

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #6 MEETING

April 6, 2016

Council Members Present: Carol Donovan, Julie Parker, Robin Baker, Darrell Beauchamp, Cherry Loney

Council Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were approximately 30 neighborhood residents; Sunnyside principal, Lance Boyd; GFPD Officer Donnie Gerhart; and Carol Bronson, Community Engagement Specialist with Neighborworks Great Falls.

Old Business:

Minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

Committee Reports:

Police Advisory Board: Darrell Beauchamp stated the last meeting included a “state of the union” address describing issues facing GFPD along with resources and future plans. GFPD plans to concentrate officers in areas with the greatest number of calls and officers will be dispatched to calls from there. He also noted the department is currently down 11 officers.

New Business:

Led by Carl Donovan, the Council discussed their interest in establishing a Neighborhood Watch program. Principal Lance Boyd discussed safety issues for school children including afterhours/weekend playground issues and children walking to/from school. He noted efforts to improve school ground surveillance through new, enhanced equipment funded by the PTA. He also described a new program to bus children who live close to the school to improve safety and stressed the school’s interest and support in neighborhood safety initiatives. Officer Gerhart talked about neighborhood crime stats, prevention tips, and how to report suspicious activity. He stressed the importance of Neighborhood Watch to help law enforcement. Carol Bronson talked about Neighborhood Watch, how to get involved, application forms, and training/support available for those interested. The Council distributed questionnaires asking for feedback on level of interest in Neighborhood Watch along with information, training, and support going forward. The Council stressed their commitment to establishing the program and will ensure follow up and a focused effort to help the program gain momentum. Mr. Boyd offered to distribute the questionnaires to all Sunnyside parents through Wednesday Envelopes. We will devote time at the May meeting to developing an action plan.

Other Business:

The City Commission is inviting each Neighborhood Council to attend a work session to share their activities, concerns, etc. Council #6 will attend on June 21 at 5:30 pm. We will devote time at the May meeting to planning for the work session.

Carol Bronson reminded those in attendance about MApril Cleanup scheduled for May 21 and June 4 this year.

Neighborhood Concerns:

There were no neighborhood concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherry Loney, Secretary