

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #6 MEETING**  
**March 5, 2014 Sunnyside School Gym**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Baker, Carl Donovan, Julie Parker, Darrell Beauchamp, and Cherry Loney

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Old Business:**

Minutes of the February 5, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

**Little Free Library:** There was discussion about whether to place the Little Free Library receptacle at Verde Park or Sunnyside Park. For now, the library is planning to place a receptacle in only one park per neighborhood council area, but will look at the feasibility of expanding to more parks in the future. There were some concerns about potential vandalism at Sunnyside Park, although it was noted, this has been minor in other communities where Little Free Libraries already exist. By unanimous ballot, the council determined it should be placed at Sunnyside Park because it is centrally located and, therefore, more easily accessed by the majority of neighborhood residents. Shawna Stuckman, 1501 15<sup>th</sup> St. So. will join Julie Parker, council member, to serve as volunteer stewards of the park library.

**Committee Reports:** Carl reported on discussion of the local government study commission at the Council of Councils meeting. City Commissioner Fred Burrows also provided information. The local government study commission will be on the ballot in the upcoming primary election. It comes up every 10 years and provides citizens an opportunity to determine if they want to review current forms of government at both city and county levels for a potential change in structure. If voters determine in the primary that one or both should be reviewed, people desiring to be on a study commission, either city or county, will run for election in the fall. Any changes proposed by the study commissions would be put before the voters in another election.

**New Business:**

**Neighborhood Watch:** Chairwoman Robin Baker explained the council's desire to establish a Neighborhood Watch program. Neighborhood Watch is a community program in which citizens work together with law enforcement to detect and prevent criminal activity. The focus is on reporting suspicious people and vehicles and securing homes and personal property. It has demonstrated results in preventing crime. Neighbors watch out for each other's homes, work together to solve problems, and generally make the neighborhood safer. Sunnyside Principal Lance Boyd provided an overview of security issues potentially jeopardizing safety of school children including vandalism and late-night loitering on the school campus as well as children being bullied and harassed (mostly by adults) when walking home from school. He noted Sunnyside has security cameras to monitor the school campus and he personally makes a point of monitoring the grounds on weekends. Sgt. Bryan Slavik, GFPD, discussed the benefits of a partnership between neighbors and law enforcement and how Neighborhood Watch in his own neighborhood has been effective. Eric Ray, Chairman of Neighborhood Council #5 discussed their efforts to implement a Neighborhood Watch program and its impact in the area. Carol Bronson, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator provided an overview of the program, which is sponsored by NeighborWorks. She discussed training and support that is available and provided information on how to sign up to participate. Block captains and "watchers" are needed. Interested residents are encouraged to contact Carol Bronson at [cbronson@nwgf.org](mailto:cbronson@nwgf.org) or call 406-761-5861 for more information or to sign up. The council thanked Sunnyside PTA for providing refreshments for those in attendance.

**Other Business:** None

**Neighborhood Concerns:** Kayla Bokma, 1413 14<sup>th</sup> St. So. said traffic on 14<sup>th</sup> St. needs to slow down. Sgt. Slavik noted her concern.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherry Loney, Secretary