

Ward Meade NIA Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2019

Mike Amis called the meeting to order at 630pm. Twenty Three people were in attendance. He reported that Deborah Edwards resigned her position as president.

Officer Matt Wilson reported on crime in the last two months and explained his crime report to the many new attendees. In our neighborhood the aggravated assault/assault cases account for about 55% of the crime. Property crime was down. Midweek evening has the most reported crimes. He advised Vehicle break ins are still extremely high throughout the city and so please continue to prevent these crimes by leaving belongings out of plain sight. A year's synopsis of crime in the neighborhood and advised that if some recent crimes were not on the report that is because the process takes time for things to be reported to the FBI and then to be included on the local report. He also reported on the issue of car windows being shot out. This is something that is affecting the whole city, not just our neighborhood. Personal video surveillance has been very helpful in assisting in tracking down the perpetrators.

Officer Mark Henley reported on code compliance. With no vegetation he has been able to do area surveys, taking it one block at a time, house by house. If he notes multiple violations the owner may receive multiple letters since each violation has its own time span and procedure, for tracking it is easier to send one letter per violation. Other issues can be weather dependent. For example paint violations will simply receive a courtesy letter informing them of the issue and giving them time to deal with the situation once weather permits.

Some things he focuses on in his job is junk cars – junk being defined as cars visibly inoperable – unregistered vehicles, sanitation, weeds and grass, unsecured homes and other health affecting issues. He stated that residents parking on the city sidewalk is illegal (their sidewalk in their yard not necessarily, but the main pass through city sidewalk is). He invited people to call him with any issues or questions and also encourages the use the See Click Fix app to report issues.

Dick Blanton reported that he turned in 31 violations to Officer Henley and if people have issues they find concerning to call him. The violations are slightly up for the month.

Marilyn McPherson reported that our balance is \$1034.30 after a \$500.00 donation from the Brennan Mathena funeral home. It is her understanding that the donation is earmarked to be given to Paul Post to go towards our legal bills. Shirley Darby made a motion to do so, Dick Blanton seconded the motion. Then the concern was raised that no member present had confirmation of the earmark so that motion was withdrawn and replaced by a motion to table writing a check to Paul Post until the new 2019 officers could communicate with Brennan Mathena and verify her wishes. That motion was made by Dawn Downing and seconded so it was decided to table the check to Paul Post until the February meeting.

Marilyn also reported that the money from the chili feed that was given to Doorstep was placed into their general fund. She read the acknowledgement letter from Doorstep to the members present.

Denise Petet reported that there was no CAC meeting in January so nothing to report.

Elizabeth Johnson was not present so there was no police liaison report.

Karen Hiller was not present so there was no city council report.

Ivan Greuter was not present so there was no West Side Baptist Church report.

Shirley Darby gave the Friends of Ward Meade report. The Sheldon Study is in its final phase and the board approved the budget for several display cases and a wall mounted TV for an informative video loop.

The school's interior has been painted and looks fresh. The exterior will be painted in the spring. The mansion porch rebuild has begun.

There is a need for gate volunteers for Tulip Time. It has been noted that few attendees donate if there is no one at the gate so a presence is helpful to encourage the fundraising. This is important since the admission fees fund the next year's purchase of bulbs.

Tulips at Twilight will feature new designs including hyacinths and crocuses. The Tulips at Twilight Uncorked has been shelved due to complications with the serving of alcohol.

The botanical garden has several new plant labels, some for new plants others to replace labels that have disappeared over the year.

Shawnee County Parks and Rec has purchased a new bandshell and it is hoped it will be used for the weekend music at Tulips at Twilight.

The old business of a Sumner update was that there was no update.

The new business of the elections occurred. Mike Amis read the requirements to hold the positions and the expectations of the positions.

Dick Blanton nominated Dawn Downing as president. Dawn accepted the nomination and there was no other candidate.

Mike Amis was nominated at Vice President. He accepted and there were no other candidates.

Shirley Darby nominated Denise Petet as secretary, she accepted and there were no other candidates.

Shirley nominated Marilyn McPherson as treasurer, she accepted and there were no other candidates.

All officers were elected by a majority voice vote with no opposing votes.

Arrangements were made to notify Neighborhood Relations of the new officers (and this occurred later that evening via email)

The meeting was adjourned at around 8pm.

Approved by: Dawn Downing Ward Meade NIA, President