



SHERWOOD FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting
May 22, 2012; 6:30 PM; Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Ed Tilden, President, after a brief social period among the attendees as well as Moe Baddourah, our new District 3 City Councilman. Moe stopped in to say hello but was not able to stay. We all wished him luck in his new highly paid position.

All attendees introduced themselves and where they lived in the neighborhood. There were eight residents present, along with two police officers and Dr. Pat DeCoursey of the USC Belser Arboretum. Our treasurer was not present but Ed Tilden discussed finances and collected some of the monies pledged for new warning signs to be installed at all entrances to our neighborhood. Four have already been placed, paid for by the generosity of Moe Baddourah, and installed by Police officer Nick Scott, the Proactive Community Enforcement (PACE) officer assigned to our neighborhood.

There was a brief discussion about open officer positions. We need a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Membership Chair. Without further ado, Mark Hering was nominated to fill the Vice Presidential slot, there was a second, and he was elected unanimously. He graciously accepted.

Officer Nick Scott reported that there had been no crime in the neighborhood. He did say that nearby areas had seen a rash of car break-ins, and some home break-ins, but four men had recently been arrested, and the problem seems to have been greatly reduced recently. There was discussion from the floor about a recent physical attack on a female resident in her yard, but Ofc. Scott stated that there was no record of a 911 call. He promised to investigate further and report to Ed Tilden.

Our guest speaker was Corporal Scott Stover of the Columbia Police Crime Prevention Unit. Cpl. Stover gave an animated, lucid and logical presentation about crime prevention. Crime requires: Ability, Opportunity and Desire. A criminal must be present with the Desire to commit a crime; he or she must have the Ability to do the dastardly deed; and there must be the Opportunity for it to occur. Any effort to reduce any of these three factors will reduce crime.

Cpl. Stover talked about lighting as a simple way to reduce the Desire of a criminal to act. Likewise, not leaving spare bricks lying about reduces the Opportunity for someone to easily break a window. And replacing the short screws on a door strike plate with 3" long screws (into the 2x4 beams) will reduce the ability of a bad person from easily kicking in a door.

And best of all is a free Security Survey performed by the Columbia Police Crime Prevention Unit. They are happy to do this for all residents simply by calling



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803.545.3555 to schedule an appointment. Many of the ideas presented were extremely simple but could go a long way to make property more secure.

Ed then discussed the use of the city 311 phone system to report problems, code violations, etc. In addition, the city offers a very well designed web based reporting system for many of these problems, and, best of all, they will actually respond and reply to complaints, suggestions, or problems. The web site is:

<http://mygovhelp.org/columbiase>. It was stressed that this is the correct course of action rather than calling the police. It is definitely not the police who are responsible for sloppy yards, piles of garbage, derelict cars, etc. Of course, the police should be called whenever there is an issue related to crime. And it is really important to call 911 so problems can be tracked and recorded.

Dr. Pat DeCoursey, the director of the USC Belser Arboretum, asked for our help in addressing the problem of an abandoned house adjacent to the Arboretum. Ed acknowledged that we were aware of the property and had previously tried to get something resolved with no result, but would again alert city officials as to the ongoing issue and see if we could make some progress. It seems the house is owned by multiple family members who cannot agree on what is to be done, so it just sits and deteriorates.

The next quarterly meeting of the Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association will be held at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 in the Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church, with a neighborhood social period from 6-6:30 PM. Please submit any agenda items or issues to Ed Tilden at President@sherwoodforestneighbors.org by August 1.

There was no new business, nor any committee reports, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Henry Nechemias, acting secretary