

HNP Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Greg Ajemian opened the meeting on February 19, 2008, at 7:05 pm at the Mansfield Bible Church in room 205. Approximately 25 people were present.

Pastor Greg Buckles of the Mansfield Bible Church stated that the church operation at this Logan/ Country Club location is about six months along and the congregation has doubled since moving in. He was glad to offer his facilities to serve the HNP meetings and appreciated the work of the HNP patrol that includes the church property. He is working on having parking stickers for vehicles that are using the church parking lots such that the HNP patrollers will know if vehicles parked near the church late at night belong there. Regarding church activities, there are a number of them that could be attractive for our residents. On Sunday afternoons from 4-6pm, the church has an AWANA program for children from 3 years old to 6th grade that encourages the kids to memorize bible verses, has a game time and a time to listen to a testimony of someone from the community tell about faith in their area of work. We have men's basketball on Thursday nights. We have a women's bible study for about 8-10 weeks in the Fall and in the Spring. For more info on the above activities, the church phone number is 817-473-8980, or go to www.mansfieldbible.org. Pastor Buckles stated that the Mansfield Bible Church was glad to be one of HNP's new neighbors and looks forward to a long and enjoyable relationship.

Councilmember Darryl Haynes, who is also a HNP Block Captain, shared some thoughts about the economic development activity around Mansfield. He also introduced Bill Burch, who is running for State legislature. Both of them spoke about how important the main lanes for HWY360 are for Mansfield. At this time, the lack of State funding has seemed to push things toward a HWY360 toll facility. However, they presented optimism of a chance that priority funding could someday be made available for HWY360 to be a freeway.

Rob Mehlmann and Catherine Boring were acknowledged for their ongoing contributions to managing the HNP Citizens Patrol, which started operation on January 21st. Currently, we have ten patrollers actively participating. Catherine produces a weekly summary of patroller observations, which will be e-mailed out to the Block Captains for distribution. Councilmember Haynes stated that he has arranged for the HNP Patrol to receive City Council recognition very soon, probably in April!

Rob Mehlmann gave a status of the patrol, the process that is in place, and what is expected of the patrollers. He recognized about four patrollers that were present in the audience. He also established that the major issues being spotted by the patrollers include open garage doors, GPS units left on overnight in vehicles, trailer hitches that are open, and lack of porch lights being left on at night. All these issues can easily be corrected by our residents to present a much less inviting neighborhood for thieves. Rob also established that many more volunteers are needed to help with the patrols. Our goal is to have a patrol that is active 24/7.

Community Officer Curtis Phillip gave a summary of crime stats for the neighborhood. Basically, we are doing very well as compared to other parts of the city. He credits our crime watch efforts as an effective deterrent. The criminals know which neighborhoods are prone and will avoid those that have their eyes and ears at work. In response to a question, he stated that no known gang activity exists in Mansfield at this time. There was discussion about graffiti and how important it is to quickly remove it. One resident has spotted gang-related graffiti on a sidewalk near Logan Drive. Greg mentioned that Fort Worth just passed a strong graffiti ordinance, whereas Mansfield may have a weak ordinance in place that can make us prone. Councilmember Haynes stated that he'll look into this. Officer Phillip stated that our neighborhood has experienced about ten burglaries/thefts within September thru December, four months. (This is very low and is a significant change from our level of crime activity during this past summer.) He reminded us to shut our blinds while away from the house, keep a timer on for a light inside to give appearance that someone is present, stop newspaper deliveries when gone, and be sure to have a shredder for bills and personal information that is part of our mail. He stated that garbage left at the curb, but on our property is fair game and legal for criminals to go through the trash bags looking for personal information. In fact, the police will also do it for helping in their investigations. In response to a question, Officer Phillip responded that there is no violation for people who park their vehicles in their driveway, but block the sidewalk. Basically, our sidewalks are a privilege to have, but are not required. In response to another question, Officer Phillip and Councilmember Haynes stated that the city's most recent beautification ordinances likely mandate that screening walls that are damaged should be replaced by original materials (ie. if a masonry wall is partially damaged, it should not be repaired with wood.) Officer Phillip encouraged us to keep up the good work, the patrol activity, and these meetings.

Greg Ajemian wrapped up the meeting by stating that we have over 20 Block Captains that cover more than 20 streets. However, we still need about seven more Block Captains to cover seven streets that currently are not represented. A couple of people in the audience offered to help produce some volunteers to fill these vacancies. One resident offered to help assist by passing out fliers to increase HNP crimewatch awareness. Greg reminded everyone that a Block Captain registry is on the myhnp.com website that shows where our vacancies currently are. He also reminded everyone that the Block Captains are the heart/soul of the HNP organization. Lastly, an idea has previously surfaced about doing a neighborhood coordinated garage sale event. A volunteer willing to coordinate this would be welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.