

GWCA Membership Meeting – Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Larry opened the meeting at 7:32.

Agenda:

- Treasurer's report
- Phone book
- GWCA.nextdoor.com membership
- Sergeant Dan Pang, School resource Officer
- General announcements and updates

Treasurer's Report. Bank balance as of 5/20/14: \$7,490.57. Larry provided details of expenses since last May.

The GWCA Board voted and approved a donation to the Mt. Eagle PTO to help with school supplies.

Membership Phone Books: Larry is having a difficult time with the formatting and asked for technical assistance. A member volunteered to help. Thank you!

Current membership in GWCA.nextdoor.com: 325 members, 265 households, 999 potential total household members. This is a significant increase from the May meeting. 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.

Sergeant Dan Pang, School Resource Officer (SRO) presented on the SRO program in FCPS. Here are some details:

- 51 SROs, 19 of whom Sergeant Pang supervises (including Edison and Mark Twain)
- When he came to the program from patrol, he was surprised how busy this part of the department is.
- The school is the officer's "patrol" area.
- Stolen phones, "sexting," and marijuana possession are the three most common
- SROs conduct various classes on such topics as gang awareness, cyber safety, and drinking and driving
- SROs sometimes work on cases of planned violence in schools
- Every August there is a weeklong "SRO school," which includes tactical training in a high school.
- Fairfax County is a terrorist target, so SROs are trained in antiterrorism strategies as well.
- Trends: the internet has completely changed what kids do, see, and hear.
- Cigarette use is down, but marijuana is as common as ever. Heroin has made a comeback. Prescription pill abuse is very common. ADHD meds are sold illegally; cough syrup is drunk to get high.

General announcements and updates:

Prescription drug drop off at Franconia Police Station on September 27, 2014, 10:00-2:00.

Suspicious person sightings in Ivanhoe area. If you see something strange, take note and call the police non-emergency number to report it!

School St. Traffic calming: installation of traffic calming is anticipated this fall.

The Shelby is now renting. There are 240 units: 12 studio apartments, 144 one bedroom apartments, and 84 2 bedroom apartments.

Combined Properties update. They are interested in getting a Fresh Market grocery store and a fast food establishment. The façade of Zips will be upgraded. Demolition target date is October 2015. Expected completion date is between April and October 2017.

Springfield Mall Phase 1 is scheduled to open in October. This will include the entire enclosed mall area.

Wegman's is scheduled to open in January 2015.

Larry can be reached at gwwca.president@gmail.com.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 18, 2014. Larry hopes to have someone from the Koinonia Foundation.