SWNA Monthly Meeting

February 24, 2015

7:05pm

* Pledge of Allegiance
* Full agenda for this evening; recognizing law enforcement and elected officials in attendance.
* February Agenda approved; Lenn made the motion; James Efflandt seconded; approved
* January minutes have yet to be transcribed
* February Treasurer's report:
  + Osage balance: $ approximately $500.00
    - Josh Blick is owed $80.00 for movie expense reimbursement
  + SWNA balance: $ 660.63 as of 2/24/15
    - upcoming expenses: 501(c)(3) tax exempt #; insurance for the year
  + Lenn motioned, Tracey seconded, and motion carried
* Osage has multiple activities: Oketo, swing dance club, movie nights, & numerous activies upcoming
* Community Policing:
  + Officer Robinson, 299 Beat: suspicious characters watching kids practicing football here in the park; asked that reports be sent to him via email; be careful about approaching people in parked cars; info to gather car info, tag info, the more info the better; the football coach made contact with the suspicious individual -- people have the right to watch kids play football -- we have to be careful of who these people are; park issues, i.e., lights, potholes, are city budget issues that he'll research and get back to us; burglaries are up between hours of 11am and 1pm; knock and no answer, the doors are kicked in; if you see someone suspicious, call it in; tax time will bring out thieves looking for tax checks in the mail and new purchases made for the home; don't flash money; be wary of leaving stores after making purchases; mention of several potential drug houses within299 beat; crobinson@wichita.gov
* Officer Summerer: Robberies involving property; get models, makes, serial numbers of electronics, guns, etc. Get pictures of jewelry; make sure to note inscriptions; you know who fits in and who doesn't;
* Officer Dougherty, 13 Beat Coordinator: 2 auto thefts, older vehicles, neither been recovered; on a mission to lift fingerprints from stolen vehicles left in her beat; not successful as yet, too many smudges; 3 Hondas; if a vehicle is left in your vehicle (abandoned), contact 911 to have them check out; 3 residential burglaries - 2 of those have known suspects: electronics stolen, no witnesses, checking with pawn shops now;
  + Neighbor Virginia asked specifically about red cars being vandalized on Halloween;
  + Lenn Ball asked how long to wait to determine if a car is abandoned; Officer said act right away, don't way.
  + Josh asked about a smoke shop being robbed numerous times and was wondering whether the break ins were actually report
* Officer Kern, 24 & 27 Beats: 1 residential burglary, 3 non-residential burglaries (sheds, garages) and 3 auto thefts;
  + George Dean asked.....Do the numbers correlate to the map and report as it shows up in the Eagle? Officer Kern is not aware of how those numbers are compiled.
* Gavin Seiler, Interim Deputy Chief: Community Policing is not going away!! Will it change? Yes, enhanced community policing, may morph into intelligence-led policing. As you know it, will change, but it will not go away. Too large of investment by citizens and city. Recent activities have been the result of the need for them to be on patrol. 911 calls must be answered first, above the needs of community policing. Most patrol positions are filled, thanks to a new class of graduates. Community policing officers come from patrol, so this has to be done strategically. Also, from SCAT teams, teams that are specialized to target certain crimes, burglaries, etc. Many of these targeted areas involve repeat offenders and our goal is to put an end to their repetition.
  + Ron asked How many officers are you short? approximately 50 with those serving in the military, medical leave, etc. Calls are ranked by the order of severity of the incident report; response time also has a lot to do with what else may be going on on the streets that evening.
  + Virginia asked about the scheduling of the fire department? Totally different scheduling for the fire dept. than for the police dept. There is an overlap between all shifts except 1st and 4th. Is the City down equipment? No, not really. It's just that only so many cars are available to be on the street at a time.
  + Josh asked is there a communication breakdown between the dispatchers and the police themselves. No, it's just a matter that they have to prioritize.
  + Virginia asked about a fire on their block. Neighbors were relocated to a hotel. The house could not be locked and the house was left unattended. The news media had reported on the fire, making it apparent the house was left unattended, leaving remaining neighbors to monitor the open house for days. News media should not be able to give specific addresses.
  + Lenn asked whether a neighbor could intervene in Virginia scenario, to board up, lock up and secure a neighbor's property. This is really a fire dept. question. Councilman Clendenan said once deemed to no longer be a danger, it is the homeowners responsibility to secure the premises. Please contact one of the councilman, Case Bell or OCI for assistance.
  + Terry Langford asked whether the City still operates the Citizens Police Academy? Seiler said yes and Capt. Salcido suggested ride-alongs too. Mike Allred or Drew Syler can be contacted at 660-3810 to schedule to attend. Academy is approximately 13 weeks and includes ride alongs, City/County, jail visit, court system, etc. There is no age limits or requirements. It could be interesting for anyone of all ages.
  + Joe Moore asked.....Can cell phones be tracked if someone calls and are unable to speak? Yes, technology has developed that allows us to ping a cell phone within a certain set of cell towers.
* Capt. Salcido: meth use is driving the current crime epidemic; reviewing times, area, and what's stolen can predict upcoming crimes; 46 have been arrested since Sept. 1st; it's very organized; cigarette shops being hit, some multiple times; recording serial numbers will lead to recoveries; there's a lot more being accomplished when multiple local, county and federal agencies work together; South High area things are being stolen from people's yards for scrap metal; pawn shops = 10,000 transactions and $5M dollars; serial numbers would help to avoid stolen items being accepted at pawn shops; working closely with District Atty Marc Bennett; significant decrease in property crimes over the last 3 months since this went into effect; WPD website (maps) can be used to track crimes in your neighborhood.
  + Josh asked about 3 vacancies within community policing: Capt. Salcido said that they're in the process of trying to ensure that their community policing officers are not stretched to cover multiple areas; they're trying to balance the needs between SCAT teams and community policing. Josh said we'd love to meet the new officers once chosen so that we can address our concerns.
* City Councilman Jeff Blubaugh: District IV surveys feedback: a lot of complaints about OCI issues us as junk in areas left behind by out of state companies; homeless, stealing yard items & propane; speeding on 27th & Kellogg; street issues (Bennett) and looking into a pilot program; communicate with social media & weekly emails; District IV breakfast on March 14th at Spears;
  + Virginia asked about things that are allowed to be done on a person's property. If a complaint is filed, does someone get sent out? Dale Williams is usually sent out to investigate. Virginia wants to know why neighbors are relied on to complain on their neighbors. Case stated that there's not enough employees to patrol the city for these kind of violations. Virginia stated that it's the City's responsibility to enforce their own ordinances and it shouldn't be up to neighbors to report each other. Jeff answered that if City employees are out and observe something in violation they pursue that and don't leave it up to the neighbors to report. James Clendenan stated that if you have inspectors abusing their power, report it to your city councilman.
  + Josh asked about who makes decisions about short staffing issues. Jeff says City is living within their budget. The City Manager has cut our budget razor thin. Budget has stayed flat and has not increased at all. Inspections are only done on those complaints reported. There's not enough inspectors to pursue any violations above and beyond those.
* City Councilman James Clendenan: New airport opening that's over 1/2 paid for; April will be open house, come check it out! Staff issues with police: 30 new officers, were 80 short at one point. 6-9 months from the time of starting academy to getting out in own patrol car; department just went through a series of retirements; WPD assessment on wichita.gov banner page talks about changes in preparation for new Police Chief;
  + George Dean complained about having to disembark an airplane down stairs onto the tarmac, cross to the terminal, and then climb a flight of stairs to get into the terminal. James said there will be plenty of jetways for all providers and will be totally ADA compliant. Both councilmen would be willing to set up tours of the new airport if you're interested.
  + Virginia offered praise for the Pawnee & Lulu area, replacing sidewalks, removing trees, fixing curbs & drives, etc.
* SWNA election of officers: Introduction of those on the ballot who were present
* Jeff Blubaugh: Candidate for re-election to City Council; passed out election materials
* Lenn Ball: Neighborhood clearnup: August 15th; we must get the word out to neighbors in the boundaries of the SWNA regarding the locations, the items that can be collected, etc.
  + Josh shared there will be a new route for the packer truck and that elderly neighbors can make arrangements to get their things picked up if they'll contact us. Of course, volunteers will be needed.
* Crystal is the head of the Osage Committee. She couldn't be here tonight but feel free to contact her if you have a need to use the center, family reunions, church gatherings, etc.
* Announcement of 2015 - 2017 Officers:
  + President Joshua Blick
  + Vice President Brandon Whipple
  + Secretary Martha Pint
  + Treasurer Marjorie Griffith
  + Members-At-Large: Myrle McCullough, James Efflandt, & Terry Langford
  + McCormick Representative: Lenn Ball
* Case Bell: Flood plains meetings: District IV's will be on April 6th and District III's will be on March 4th. Also, if you're elderly or disabled, or know someone who is, if your home needs some attention, contact Case re: Love Wichita.
* Meeting adjourned: 9:10.