

Elizabeth Community Association Board Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2010

Hawthorne Recreation Center

Board Members Present: Nancy Albert, Beth Haenni, Jenny Holman, Kristin Magas, Ruffin Pearce, Susan Plott, Todd Rubenson, Melanie Sizemore, Peter Tart

Board Members Absent: John Albert, Kara Gooding, Dana Inge, Debbie Johnson, Terry Lett, Amanda Loftus, Matt Nurkin, Maya Packard, Suzanne Phillips, Amy Williams

Guests/presentations

- Officer Sprague/Sergeant Stanke – Crime Report
 - Kristin Magus – Proposal to remove flashing lights on 5th Street
 - Louise Bhavnani – Volunteer Coordinator for Parks & Rec
 - Nancy Albert – Neighborhood signs update
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Beth calls meeting to order.

Officer Sprague – Crime – 32 incidents total in May. 19 larceny from autos. From April to May, increase in larceny from autos and burglaries (from 1 to 3), but incidents down from 2009. Good month in June for apprehending suspected perpetrators. Caught Marcus Holman on Greenway, charged with nine larceny from autos. Also arrested two brothers, Sherrod and Cheney Pauley, suspected of two auto break-ins on Armory.

Homeless situation – “Chilly Willy” has been observed hanging out around intersection of Pecan/Caswell/7th. History is non-violent, but has been observed exhibiting more aggressive behavior lately. Residents should keep an eye out and call 911 if behavior is deemed threatening at all. Police know him well and are prepared to handle any situation.

Kristin Magus – Proposal to remove flashing lights at 5th/Laurel, 5th/Ridgeway – Received 30 emails in response to feedback on issue, some in favor, some opposed. The lights have been in place since the 1950s, but some residents feel they create an atmosphere of more of a thoroughfare as opposed to a neighborhood. Others are in favor of keeping them, arguing that they help slow down traffic at these busy 4-way stop intersections. Need to invite residents who are in favor of removal of the lights to come address the board. Kristin will ensure plans to remove the lights are put on hold until more neighbors have an opportunity to weigh in.

Louise Bhavnani, Parks & Rec – With budget pressure on the entire county government, Parks & Rec’s budget was cut 48 percent this year, and very well may be cut more next year. Far less resources to maintain parks. Looking for groups of residents to “adopt” local parks to help augment Parks & Rec’s ability to maintain parks, keep them clean, etc. Will provide information to ECA board to share with the neighborhood. Need to recruit teams of residents in the neighborhood to volunteer to help with park maintenance, clean-up, etc., on a long-term basis. Mostly this would entail small groups of volunteers once a week walking the park to pick up trash.

We asked Louise about the possibility of getting a practice backboard for the tennis courts, which we requested several years ago when the courts were resurfaced. She promised to look into it and get back to us.

Nancy Albert – We have selected a color for the new neighborhood signs and Kris Solow is going ahead with production. Increasing number of signs by 20-30.

Beth Haenni – Discussion of neighborhood charities to support with ECA fundraising – top consideration to Hospice and Thompson Child & Family. Also mention of new Ronald McDonald House. Various ideas for how to manage donations, e.g., designate 10 percent of profits from certain events (Road Race, Home Tour, etc.) or designate 10 percent of annual profits on an ongoing basis. More discussion at July meeting. In the meantime, motion to approve 10 percent of profits from upcoming Home Tour to Hospice and Thompson’s was approved unanimously.

Beth adjourns meeting.