SWNA Monthly Meeting

April 28, 2015

7:00pm

* Pledge of Allegiance - Our flag was donated by Virginia
* SWNA Meeting questionnaire: Attendees can ask questions of community policing officers and then they can provide answers at the following month's meeting; 7 beats with lots of questions
* April Agenda approved; Lenn made the motion; Brandon seconded; approved
* March minutes not yet posted on website but hard copies available tonight; Martha and Josh will work on getting all minutes posted directly on the website; Lenn motioned; Terri seconded; approved
* March Treasurer's report: Marjorie provided the Treasurer's report;
  + Osage balance: $ 251.11; upcoming expense of $200 to obtain FEIN;
  + SWNA balance: $ 563.74; upcoming expense of $200 to obtain FEIN; maintenance fee
  + $923.62 is the annual insurance premiums and it's being paid on a monthly basis; this is currently an Osage expense but Basketball Express has expressed an interest in taking on this expense as they are enjoying the use of the facility.
  + Martha asked about the low balance in the Osage account; Josh shared about the availability to rent Osage.
  + Treasuers report approved
* Community Policing
  + Officer Robinson
    - Contacted about safety of Osage park users: printed map showing incidents located in Osage: 2 actually in Osage Rec Center; others in area include assaults, simple burglaries, liquor violations, etc.
    - Summer's coming so crime will likely seek an uptake. WPD will be doing warrant sweeps to help reduce crime.
    - Use of the park facilities (ball diamonds): Kids can't be old enough that they're jacking the ball out of the park and into neighbor's houses. None reported thus far this year. Robert Perez asked about whether the baseball teams rent the fields from the City like his football team does. Officer Robinson said yes they do but the problem that does not assign a specific area of the park to each team. Multiple teams not being assigned specific areas can create conflict between teams, parents, and coaches. Robert stated that he's definitely found people doing things in the park that they shouldn't be doing. Officer Robinson said to definitely call but Robert indicated people are gone by time police arrive.
  + Officer Douty
    - 13 beat
    - April: huge decrease in crime across the board: 2 auto theft; 7 residential burglaries; convenience store at Murdock and Meridian robbed
    - Currently doing a property crime rotation with another officer on the Westside of Wichita; also, drug/meth arrests to see if there are any links between what they're seeing happening on the Southside; rotation will last approx. 6 months; still available and if needed, contact Josh; Kellogg to May & Arkansas River to Meridian
  + Officer Roets
    - 28 & 29 beats
    - increased auto larceny; usually about stealing something from inside the car; be aware of your surroundings & who might see what you're leaving in your car
    - 5 auto thefts
    - 4 burglaries; 1 could be drug related; other 3 were probably where the suspects were known by victim
    - green sticker on cars in the street; inoperable cars must be moved w/i 48 hours;
    - also responsible for 911 calls, auto accidents, domestics, etc.
    - left business cards with contact info; Josh has contact info; can leave msg. at station but not often there; constantly checking email throughout the day
    - working with SCAT about a couple of drug houses
    - working with City Inspectors about a couple of houses who need attention
    - local media puts out pretty comparable information to what the WPD sees
  + Officer Johnson
    - 28 & 29 beats
    - Men: Warm weather invites open garage doors: bad idea
    - Ladies: Quick Trip filling your car and leaving your purse in the front seat while filling up and the window's down: bad idea
    - Call 911 if you have issues, just remember your call will be prioritized just like at the doctor's office; Terri asked about call Patrol South directly and the answer was yes at 350-3440 or 350-3460
    - If your question is specific to your beat, leave a msg. for you community policing officer
  + Brandon Whipple, State Representative
    - Returning tomorrow to session
    - Budget deficit: more going out than is coming in; Governor's tax plan (sin tax) still would not cover deficit; also, would create a new avenue for organized crime; Native Americans do not pay taxes on cigarettes; doesn't see the Governor's plan leaving committee; increased sales tax is being considered as an alternative but the problem is that ours is already one of the highest in the area and one of the highest on food in the nation; currently is 6.5% at the state level, plus what individual counties and cities add; Wichita currently at 7.15%; Hall talk is currently about changes to income/estate taxes; Terri asked about doing away with sales tax on food products and Brandon said in the past it's always been a dead issue but likes the idea of certain groups being eligible for sales tax rebates, i.e., single parents, elderly, etc. but it's going to require a much more booming economy
    - Cell # to reach Brandon is 316-290-9447
  + Janet Johnson, Supervisor for Office of Community Engagement
    - City no longer gets the tax money from the state that it used to
    - Park lights frustration: $200,000 to repair and doesn't include the money to pay the bill; City cannot justify the teams need for 10 days of use; City Mgr. Layton will not justify the expense
    - Left business cards with contact info
    - Josh asked about a reserve fund to cover repairs/maintenance. Janet said that City is bad about maintaining what we have, but if this is something you're passionate about neighbors should show up at the boring budget meetings and have their say.
    - Josh asked Robert about whether the Gators actually only use the facility lights 10 days a year. Robert said they choose to limit the number of days, excluding tournaments, and the time of day until 8 or 8:30. Regular season ends about the 2nd week of November. Virginia asked about how many lights are involved and what if a company were to donate services/materials to fix the lights? Janet said she'd coordinate a meeting with the City to see if this is a feasible answer. Josh suggested that Jeff Blubaugh wasn't interested in seeing the Gators stay and that they could relocate to Goddard if they wanted to play indoors. Bryan Frye with City Parks has suggested to Josh that there is a fund available to take care of such unforeseen expenses. The Budget Office will come to the DAB meetings individually .... District IV should be May or June. Capital Improvement program will be at District IV on Monday, May 4th at 6:30pm. This is where they talk about big money layouts for streets, infrastructure, parks, libraries, etc. Mark Manning does the presentations and we need more neighbors to show up and tell them we want the Osage lights added to the list.
    - Virginia asked whether Forestry was part of City Parks. Janet said yes and Virginia asked about why they've stopped maintaining the trees growing into the power lines. Janet said it all has to do with funding.
    - Terri asked about trash services and why they can service the same block 4 different days of the weeks. Janet said, again, it's all about funding.
  + Dave Barber, City of Wichita, Community Invest Plan
    - Funding/Financing, Transportation, Water/Sewer/Stormwater, Arts/Culture/Recreation, & Public Safety
    - Attendees were asked to complete a survey, providing feedback that will be given to the City Council
* Josh again mentioned the questionnaire that was available to leave questions for our city/county/state officials.
* Newsletter is available. If you're interested in getting them out to those on your block let us know. We need more neighbors for a stronger voice.
* James Clendenin: Will follow up on the issue with the City and the lights.
* Meeting adjourned.