

Heritage Neighborhood Partnership (HNP) Crime Watch Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2016

Greg Ajemian of the Heritage Neighborhood Partnership (HNP) opened up the meeting at 7:00 with a short presentation on the status of the HNP, its 24 Block Captains and our coverage of 32 streets (about 1,000 homes). It was presented that the HNP is a voluntary, no fee, effort to keep our residents up to date on crime watch and city projects, etc. No political positions or agendas are part of the HNP. Information is generally provided through email communication with HNP Block Captains and their street residents. The presentation is attached for reference.

Officer Stephen St. Clair of the MISD Police talked about the status with our MISD schools, regarding drugs, etc. He stated that marijuana was the number one issue with drugs, while prescription drugs (pain killers) are number two. He isn't seeing much of an issue with synthetic drugs (like K2) or hard drugs. He is not seeing significant issues in Mansfield with school level gang issues. Such problems that have been a problem for south Arlington has backed off a lot over the last several months. Security cameras continue to be added for the schools. However, they can only be placed in public places. Cameras are not allowed in the classrooms, locker rooms, and bathrooms, but can be employed in hallways, cafeterias, offices, and the gym.

There were a number of audience questions about fights and bullying. There are regulations in place that form a hard line as to when the MISD Police can get involved and when it is only the responsibility of the MISD administration to govern. If one kid hits another and there is no retaliation, then it is an assault and the MISD Police can address the issue. If there is retaliation, then only the MISD administration can handle the situation. He recommends that kids that are bullied, should notify the MISD administration by email or phone, instead of the kid going to the offices in person to complain. There is a formal process in place for the MISD administration to handle bullying. There is also a "Dad of Great Students" (Watch D.O.G.S.) that is part of the National Center for Fathering. Schools have started (nationwide) to adding fathers to offer a presence at our schools to limit bullying, etc. The MISD is starting to add this program to their schools (like Roberta Tipps). The fathers do not physically become involved in issues, but their presence can make a big difference as a deterrent.

Officer Scott Rinehart of the Mansfield Police talked about his work with community support services that can provide help with family struggles with drugs, violence, mental health, and crime victim impacts. He has a support group that meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Public Safety Building. Anyone interested in any of these social/family services could call 817-505-6199 and ask for Officer Rinehart. See an attachment for the Mansfield Police Mental Health Liaison Program.

He also talked about social media bullying and such threats. His number one target is an app called Kik Messenger. Kik is attractive to kids and allows them to socialize within certain age groups. However, it is completely anonymous (no real names or account set up is needed). Thus, Kik has been a fast growing issue for predators going after kids. He also recommended the PhoneSheriff app that can provide safeguards and parental control for the smart phones.

Officer Brandon Blansit of the Mansfield Police gave the crime watch presentation.

Attached is his presentation that includes crime stats for our HNP footprint (about 1,000 homes). Page 21 shows the number of burglaries that we have experienced over the past 14 months. It should be noted that about 2/3 of those burglaries were auto break-ins with unlocked doors, which are preventable crimes. Overall, our stats are very good.

He also mentioned that garage door openers in cars are good for burglars. Anyone that parks their vehicle on the street or driveway, should put away the garage door opener that is a key into the house. Same goes with parking away from home. Most of us have paper work in our glove box or they can run our plates to determine what street address goes with that garage door opener.

Officer Blansit stated the Mansfield Police will do a home security review of a residence upon request for free. This will include the locks on doors, landscaping around the house, windows, security system, garage door, etc. See attached for Home Security - Doors and Windows. He stated to never feel like a suspicious person / activity call into the Police is a burden. Calls are immediately ranked for priority anyway, and you never know how important that info is to the Police with respect to other crime issues going on. He likes the following website for good crime watch information; <http://www.nnw.org/> .

In response to a submitted question, he stated that the Mansfield Police is looking at establishing an "Exchange Zone" (may be called something else when the concept is finalized) for e-commerce exchanges. Several cities in our Metroplex have already done this to help protect people that have made online purchases with Craig's List, Ebay, etc. There have been nationwide issues with such exchanges that have been set up to trap an unsuspecting purchaser that comes with cash to exchange for a purchased online item. In the meantime, you can call the Mansfield Police to arrange use of their parking lot at their Department offices on Broad Street for such exchanges.

There was a request by the Heather Estates HOA that they be included within the boundaries of the HNP map. Greg Ajemian responded that the map dates back to 2007 and he will update this map accordingly. This revised map is part of the HNP and 360 Update Presentation that is attached to these minutes.

Councilmember Darryl Haynes - Mansfield City Council talked about several initiatives that are in the works city wide. He spent a lot of time talking about the South Pointe mixed-use development that will be going forward at the vicinity of the 360 / 287 intersection. The development would fit between 287 and 360 (west side of 360) with Lone Star Road being upgraded and going thru this development. This would include open-air retail, high priced single residential, condominiums, commercial, and business. The ongoing construction of the new tollway lanes for SH 360 from I-20 to SH 287 will have a huge economic development impact to the City of Mansfield.

Councilmember Haynes also mentioned the proposed StarsCenter for the north side of Broad and the east side of 287. The ice rink would require City and MISD funding. The city is already building a basketball/volleyball gym next to this site, which also includes softball field complex and trail head. The city sees good synergy with this \$12 million project, but the use of MISD

funding is yet to be approved. (As a post minutes update from Councilmember Haynes, the MISD funding has been removed from the project due to citizen input. The project will require additional funding sources to make this project move forward with the Stars. Time will tell if the City's bond program could take this on, or perhaps private funding could emerge.)

He also mentioned the newly opened Environmental Collection Center that is located along Wisteria between Broad and Heritage Pkwy. Recyclables can be dropped off at this location for free on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to 3pm. Hazardous home products like aerosol cans, oils, paints, light bulbs, lawn chemicals, batteries, cleaners, and pharmaceuticals can be dropped off here.

Lastly, a question was asked about sirens as a warning system. He stated that the city is not pursuing a siren warning system at this time, but instead is relying on Code Red as our alert system, which everyone can sign up for on the city website for free at <https://www.mansfieldtexas.gov/codered-emergency-notification-system> .

Greg Ajemian of the Heritage Neighborhood Partnership (HNP) wrapped up the meeting with a SH 360 South (tollway) construction update. The project is on schedule to be completed by December 2017. Most of the cross-throughs that we have always used to go south or north on the existing service roads will be replaced with bridges that will go over the tollway main lanes. Our Debbie Lane cross-through has been closed for bridge construction as of February 15th. We now have to use a detour system to go east from Debbie to north on the 360 service road. It will take six to nine months to complete a bridge. The Broad Street cross-through will be shut down in mid-April for construction of its bridge. So, both intersections will be requiring detours with several months of parallel calendar time. There will be some traffic pain until these two bridges are completed. But once these two bridges are completed, then we will be back to normal traffic flow, while the main tollway lanes will be constructed below these bridges and adjacent to the existing service roads.

Attached is the presentation that shows the detour examples, future looks for these bridges, along with the look of the toll lanes. The toll lane construction will give us two lanes each way from SH 287 to past Camp Wisdom. In the future when traffic demand dictates, two more lanes each way will be constructed from Debbie Lane to past Camp Wisdom, while one more toll lane will be added between Debbie Lane and SH 287. The cost of the tolls will be \$0.17 per mile, which equates to about \$0.50 to go from Debbie Lane to past Camp Wisdom, and about \$0.85 to go from Broad Street to past Camp Wisdom.

Greg Ajemian adjourned this HNP meeting at 9:20pm. Approximately 35 were in attendance.

Special thanks to Pastor Steve Smith of the Mansfield Bible Church for hosting this meeting at his church!!

Meeting minutes provided by Greg Ajemian of the Heritage Neighborhood Partnership (HNP)