

NFWA
Minutes - April 20 2013

President Rusty Fuller opened the meeting at 9:00.

A moment of silence was observed for those suffering tragedy in West, Texas following the fire and explosion.

Sally Griffin has been diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing surgery. Her needs include food, prayers. Call Robert Rouse to coordinate meals, info on FB, and Sally's address is 4160 Justin Drive.

HOA Reps were asked to stay after the regular meeting for a small meeting regarding road construction and a bill in the House about HOA Board members

Speaker this month is Deputy Chief Pritchard, Fort Worth Police:
Now Assistant Chief since restructuring.

Last time spoke about general things they are doing in north to improve response. They allow officers on patrol to make decisions as they are closer to the problems and issues.

The new captain will restrict offices inside and outside the loop for better response times. Need a northern division (new – 6th division) The new bond package being considered next year will entertain a north side multi purpose facility. But to staff it with officers, we need more. Currently increasing efforts to recruit and hire new officers. Increased test offerings to monthly instead of yearly. Current facility for training is not adequate for needs in terms of numbers. New facility will be ready in 18 to 24 months.

Question: Is it possible to bring in retired officers for the classroom portions of training to save cost?

Instructors are also the test people and there are associated physical demands. Certifications for training may be out of date with retirees, and that could be an issue. It would be worth considering.

Question: Notifications through "Next Door". What is the Police Dept use of that?
Russ Brewer, neighborhood patrol officer in the north responded - ND is similar to FB – nextdoor.com. You have to put in your name & address, then you'll be part of that community. Officers will post crime stats, alerts, traffic issues. Still like to talk to folks directly, but it's a good tool for notifications. You can communicate with your immediate neighbors. It's a fairly secure network. There is an administrator who runs it, and there are guidelines posted. The first person who signs up for the neighborhood becomes the facilitator, and has the ability to delete and control content to some degree. How are renters affected? Administrators will contact the home owners to verify, and then renters can participate. It has to be the persons who actually live on the property. Registered sex offenders are not allowed to be on Next Door. City staff can post notices, but they cannot read the back and forth from the citizens. Adjoining neighborhoods can

not participate in your neighborhood group. You can use it for business connections, vendor recommendations, etc. Jerry has enjoyed crime stat reports and has discovered that we live in a very safe area.

Question: Mar 9 Star Telegram had a story about Police & Council doing Code Blue for community Schools. Signed up for it, but have not heard back.

Chief Pritchard will check on it. Officer Brewer says it is only FW school district right now. They are currently working out the security guidelines, and how the program will work. Should have those particulars identified in the next 2 or 3 weeks. They will need more bodies so they don't have to sacrifice neighborhood patrols for school patrols.

Question: In the Timberland construction area – people use the side roads to cut through to avoid traffic. It is a dangerous situation for the residents, what can be done?

Sometimes officers will work the area and write tickets for a while, but end up stopping the people who live on the street, and have a need to be there, missing the abusers. It helps for a few days, but then it goes back to the way it was. Office Sawyer is the NPO for that area. His number is 817-994-3453. Jerry – please let us know how communication goes with Office Sawyer. The officers are not averse to feedback, and they want to know. Let us know via email or FB. Office Brewer's number is 817-944-8244. Chief encourages us to let them know if we don't get adequate response. City website has information on the Neighborhood Police Officers, it lists all officers with their cell numbers. Rusty – talk to him after, about specifics and we'll bring up with Councilman Shingleton.

Question: Arcadia Park area has the same problem with cars racing up and down.

That is Officer DeLeon's area. If you have specifics about specific days and times, we can focus efforts, look at signage issues. City does not do speed bumps any more. Police and residents have asked, but it is denied. Rusty – the traffic division of DPW will deal with a safety committee in HOA, but they do not do speed bumps. Reasons are lack of effectiveness and issues for emergency vehicles. Let Alliance people know and we'll try to work with your HOA and facilitate. We have access to the right people throughout the city.

Question: One issue is motor vehicles on the greenways in neighborhoods. (motor bikes, 3 wheelers etc) There is a specific ordinance on it, but officers are reluctant to enforce. Some research has been done on whether the greenway is city owned or privately owned. Office DeLeone has been working on it.

Question: When a call is made – are officers already in the area? Which office are they based in?

Office Brewer: On certain days & times (peak call times), they are at the Beach Street office. Other days they are at the No Ft Worth for check in and roll call. Some are dedicated to the north, and only go south under priority conditions. Would like to add to this time, but there are resource issues. There is an office at Alliance (Westport). It's more of a rest/work area for officers' use, not a staffed office. NFWA was instrumental in opening that office.

Chief: Property crimes truly drive the crime rate in our city, particularly burglary of vehicles. Best way to avoid is to keep items out of sight. Tinted windows seem to decrease exposure. They will be gathering stats on that over the summer.

Rusty: Code Blue program is good at watching for property crimes at night, and it's easy to get involved. It's a good way to help the crime rate. Years ago City started a volunteer program for neighborhood watch, which gained world wide recognition. We have a lot of land to cover, and even though the police do a great job, Citizen On Patrol is a great way to help do that. YOU are the eyes and ears, keep calling and reporting and talking about issues.

Chief: long term we do need a facility in north Fort Worth, and if we don't get it in the 2014 bond package, the next one will be 2019.

Question: If it's a sub-courthouse, could the police be a part of that? Yes, as long as there is enough space to accommodate everyone's needs. It is fiscally responsible to start sharing resources. The city is starting to think more long term in it's planning of facilities and resources.

Chief thanks everyone for coming, and appreciates our involvement.

Rusty – stressed that the Alliance is willing to help with facilitating neighborhood issues with the City. Use the website, email, FB private message, to let us know what's going on.

Question: As a group, have we looked at incorporating a northern separate city?

Rusty: some have looked at it, but it's not practical. Shirley: FW would have to agree to let us go, and they are not going to do that. Rusty: the reason an organization like this exists, is to let the City know that we are here and we have issues and we are involved.

May 18 our meeting will be a presentation about the 2014 Bond Package. (instead of August) Need to get comments in faster. City wide Bond meetings will be July through October, at about 25 different locations. It helps for NFWA to be at every meeting, pressing our issues. Currently set for \$276 mil, and we have only 2 roads identified.

June 15 Councilman Shingleton will be here.

For HOA Board representatives: HB3803 is being considered in the legislature, and contains some issues we are concerned with. The bill is authored by Rep McClendan. It will require Board members to personally secure bonding to the level of the reserve balance and the operating budget. This will make serving on the Board prohibitive. The bill also gives the Atty General the right to hear complaints. Other minor things that are problems, but don't have the same financial impact. Please write to Rep McClendan and Rep. Capriglione, to oppose the bill, and Rep Krause. Audience comment: the bill also gives citizens right to fight the HOA through the Atty General. Rusty – there is already

legislation from 2011 that allows you to do that. Bill also requires small HOAs to mail financial statements every 3 months.

Keller Hicks Katy intersection project is still being continued. RR plans are sketchy. City of Keller doesn't have the money to build their part. All parties are trying to get proper paperwork back and forth.

No Beach Construction Plan: Discussions going on about how best to handle the hill. One scenario – close it for 6 months to complete; close for 3 months and see what can be done; keep one lane open, work the other for 18 months; build a bypass road on the side during construction. We will be having meetings w/City & Contractor soon. FOP church has opposed closing it at all. Other HOA's are looking at the issue. Anyone interested in going to the meeting, send Rusty a note. City has not talked to the businesses yet. The cheapest option to is close for 6 months and finish it.

Completion of Ray White is being held up right now because at the so end, they are going to make 2 turn lanes, so they had to re-draw the plans. They expect to be back on it shortly.

West Nile – currently testing at all Fire Stations. Spraying will be on a case by case basis. New fridge magnets for recycling. Carton recycling now taken. Battery boxes. Never throw them out!

Meeting adjourned at 10:34.