

GWCA Membership Meeting – Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Larry opened the meeting at 7:32.

Agenda:

- Treasurer's report
- Phone book
- GWCA.nextdoor.com membership
- Robert Petitti, Executive Director of The Koinonia Foundation, Inc.
- General announcements and updates

Treasurer's Report. Bank balance as of 11/18/14: \$7,473.22. Larry provided details of expenses since last September.

Membership Phone Books: Larry is finalizing these.

GWCA Elections: Elections will be held at the February meeting. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Larry at GWCA.President@gmail.com. All are welcome!

The current membership in GWCA.nextdoor.com has grown even more since September: 335 members in 274 households out of 999 potential total household members. 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!

Robert Petitti, Executive Director of The Koinonia Foundation, Inc., spoke at the meeting. Koinonia is a nonprofit emergency services provider in the Franconia area. It has been in the community for fifty years. It is the smallest charity organization that receives county funding. Koinonia provides job counseling, food and clothing assistance, assistance with bills such as for medicines or utilities, and even buys bikes for needy kids. The name is Greek for "community of caring." Koinonia works with many other charity organizations in the community.

Robert works with his staff (which includes a social worker) to determine what assistance families need most. Last year, the organization helped 950 families. Nall's Produce donates food to Koinonia regularly. Robert stated that the organization can always use volunteers, and he passed out information on the types of help needed. You may also contact them at <http://koinoniacares.org>.

General announcements and updates:

"Slow Down" Neighborhood Campaign. If you want a sign, call Sarah Hughes in Jeff McKay's office at 703-971-6262. The goal of this campaign is to raise the awareness of drivers when they are speeding through neighborhoods.

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.

The Shelby apartment building is hosting a Holiday Open House & Mary Thonen Highway Beautification Awards Ceremony. It is on Wednesday, December 3, from 4-7 pm. All are invited. Please RSVP to www.sfdc.org.

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is providing holiday meals to the police and fire departments again this year. Please contact Mary McCutchen, at 703-960-2276 or sammccutch@aol.com, if you can provide a contribution.

Verizon Wireless has filed an application to place a wireless tower behind Twain Middle School. Twain will directly receive some of the rental income, and the rest will go directly to FCPS. For more information, and to view photos of the potential view of the pole from various nearby locations, go to www.marktwainwirelesspole.com.

Combined Properties update. Melissa Lakey, GWWCA Neighborhood Liaison, received confirmation late today (11/18/14) that a Fresh Market grocery store is going in to the development.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Happy holidays to all.