pam briefly discussed a dues campaign for the neighborhood. Currently 13% of all eligible neighbors pay the \$10 annual dues. Mid-year, an invoice will be emailed to all as a reminder to pay dues for the current year.

Pam also spoke about further ideas for the vacant lot at 13th Avenue and Monterosa. This has been identified as a possible park for the neighborhood. The City is supportive of “activating” vacant lots. One proposal is to have the park serve as a place to remember neighbors who have passed away. We will try to fence the area and add benches, though it will be impossible to keep people out. One idea is to sell bricks (at cost) with the donor's name etched on them as a way to raise money. We are also looking for donations for fencing.

<i>Action Items</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
Pay your 2014 dues (if you haven't already)	All neighbors
Contact Pam if you can, or know someone who would be willing to, donate fencing for our Remembrance Park	All neighbors