



# Woodlea Melrose Neighborhood Association

## Meeting Minutes

<b>WMNA General Meeting and Crime Summit</b>		
April 15, 2014, 7:00 pm, Seventh Day Adventist Church, 777 W Montecito Ave		
Attendees: 39		
<b>Introductions of Block Watch Coordinator and Board – Pam Pawlowski</b>		
<i>General Discussion</i>		
<p>Pam introduced George Hutchins and Larry Hempen, WM's Block Watch Coordinators, and the other Board members in attendance.</p>		
<b>Explanation of Neighbors on Watch (NOW) – Pam Pawlowski</b>		
<i>General Discussion</i>		
<p>Pam gave a brief history of WM's Neighbors on Watch (NOW) effort. The impetus behind the program is the fact that residents of WM <b>care about where they live</b>. Pam mentioned the NOW yard signs that are now visible throughout the neighborhood. The catch phrase on those signs is: SEE, REPORT, PREVENT. If neighbors SEE suspicious activity, they are encouraged to REPORT it by calling the Crime Stop number (602-262-6151). One way to PREVENT crime is to continue a recent trend observed in the neighborhood: spending more time in our front yards. That and being friendly to people who seem to be "out of place" can act as a deterrent.</p> <p>Some residents have experienced reluctant dispatchers when calling Crime Stop. We are encouraged to call <b>any time</b> an activity or situation seems suspicious. If a dispatcher seems reluctant to take action, our Community Action Officer, Aaron Stevens, said it is reasonable to ask to speak to his/her supervisor.</p> <p>NOW yard signs were passed out to those who needed them, and attendees also received small flashlights imprinted with "NOW" and the Crime Stop number.</p>		
<b>BW Project Update: New Block Watch Signs and Alley Lighting – George Hutchins and Beth Lazare</b>		
<i>General Discussion</i>		
<p>George updated us on the installation of 11 perimeter Block Watch signs. They were installed at all entry points to the neighborhood. He thanked those neighbors that helped him with the installation, as well as the property owners who allowed the signs to be installed near their homes.</p> <p>Beth then updated us on the Alley Lighting project. Letters had been sent to all property owners that would be affected by installation of the lights. The exact placement of the lights should be finalized in the coming week. They will be installed in the alleys on the east and west side of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and the alley behind Mackenzie Drive. APS is responsible for the installation, which they say should take place in 1-2 months. Neighborhood BW Grant funds will cover all expenses, including the electric service.</p>		



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### Woodlea and Grandview Neighborhoods – Comparison, George Hutchins and Officer Aaron Stevens

#### *General Discussion*

George spoke briefly about the Grandview Neighborhood’s recent burglaries and other crimes, which had been covered recently in the local news. Many residents in Grandview had expressed their reluctance to go outside their homes as a result. George expressed his belief that being afraid and refusing to socialize was NOT the way to deal with the problem. It was not the way WM handled its crime increase, and current statistics support that.

Officer Stevens then shared some of the recent crimes statistics specific to our neighborhood. He said overall they were basically the same as last year; however burglaries were down 25% and vehicle burglaries were up. He did say that the number of calls to Crime Stop has gone up which is a good thing – it means we are being vigilant. He said most calls are “check welfare” calls. Officer Stevens said the police are often working with a smaller number of squads which could possibly mean slower response times if they are handling more serious issues. But he assured us all calls are logged and encouraged us to continue calling for service.

### Street Call Out – George Hutchins

#### *General Discussion*

George then moderated a “Street Call Out,” giving residents the opportunity to share recent crime experiences or continued concerns, street by street. This is a brief summary of the situations presented:

9th Ave – no report

13th Ave –

- suspicious bike rider, a woman with long red hair ( has been seen by many throughout the neighborhood)
- a man who was reported as a possible trespasser; a helicopter and 2 squad cars responded; he wasn’t trespassing but he was arrested for cooking meth

Roma & 14th Ave –

- a recent break-in
- the woman with long red hair was observed last Saturday
- a car with its lights shining on a house

The canal is a problem for residents on Roma. George said he would like to focus on this issue this year. The recent ReinventPHX planning effort included discussion on improving the canals.

Turney –

- 3:00 am recycle bin scavenger

It is reasonable to call Crime Stop for this activity, because a call gives police “reasonable suspicion” to stop people.



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The internet can be a source of information to find out why police were at a particular house.

Montecito – no report

Glenrosa –

- walkers looking in dumpsters
- a neighbor who plays loud music

Officer Stevens said there are noise ordinances to deal with these situations. If excessive noise is bothering you it is “disturbing your peace.” It is then a quality of life issue and reportable.

Heatherbrae – no report

Mackenzie –

- a child’s bike and men’s dress shirts stolen (burglar entered by breaking back window)

A question came up about the effectiveness of having a dog as a crime deterrent. Officer Stevens said a dog is a layer of defense against burglary. He also said that if you don’t have a dog, place a big bowl of water outside in your backyard anyway. Impression is everything!

Officer Stevens is trained to conduct security surveys of our homes. It is a free service and takes about 30 minutes. He can help identify potential problem areas and give recommendations on correcting them.

There was additional discussion about the potential problem of “spillover” crime into our neighborhood from the Circle K at Indian School and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, and the excessive crime occurring in the apartments on Indian School between 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. Lisa Hubbard, of the City’s Neighborhood Services Department, was in attendance and explained that there is no such thing anymore as a “Section 8 housing complex.” Now, people who qualify for Section 8 assistance, typically the “working poor,” are given vouchers which can be used to live anywhere they want. A resident of that apartment complex recently wrote to WM expressing his concern for the neighborhood. Lisa Hubbard said that she and other City of Phoenix representatives can meet with the property owners to help address these concerns.

George reported that WM’s BW Grant application for approximately \$10,000 was approved for next year. He asked for suggestions for projects we could fund with the money. He suggested cameras in the alleys. Another person suggested cameras at the ingress/egress points into the neighborhood. Officer Stevens recommended looking into the liabilities involved before committing to cameras. Another person suggested upgrading the lights in the alleys. Lisa Hubbard suggested investing in ways to help build a better community, for example, property etching events (etching identifying information on valuable possessions to deter theft). One attendee suggested purchasing property etching tools. One resident asked if the old, yellow street lights could be replaced. Lisa Hubbard said these can be reported to the City’s Streets Department and scheduled for replacement with LEDs.



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#### New Business – Various, see below

##### *General Discussion*

Brady updated us on the status of the Phoenix Tool Shed, which he describes as a “library for tools.” On February 19<sup>th</sup> Phoenix Tool Shed was recognized as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization which means donations of tools, supplies or money to the Tool Shed can be tax-deductible. The “Mobile Mini” container that will house the Tool Shed was installed on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in the alley between Roma and Turney. Brady has placed a tool order and anticipates opening in mid-May. Residents can sign up to become a Tool Shed member by going to [Phoenixtoolshed.com](http://Phoenixtoolshed.com).

Monica Sandschafer from Councilwoman Laura Pastor’s office encouraged all interested to attend the District 4 budget hearing which was to be held the next night, April 16 at 6:00 pm at the Phoenix Art Museum. Or you can submit suggestions by email to [council.district.4@phoenix.gov](mailto:council.district.4@phoenix.gov).

Pam and George briefly discussed the neighborhood's interest in the vacant lot off of Monterosa and 13<sup>th</sup> Ave, south of Mackenzie behind the paper company building. It is a retention area with several trees. Lisa Hubbard said it is okay to present ideas to the City for its use – they are looking for ideas.

Pam reminded all that the next Front Yard Friday (FYF) is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> at Carly’s home, 1325 W Roma. We are looking for volunteers for future FYFs. Pam pointed out that recent FYFs featured informal home tours and offered the suggestion that next year, WM consider holding its own “internal” home tour, just for neighbors. Carrie Dyrek will lead that effort.

Pam also reminded that the next “Coffee with a Cop” is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am at The Refuge.

Pam passed around a flyer describing an upcoming class at the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Aquaponics. Aquaponics involves the use of fish in the bottom of planting containers to supply nutrients to growing plants.

Lisa Hubbard shared with all information about the City’s mobile application for blight. It is available for both Android and iPhone, and can be downloaded for free from their respective online stores. The application is called MYPHXAZ. Using the app, a resident can take a picture of blight, add notes and send it to the City preferably from that spot (to take advantage of the phone’s GPS locating service).