SWNA Monthly Meeting

September 23, 2014

7:05pm

* Pledge of Allegiance
* September Agenda approved; Martha made the motion; Brandon seconded
* No August meeting so there was no August Minutes to approve;
* August Treasurer's report:
  + Osage balance: $628.46
  + SWNA balance: $660.51
  + Lenn asked about the amount that came in as a result of the clean-up
  + Lenn motioned to approve the report; his wife, seconded; none opposed
* Discussion of SWNA's partnership with KETCH; each group maintains their own funds
* Community policing
  + Officer Robinson:
    - Decrease in burglaries
    - A couple of purse snatches
    - With the nice fall weather neighbors cannot let down their guard. They must continue to be vigilant about leaving things outside, unattended.
  + Officer Kern:
    - 2 burglaries
    - Things are still being stolen from inside of peoples cars. Don't leave anything visible inside your car unless you want it broken in to.
  + Officer Douty:
    - 8 burglaries and 6 of those were done through side- or back-windows; targeting electronics, gaming systems, stereos, etc. WPD has received a tip that there may be a couple of brothers who are paying kids to break into homes and they're splitting the take; that's under investigation.
    - Also, cars are being broken into and contents being stolen; this happened at Champs Bar on S. Seneca and West High School
    - There's a new sports bar opening at Harry and Meridian; Officer Douty has bet with the new owners and they seem legitimate.
  + George Dean asked about whether there's been an increase in churches having their outside copper stolen. Officer Douty said the previous weekend outside copper was stolen from Woodman Elementary. Dean asked about whether there was a law that required businesses to question anyone coming in to sell large quantities of copper how the seller had come by it. Officer Douty said they're required to provide a driver's license. Officer Robinson offered that some of the thieves are taking the copper to Oklahoma to get rid of it because they can get 4 times as much for it. Lenn Ball said that a church at McCormick and Glenn had been affected.
  + If it looks suspicious, call 911. If you want to find out what's happened tell 911 when you call that you want to be contacted.
  + Renters insurance is a good idea for landlords.
  + Josh made available some magnets from the Kansas Attorney General's office with a # to contact for the Consumer Protection Division if citizens have questions about scams.
* Jeff Blubaugh, City Councilman, District 4
  + Emphasis on public safety
    - ride-along with WPD
    - Josh and Jeff both also recommended attending the Citizens Police and/or Fire Academies which include an 8-10 week training course and ride-alongs
  + City's recent meeting with County and National Guard re: cross-training law enforcement officers facility; Lenn Ball asked whether we are currently using a joint training center for law enforcement for the City & County; Jeff said that the City is working on trying to determine what makes the most sense right now, whether a separate facility, or something combined with the County.
  + Chili Cook Off this upcoming weekend
  + DAB Meeting
  + October 18th will be the next District breakfast; location to be announced; may included presentation re: 1% sales tax increase
  + South Side CommUNITY Day: October 11th at Watson Park;
* James Clendenin, City Councilman, District 3
  + Questioned by a neighbor about who's responsible for the cost of replacing faulty water lines
  + What can be done about barking dogs? After 10pm, barking dogs are considered to be a violation of the noise ordinance and you can contact 911 or James.
  + A lot being discussed right now about how neighborhoods are having their mail service moved from the door to the curb or cluster boxes. The City is working with neighborhoods to deal with problem animals to avoid this happening because usually once it happens, it can't be reversed. James has also asked for help on this issue from Senator Moran as he sits on a committee dealing with USPS. James believes the USPS is moving the boxes due to financial issues as much as anything.
  + James' cell phone is 316-519-9418
* Case Bell, Community Liaison for Districts 3 & 4
  + South Side CommUNITY Day: October 11th at OJ Watson Park from 11am - 1pm
    - Flyer provided
  + Sign up to get on the District's recently updated newsletter
  + In October or November the District will be holding a community meeting to address the ongoing and upcoming issues/activities re: the South YMCA
* Brandon Whipple, State Representative
  + Just a reminder, it's political season so canvassers will be showing up at your door:
    - Don't invite them in
    - They should wear identification, badges or shirts, identifying the candidate that they're representing.
    - Also, regarding political mailings.....Don't believe everything you read. Candidates often don't even know if there are other groups mailing things out supposedly on the candidate's behalf.
* Guest Speakers on the 1% Sales Tax Increase
  + John Rolph: YesWichita, In favor
  + Jennifer Baysinger: Coalition for a Better Wichita, Opposed
* Senior Expo
  + This coming Thursday at Botannica, Expo Hall, and the Art Museum
* Natalie Aramburu, Osage Rec Center
  + Gave a brief overview of the Osage Calendar and the multiple uses for the facility
  + Stated that effective October 1st, unless she receives help, she'll be resigning her position as the Osage chair because it's fallen on her and Josh to make sure the facility is opened and closed every day.
    - Looking for volunteers to help open and/or close?
      * Marjorie Griffith agreed to cover 1 day a week
* Josh announced that SWNA treasurer, Chris Hoppman, has resigned.
  + George Dean nominated Marjorie Griffith to fill the position. All were in favor and Josh said they'd need to go with Chris to get the necessary paperwork done at the bank.
* Meeting adjourned at 9pm.