

Culver Crest Neighborhood Association

Minutes of the General Meeting, January 15, 2015

Board Members Present: Suzanne De Benedittis, Antoine Durr, Howard Lichtman, Wena Dows, Ron Ostrin, Kyle Jones, Mike Bauer
Board Members Not Present: John Romanak, Rich Kissel
Board Advisors Present: John Kuechle

1. Call to order: 7:09pm, approx. 25 people in attendance
 - a. Board members introduced themselves
 - b. Ron: acknowledge board members continuing on as well as board members not continuing on
2. Minutes: none available
3. Treasurers report
 - a. Balance is \$2270.29
 - b. \$1500 minimum balance is fee threshold
 - c. We foresee expenditures
 - d. Account used to hover around \$8000 when we had many simultaneous hot-button issues, e.g. oil fields, WLAC
 - e. We put a hiatus on asking people to pay dues, but have plans now so we are looking to restore reserve fund
4. Neighborhood watch:
 - a. Sgt. William Jackson, filling in for Lt. Sims
 - b. 310/253-6262 is Sgt. Jackson's direct line
 - c. On department for over 19 years
 - d. Most recently in operations, day watch and morning watch
 - e. Transferred into traffic bureau, closely with Lt. Sims
 - f. No news from crime standpoint on Crest in last month (December)
 - g. Burglary problem a good while back, but have added extra patrols so nothing lately
 - h. Different rings were operating, but they have been shut down and arrested
 - i. Didn't have percentage over the last 12 months, statistics are only for month of December
 - j. Cars in driveway? If not, then knock on driveway; if no answer, then check doors in back yard; if necessary break window
 - k. If there's someone you don't recognize, call, and the CCPD will find and speak with them
 - l. Q: would a burglar alarm deter?
 - m. A: yes, but it's not a failsafe system; lines not cut in most cases; cut shrubberies to prevent access without being visible
 - n. Q: did you get any video from homeowners

- o. A: most calls came from residents seeing someone and identifying them
 - p. Q: do they avoid houses that have dogs?
 - q. A: in most cases, it's yet another deterrent, but not a fail-safe
 - r. Q: any part of the city having an upswing in crime?
 - s. A: a lot over the mall over the holidays;
 - t. Honda Element and Cadillac Escalades have had their catalytic converters targeted
5. Emergency Prep
- a. Ron: in the last year or two, CCNA has focused on e-prep,
 - b. 3 subcommittees were formed, anniversary e-prep, purchasing committee
 - c. Accomplishments: mapped the Crest, assigned an e-prep captain to each of the 20 blocks, 7 were ham operator trained, ? took CERT training, CCNA purchased 20 first-aid kits, each e-prep captain issued a training material, skills/equipment survey and database
 - d. e-prep captains trained to deal with their own homes first, then with neighbors, then to help first responders
 - e. Lugo way designated as triage center
 - f. walkie-talkie radios purchased and tested
 - g. 9 e-prep captains participated in great shake-out
 - h. CCNA party w/100 people, e-prep tables and information
 - i. We're still not satisfied, want to:
 - i. Create new subcommittee to advise the CCNA
 - ii. do roving neighborhood awareness
 - iii. create micro-cells to learn where your neighbor's gas shutoff is, etc.
 - j. a lot of the work is done by subcommittees,
 - k. call to sign up
 - l. Suzanne:
 - i. Used training from a FEMA expert, after Loma Prieta earthquake
 - ii. first hour after disaster is golden hour; critical that you get help
 - iii. only 18 firemen on duty in CC at any time, 200k people in the city
 - iv. system where you get to know your neighbors on the street
 - v. 20 families max, that may even be too much
 - vi. everyone runs into street, natural instinct, program capitalizes on that!
 - vii. 54 minutes of training is all it takes
 - viii. did upper Northgate in 2 meetings
 - ix. e.g. check your gas shutoff, check your immediate neighbors, then your wider neighbors
 - x. gathering place, and a safe place where you gather kids
 - xi. able bodied go to gathering place

- xii. 15 minute drill is all that's needed
- xiii. the walkie-talkies help with comm. to lugo way, and to Lindbergh park (district 3)
- xiv. beauty is it draws neighborhood together
- xv. sign up and join the program and get your street trained!
- m. acknowledgement of Marycrest Manor sisters in being part of e-prep
- n. might need centralized supplies, they're willing to host a shed on their property

6. Elections

- a. Call for additional nominees
 - i. Current nominees are Margarita Chie, Rob Greenspan, Troy Jackson, Vivian Lesny, Jill McKeon
- b. Self introductions:
 - i. Margarita Chie, 21 year resident of Crest, now retired, block captain on Youngworth
 - ii. Ron Greenspan, on Crest since '75, Mar Vista before that, member of finance committees, El Rincon Elementary, AYSO, etc.
 - iii. Troy Jackson, new member of neighborhood for 2 years, Cranks Rd. worked with neighbors to do improvements do put utility lines underground
 - iv. Vivian Lesny, new to crest in March, in CC since birth at Brotman!
 - v. Jill McKeon, 20 years in Crest, previously a board member, would like to contribute in any way possible
- c. Nominations from the floor
 - i. None
- d. Non-returning board members: Wena Dows, Suzanne De Benedittis, Ron Ostrin, Mike Bauer, Kyle Jones
- e. Motion: Ron Ostrin: to vote for entire slate of 5, 2nd by Wena Dows; Passed with clear majority
- f. Vote on slate of 5: passes unanimously
 - i. New board members are: Margarita Chie, Ron Greenspan, Troy Jackson, Vivian Lesny, Jill McKeon

7. West L.A. College

- a. John Kuechle:
- b. WLAC is going to develop 10100 Jefferson lot that has new access road to college
- c. meeting with CC and Raintree and CCNA
- d. goal to find developer in 2015, office and ground floor restaurants
- e. settlement agreement requires them to coordinate with Raintree and Culver Crest, but on this particular issue, John feels that it's really a Raintree issue

8. Oil Fields:

- a. 90% in LA County, 10% in CC, ordinance created advisory panel

- b. meeting week from tonight, presentation by NRDC on report they published r.e. fracking be suspended until more is known about its impact
 - c. have not done any fracking yet except for 2 test wells to judge impact on community
 - d. those wells were so unsuccessful economically that general thinking is that they won't be doing any fracking anytime soon
 - e. current price of oil not helpful
 - f. stopped new drilling last May, haven't drilled any since, expect
 - g. Q: some residents are ready for sound wall to come down
 - h. A: college willing to take it down if there's agreement, but there's disagreement between different sections of Northgate
 - i. Q: is there agreement from all of Northgate, or is it feasible to take down part of it
 - j. A: need to find out
9. Acknowledgements by Ron, for Suzanne, Wena, Ron, Kyle, and Mike, for their contributions; Acknowledgement by Suzanne, for other members of Crest, e-prep, culvercrest.nextdoor.com, etc.
10. Call to adjourn: 8:04pm