

Minutes from Community Council Meeting 4-10-14

Hello Everyone!

I hope you had a fantastic Easter weekend! :)

Following are the minutes from the last Community Council Meeting:

** Welcome: Candy Caballero

** Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

** Multimedia Presentation by Candy Caballero on Disaster Preparedness:

- FEMA Video on being prepared. Focused on the fact that people were saved by their neighbors calling and texting and banging on their doors to warn them of approaching storms. This video also highlighted the need to have family emergency drills to help everyone know what to do in case of an emergency.

- NPR Radio Report. Highlighted that neighbors play a decisive roll in keeping people safe during and after disasters. Individuals who are tied into their community know where to get help and what resources are available close to home. Neighbors regularly help save more people than EMS. After a disaster neighbors are like family. COMMUNITIES ARE THE SUM OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS.

- "Are You Ready?" - Neighbors Helping Neighbors video: Everyone is urged to be self-sustaining for up to 5 days. It may take several hours/days/weeks to get outside help. Hold neighborhood meetings and get information, skillsets, occupations as a resource list in the event of an emergency. The most important thing is to get to know your neighbors.

In the country right now we are facing a lack of trust in just about everything - but it's critical that we get to know and trust our neighbors.

Some quick and easy ways to get to know our neighbors are:

1. Block Parties.
2. Step up as a block captain and start a neighborhood watch.
3. Have a neighborhood meeting.

- NHN Training Video "How to be a Block Captain". Keep the meeting to an hour. Use a spreadsheet for people to fill out with their information. Have pamphlets available and serve refreshments. Have it in your home so people can feel comfortable and welcome there.

VIDEO "The First 3 Minutes Following a Disaster". This quick and informative video explained the things you will need (shoes, socks, flashlight, gloves, whistle) and suggested that you keep them in a plastic bag tied under your bed to your bedpost. That way they're easy to find and will be at your fingertips should the need arise.

There are also more informative videos along these lines including the first 3: hours, days, weeks, months.

Gary Caballero has developed a map of our neighborhood where you can just click on a house and see the name of the family that lives there and any special needs they may have. It would be great to get the entire map filled out to use as a resource in our neighborhoods in case of an emergency.

** Dialogue on Crime Incidents in our Neighborhood:

Most of the victims of break-ins lately seems to have been "staked out". The bad guys knew their routine, age, if they had electronics in the house, etc. What if our enemy knows us & our neighbors better than we do? Knowing your neighbors is so important.

Candy told a story of a time when she was living in Idaho and just happened to notice that the front door of a house that was being newly built down the street was open. She phoned the police and it just happened that the appliances had been installed that very day and some robbers were there to steal them.

It's not being nosy - we're just trying to form a tight-knit community instead of everyone being in their own little "micro-cells" and not knowing what's going on.

Candy suggested that it's important to keep this dialogue up each month so we can keep track of the crime trends in our neighborhood and to think about ways we can prevent crimes. She thought it would be interesting if we could log all of the crimes and see if there was a pattern or trend. (time of day, items stolen, site of entry, etc)

A discussion was then had on how we can possibly get this data. The crimes would have to be reported to the police. There is a website www.crimereports.com where you can type in your address and see the most updated recently reported crimes and sex offenders in our neighborhood.

The city council has had some reports given in their meetings about crime statistics and trends. Candy will ask Detective Lloyd if we can get access to this data to share at community council meetings as well.

Marcy noticed that Callaway apartments has a sign for Neighborhood Watch in their parking lot. We need to find out if they have an organized group over there as renters are 85% more likely to be burgled than homeowners.

Homework:

1. Find out if they have an active Neighborhood Watch in Callaway.
2. Can we get access to crime statistics in our neighborhood.
3. Can we put Gary's map online so its accessible to everyone? Then we can go in and update and see which areas need block captains - or if someone moves in and is wondering who their block captain is, they'll be able to see it on the map w/ contact information.
4. Concentrate on organizing block parties in the areas of our community so neighbors can start the process of getting to know each other and developing a trusting relationship.

Refreshments and Mingle: Candy made the most delicious strawberry rhubarb cheesecake! Thank you Candy!! It was amazing! :)

Next month's meeting will be on Thursday, May 8th - 7:00 pm at the YMCA. We hope to see you there! :)

Thank you so much,

Candy

Marcy

Michelle