



NHNC Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2013, Willard Elementary School

Convened at 6:30 p.m. by Jeff Zabinski

Guests: Officer Dave McCabe – SPD, Nancy McLaughlin – City Council

Introductions:

Feb. meeting minutes were reviewed. Minor revision was made to one section.

There will be an Eat n' Meet at the Shriner's Cafeteria on 3/27, 5 – 7 p.m.

City Council Update – Nancy McLaughlin reporting.

Nancy thanked everyone for their testimony on the adult stores. Hopes the new ordinance has tough teeth. Sandy summarized the newspaper article from last week.

Sales tax revenue is up a little bit so things are holding their own. The city is watching what's happening on a state bill to see if any of the cut liquor money will come back and local sales tax increases without going to a vote. Q: what are the local impacts of sequestering? A: there are some concerns such as air traffic control tower operator cuts.

Community Assembly – Sandy Gill reporting.

There was a joint CA/Council meeting last week. Lots of topics were covered. An intense one was neighborhood planning. There are concerns about a lack of city staff to cover it adequately. The recent open house on the comp plan didn't communicate a real sense of what the city wants or needs to fix and the ease of getting last minute changes through by parties not actually involved with the entire process. No planning dept. staff were at the joint meeting. A comment was made that there was no substance in the Shadle open house meeting.

April 20th is the next CA retreat. Location TBA.

Dave Barnett is the new CA liaison for planning. There are concerns over funds availability for planning.

Handouts were distributed on disaster preparation and clean water.

A neighborhood planning data mapping presentation was given. It is on the city web site.

Law Enforcement Update

Dave McCabe, newly promoted to Lt., is our new rep. Will have 25 years in as of Sept.

One person reported finding syringes in his area and on his lawn. He called Crime Check. Dave suggested e-mailing him too or calling the drug unit hotline.

Q: what is your working relationship with Tim Burns? A: has worked closely with him for the past 3 ½ years. Was a sergeant with internal affairs previously.

Q: what can an average person do with use of force? A: what's reasonably necessary for the situation to protect yourself and your property. Deadly force is probably not appropriate for property crime for instance.

Q: we've been hearing the word gang used a lot. What is the police's working definition of a gang? A: 3 or more banded together for criminal purposes. He has not been in the gang unit but knows their activity is increasing.

Q: Are you able to bring crime stat maps to the meetings like Rick did? A: have some with me now!

Suggestion was made to have crime prevention presentations. The dept. used to have a prevention unit. Police can't recommend specific models of crime prevention equipment – motion lights, locks, alarms, gridded windows, etc. - but they can talk about types of products. Suggestions were made about ways to hide the fact that you're away from home – not letting mail pile up, having pets, leaving a radio or TV on, not posting that you're away on social media.

Q: Liked the approach used in the Knitting Factory shut-down. Will we see that in neighborhood problem businesses? A: the approach taken depends on the situation. The mayor has approved increasing the use of nuisance laws for permanent parties and drug houses for instance.

A member related their experience of contacting Crime Check about a suspicious vehicle. Officer showed right up. It turned out to be a known prowler. Police kept a presence in the area for the next few days too.

Land Use – Buzz, Mike reporting.

Adult business testimony seemed to go well. Temp ordinance was voted on. Has to go to Planning next and then back to the Council for the vote on the permanent ordinance. Everyone was encouraged to keep reporting any incidents happening in those areas. Ruth summarized what the COPS shop does and encouraged everyone to contact them.

Report was made about Lefty's being closed down and bulldozed. DEA was involved.

No new updates on Courtland.

Community Development – Buzz reporting.

Deadline is approaching for sidewalks. Several areas were listed – Monroe, Cora, and Post. Suggestion was made to check some of the retaining walls. Further work might be needed or they might not be complete as was reported.

Tree replacement funding was discussed.

Q: how is it determined what streets get paved? A: unknown for sure, but it was believed there is a committee. Calling Streets was recommended.

Clean-Up – Mike reporting.

The flyer is being finalized. Date is 4/27 from 9 to noon. 70 dump passes and appliance pick-up sign-ups.

Other Business:

An alternate location for the June 13th meeting needs to be found. The school is closed.

Adjournment: 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2013, 6:30 p.m., Willard Elementary

Minutes submitted by Daniel Fears, NHNC Secretary. Corrections and additions welcome.

NHNC Meeting Attendees – March 14, 2013

Jeff Zabinski – Chair

Mike Flahaven – Officer at Large

Daniel Fears – Secretary/Treasurer

Sandy Gill

Buzz Bellessa

Kelly Patrick

Ruth Snyder

Bonnie Stewart

Teresa VanDyke

Ed Bedell

John Lange

Dave McCabe

Nancy McLaughlin