

GWCA Membership Meeting – Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Larry opened the meeting at 7:30.

Agenda:

- 2015 Election of Officers
- Treasurer's Report
- Invited Speakers: Captain Darrin Day, Commander of the Mount Vernon police station and MPO Robert Urps, the Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) in the Mount Vernon Police district
- GWCA.nextdoor.com membership
- General announcements and updates

2015 Elections: President, Larry Dempsey; Vice President, Parry Carlson; Secretary, Monica Rodgers; Treasurer, Paula Sutherland. The first three were reelected; the fourth was elected to a first term as Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report: The current bank balance is \$8,814.08. Larry reviewed the list of expenses since last September.

Invited Speakers: Mt. Vernon Police Captain Darrin Day spoke about the recent crimes in our area.

- Homicide on North Kings Hwy: It took some time with forensic evidence and detective work, but two people have been charged as of today. Two others are cooperating with the investigation. It was a home invasion involving a drug deal. Those arrested were from MD and DC.
- Shots fired incident a few weeks later: Captain Day stated that this was directly related to the home invasion. He emphasized that these are isolated incidents in the community involving people from other areas.
- Fast Eddie's incident: there was very recently a shooting late one night/early morning in the parking lot. The shooting victim was a confirmed gang member. Again, this was an isolated incident with two rival gangs, at least one of which is a Woodbridge gang. Someone asked if Fast Eddie's ABS license could be revoked. That seems uncertain. The Captain says there are plans to demolish the center; there was some disagreement among attendees as to whether that is still the plan. One member stated that there are plans to put in a Goodwill store there. None of this could be confirmed.
- Captain Day stated that our general area (district) is the busiest in terms of calls to police. He attributes it mostly to the proximity of the two other jurisdictions (DC and MD), and the ease of travel with the beltway and the bridge so close by.
- There were questions and discussion on the following subjects: the robbery on Telegraph Rd. and suspicious people knocking on doors targeting vulnerable people. The officers responded with their common advice: if you see something suspicious and are concerned, please call them! We are their eyes and ears because they cannot be everywhere at once. There are more of us than of them.
- One attendee introduced herself as a resident of the community near N Kings Hwy and Fort Dr. She inquired about the muggings that have occurred there recently, as well as whether the empty Metro police station area will be patrolled more. The police responded that the

muggings have stopped since the arrest in the home invasion. They also put in decoy patrols, requested better lighting, and more. Hopefully those incidents have stopped for good.

- Officer Urps explained the concept of a passive neighborhood watch, in which there are people in neighborhoods who have agreed to be hyper vigilant and to be the point of contact for the CPO. They will call the police if they see anything strange or receive calls from neighbors, who know to call that point of contact. This person funnels the information to the CPO. One gentleman from Jefferson Manor described the “Broken Windows” program they use, which is the same idea. It has worked very well. They communicate regularly on social media and keep each other informed.
- The police officers discussed the frequent incidents with K2 Spice being sold at the tobacco store at Rt 1 and Sacramento. It makes people act very irrationally. Apparently there are plans to open another one near the Huntington metro post office. The attendees discussed options for keeping them out.

Nextdoor.com: The current membership in GWWCA.nextdoor.com has grown even more since September: We now have 390 members (up from 335) in 310 households (up from 274) out of 999 total households. Next Door is a very useful tool for residents. It has been used to advertise yard sales, sales of individual personal household items, conveying information about suspicious activities in the area, and updates on development projects that affect the neighborhood, to name a few. Spread the word!

General announcements and updates:

1. Larry showed a map of the membership area with notations of recent crime in our area, designating what type of crime occurred in what areas.
2. National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4, 2015, 6:30-9:00, at the GWWCA Memorial Garden. All are welcome!
3. The most likely new traffic pattern to be implemented at School and N Kings Hwy was discussed. Larry showed a slide with the plan.
4. Although this is not an official announcement from GWWCA, a Jefferson Manor resident attending the meeting mentioned that the new Huntington Farmer’s market will be open every Thursday, 3-7, through the summer—good news.

The GWWCA Board held its first drawing designed to encourage new attendees. Three lucky people won \$15 gift certificates to Grounded Coffee.

For any GWWCA-related inquiries, Larry can be reached at gwwca.president@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and welcome to all new and prospective members. The meeting adjourned at 8:42.

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 15, 2015. Supervisor Jeff McKay will be our invited speaker.