



**Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by Vice-President Octavia Vogel.

Approval of the Minutes – the minutes from the December 2013 meeting were not submitted, so there was no review of the minutes

Police/Public Safety: Major Bryant reported that the crime numbers have been down for the past several years. Their crime suppression unit won the team of the year award. They got a lot of dope off the street. Planning on going down the same path again this year. "We were seeing a number of homicides that were drug related. We reduced homicide by around 20%. Going to try redirect that with addressing home invasions and burglaries. In Zone 4, we had 70 to 100 burglaries per week on average. In the last year, I don't think we ever went over 36 zone-wide. We're meeting to talk about how to address those crimes in 2014. You being vigilant is a big big plus for us. Helps us out greatly. I think 2014 will be another good year." He introduced Captain Scott Kreher.

Kreher: Looking forward to working with you. Be nosy neighbors. You know who should be there and who shouldn't. And never hesitate to pick up the phone and call. Anything that's of value, make sure you record the serial number somewhere. That's the biggest way we find things. TVs, laptops, etc. Same thing with vehicles. Feel free to call or email any time any day.

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Claudia asked about getting bike patrols. Bryant responded by mentioning the fact that they had gone to overlapping shifts, which was manpower-intensive, and said that they considered that more effective than bike and foot patrols. The chief has indicated he wants to push officers out to the zones, which may result in increased manpower and more possibilities of those kinds of patrols.

Claudia asked about code compliance. Bryant recommended contacting Captain Kreher and code enforcement ("double whammy"). They have two officers assigned to zone 4. He asked that people send him the addresses of houses with code violations. He noted that he had his watch commanders each give him their top 10 properties that had not yet been placarded.

Sherry has been working with Jocelyn Miles, and she said that she can add addresses to her map as well.

Bryant noted that the copper in the old houses in this neighborhood is particularly valuable because it is thicker, and asked people to be on the lookout for people going into houses.

Derek brought up cars parking on the sidewalk. Bryant and Kreher said to call and they'll send someone out. That is illegal.

OLD BUSINESS

Octavia Vogle introduced herself and the other officers that were elected.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Work Force Housing (Jimmy Lee)** – Sherry Bailey introduced Jimmy Lee. He is attempting to start a business building “panelized housing” intended to be used to attract people in the Atlanta work force to live in the community instead of outside the city. They are focusing on finding empty lots to build in rather than tearing down existing houses. Their goal is to involve the communities and encourage new residents to know their neighbors. They want to create a program for mentoring children and teaching them how to build wealth, that would include having police officers serving as mentors. They want to work with the police union and get more officers to live in the neighborhood. The houses are \$129k - \$159k houses: all 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, 2-car garage, landscaping, appliances from Sears, security cameras, fence, lights, security doors. They are working with a bank that can give mortgages to people with a credit score of 580. They plan to build in 7 communities around Atlanta and believe the program can help stop crime. They plan to build an area office in each community and employ 8 people building houses.

Some Westview residents brought up concerns about style and how the houses would fit in with the existing architecture.

No houses have been built yet. Atlanta would be the launch. The goal is to build a minimum of 100 houses in the Atlanta area, and to build a plant here to facilitate that.

They do not have a web site yet.

Treasury Report: Haven't had a lot of activity this past month. There were 2 checks that came in after the statement last time. \$4359.99. Only had three checks paid out for \$600. Claudia asked if the membership committee had discussed membership dues. Octavia and Rebecca (Cater) responded affirmatively.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification: Committee chair not present.

Development Committee: Patrick: tomorrow the Beltline is holding the 3rd or 4th meeting in regards to West side trail connecting Washington Park to Adair Park. Meeting is at 6:30pm. Ayana put the address on the agenda. Just down Donnelly past Kroger on the left hand side. Important to go to these meetings to give input. A lot of activity happening. Continuing to work on the historic district nomination (federal level, not city level). This does not put any restrictions on what you can do with your house; it is just an acknowledgement that this is a historic area. A sign went up at Muse St and RDA.

There is a new joint initiative between the membership committee and the development committee. The third Thursday of each month WCO will host a neighborhood gathering at Westview Pizza. WCO will sponsor 2 pizzas. Going to invite people out to get people more involved in the neighborhood.

Garden Committee: Octavia: working on submitting the Love Your Block final report to the city. Going to have to send back the funds we had to complete the shed. The deadline was 12/3, and it's the new year. Want to stay in good standing to get grants in the future, so we'll be sending those funds back. I also have pictures of the garden work days. We'll be sending those as part of the report as well. We haven't been there this winter. But we'll be starting up if not this Saturday, the next one. Abbey is usually the garden chair. Usually weed and plant on Saturdays. We try to bring in community youth as well, and to work there throughout the spring and summer.

Membership Committee: Rebecca: I'm the new membership chair. We met last month. We have changed our dues to be more in line with the neighborhoods around us. Currently \$20/year per household (including senior citizens). Trying to brainstorm ways to get more people interested. We will be updating the web site with the benefits of membership. The next task is to make people aware that there is an organization. So we made business cards for the neighborhood. If you're doing something where you're meeting lots of people in the neighborhood, I would love to give you a stack of cards. The card has information about the web site, how to communicate, etc. We are looking at putting out monthly yard signs that announce the meetings and looking at other ways to get people involved. We're going to talk about logistics for doing a membership drive, going door to door, etc.

There were questions about the newsletter, which is no longer being produced.

A question was asked about when dues are due. Rebecca said they are due at the beginning of the year, so they're due now.

Claudia said that if you're writing a check to make the check out to WCO. Rebecca said that you can also pay online via PayPal.

Safety Committee: Derek: introduced himself. My big charge is really just involving everyone to be active neighbors and look out for one another. If we see something that doesn't make sense, call the appropriate folks (police). And also communicate with other neighbors.

Youth Outreach: Abby: nothing to report.

Zoning/Code Enforcement Committee: Bruce (committee chair) was not present. Sherry Bailey has been working on code enforcement, and reported earlier on her work with Jocelyn Miles. Patrick asked about the Beecher property, and Sherry said that Jocelyn indicated that it has been passed through and they're waiting on the funding. Sherry indicated that someone has been putting artwork on the property that looks like the art on the Beltline, and they're hoping to save that.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Cater – Announced that he and Rebecca Cater are expecting a new Westview neighbor (due date July 3rd).

Someone asked about the BP station that was torn down. Patrick said he hasn't heard anything.

Octavia asked Abby to talk about a canvassing initiative being organized by the new chair of NPU-T. They are asking neighbors to come out for MLK day. Kings Chapel at 10am. Prayer and breakfast, and then hit the streets. Abby said she would send out information to the Yahoo group.

Abby showed the pictures from two community work days in the garden.

Octavia announced that the next meeting is 2/3/2014.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

DUES: No dues were collected.

The new secretary did not record the meeting adjournment time. He will try to rectify that oversight in the future.