

Elizabeth Community Association Board Meeting Minutes 7/19/2010 Hawthorne Recreation Center

Board Members Present: Matt Nurkin, Todd Rubenson, Amy Williams

Board Members Absent: John Albert, Nancy Albert, Kara Gooding, Beth Haenni, Jenny Holman, Dana Inge, Debbie Johnson, Terry Lett, Amanda Loftus, Kristin Magas, Maya Packard, Ruffin Pearce, Suzanne Phillips, Susan Plott, Melanie Sizemore, Peter Tart,

Guests/presentations

- Officer Gilliland/Sergeant Stahnke – Crime Report
 - Janet Karner and other neighbors – Neighborhood noise situation from bars/restaurants
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Matt calls meeting to order.

Officer Sprague – Crime – June crime summary... auto break-ins down from 11 to 6... residential burglary down from 3 to 1. Mirrors trends in other neighborhoods. Two of the auto break-ins, perpetrators have been apprehended.

Officer Stahnke – Philosopher's Stone, ongoing issue, also Jack's and Ed's. Working within parameters of city's current noise ordinance. We feel it's inadequate. Patsy Kinsey agrees. We are in the process of working with the city to revamp the noise ordinance. Has to go through the committee before it goes to the City Council. The entire ordinance will most likely be re-written in late fall 2010 or sometime early next year.

All three establishments have been increasing outdoor music to boost business. Current ordinance allows amplified music up to 55 db (at the nearest residence) with no permit or restrictions. Beyond 55 db, a permit is required. Police regularly monitor the noise levels. Philosopher's Stone was cited for a noise violation misdemeanor recently. There is a fine, but fines do not escalate for repeat offenses. But there is a possibility that if they continue to violate, the level of offense can increase to include jail time.

Question: Why keep issuing the permit? Answer: We are keeping track of their hours. The way the ordinance is currently written, if they have not expended their allotment of permitted hours for the year, we cannot deny a permit – even if they have previously violated the noise or time limits. This is one reason we believe the current ordinance is inadequate.

The 30 day plan that we have will put officers on 7th Street every night for 30 nights to very closely monitor noise from the bars. We will issue citations against all violations, and repeat offenders will go to jail. After the 30 days we reassess situation and move on from there.

Matt – ECA can copy interested residents with some of the email correspondence with city officials, police, etc. in an effort to increase communication.

Janet – Would it be possible to put an Elizabeth resident on the city committee that is re-writing the noise ordinance? Need to put this question to Patsy.

Officer Stahnke – Question came in as to why police are not enforcing no parking on Caswell at 5th Street. Went and took a look – parking zones are not well-defined, creates a safety issue. Contacted CDOT. They said they took the signs down at neighborhood's request. They thought it was done to get more on street parking to slow traffic down. No recorded accidents there in past three years. Police view is to put no parking signs back up, or at least redraw the lines. But cheapest alternative is to put the no-parking signs back up.

Table this question for tonight given small group, raise with full board at next meeting.

Janet – Membership Report – we have 193 members currently.

Nancy (in absentia) – Next newsletter deadline is August 13.

Beth (in absentia) asked to raise two issues, but will have to table until the larger group is in attendance:

1. Nighttime business parking on 8th Street
2. Parks & Rec volunteer teams to maintain Independence park

Matt adjourns the meeting.