

GWWCA Membership Meeting – Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Larry opened the meeting at 7:30.

Agenda:

- Treasurer's report
- Status of GWWCA.nextdoor.com membership
- Detective from Ffx Cty financial crimes
- General announcements and updates

Treasurer's Report. Bank balance as of 5/20/14: \$8709.63. Larry provided details of expenses since late February.

Current membership in GWWCA.nextdoor.com: 289 members, 245 households, 999 potential total household members. This 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.

Tom Polhemus, investigator of FF CTY financial crimes, visited and spoke to the group. He shared very useful information. Below are some main points:

- There are fifteen detectives in the financial crimes unit
- Since there are so many cases, they generally investigate the cases that are deemed most likely to be solved. They tend to get involved in serial cases as well.
- ID theft is very common
- Tom passed out very helpful information on reviewing credit reports, opting out of receiving preapproved credit applications, etc.
- Tips:
 - Notify your bank within 60 days of receipt of your statement if you see signs of fraud, and the bank will replace the money.
 - Do not put outgoing mail with checks or other valuable items into your mailbox; theft from mailboxes is very common. A check can be stolen and all identifying information for bank accounts can be obtained for fraudulent actions. **Online banking is actually safer.**
 - Monitor your accounts regularly.
 - Magnetic stripe recorders and readers: these are devices that can be used to record the info on your credit card and then put onto another card for someone to use. It requires no skill and is cheap to buy. It has been used by waiters in restaurants, but also on top of ATMs in the area. It can be spotted if you take a closer look at an ATM before using it.
 - The US will be changing over to credit cards with a computer chip instead of a magnetic stripe sometime in 2015; however, this will present expenses to businesses to change over the devices that read and process the cards, particularly smaller businesses.
 - The Russian mob is most often the perpetuator in these crimes.
 - Counterfeit IDs are easy to make and difficult to stop, especially if it is a driver's license from another state

General announcements and updates:

- LDACO Meeting 5/28/14 7:30 pm at Lee District Government center. Topic: how real estate assessments are determined.

School St sidewalk: the last stretch began today (5/20). The scheduled completion is sometime this summer. Insight's development is scheduled to be complete by September 1, and one of the proffers is to complete the sidewalk before any units can be rented.

School St traffic calming project: Resident and School St. traffic calming task force member James Sullivan provided an update to the membership. There will be two tables and a hump. The proposed speed tables will be at 2802/2803 School St and at 3001/3002 School St. The hump will be at 2818/2819 School St. The ballots will go out to residents soon. For the traffic calming devices to be approved for installation, 60% of the votes must be in favor.

General discussion of traffic calming followed, including VDOT regulations, feedback on calming devices' effectiveness, and the traffic problems in the neighborhood.

One Kings: The development at the old Shopper's location is scheduled to begin 2015. They are looking for a grocer. Final plans have not yet been presented to county yet. Leases with some existing businesses still go until 2016. Combined Properties, the owner, has not been very communicative with the community.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 23, 2014.