



Richland Heights East

Neighborhood
Association
Newsletter

November 2009

RICHLAND HEIGHTS EAST ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

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Date: Monday, October 19, 2009

Held at: Church of Jesus Christ/Iglesia de Jesucristo Peniel, 1990 E Prince Rd

Board Members present:

Linda Wurzelbacher, Sandy Miller, Lynn Wilson, Jon Guenther, John Singley,
Pat Clarke, Ellie Patterson, Tom Rhodes and Mike Murray

Guests: George Pettit, Ward 3 and Adam Smith, TPD

John Singley, RHENA president, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Approximately 21 neighbors were present, not counting the Board.

Old Business:

- Sandy Miller reported on the status of the RTA project at Campbell & Ft Lowell. She contacted MJ Dillard, the RTA project manager from DOT, who said the planned start date is the February 2, 1010, with a finish date of October 31, 2010.
- Sandy reported on the RHENA blog and Google email list. The blog, or web page, is maintained by Deborah Dobson, who has done a wonderful job of maintaining it and posting whatever is sent to her! The URL is rhenatucson.wordpress.com. We post the minutes of the monthly board meetings and Tucson/Ft Lowell Crime Prevention Coalition meetings. Deborah also posts dates of upcoming events and other neighborhood information. We also have an email list that Sandy maintains. This list is for reporting Neighborhood Watch and crime/suspicious activity information **only**. The URL is groups.google.com/group/rhena. You can join by sending an email to Sandy (slm949@gmail.com). To send relevant information to the list, email rhena@googlegroups.com. Sandy mentioned that if there is interest, a second email list could be set up for information other than crime, such as offering services, requests for babysitter/handyman/yard maintenance recommendations, announcing yard sales, and/or reporting wildlife sightings.
- Linda Wurzelbacher reported on the purpose and distribution of car stickers. She explained that car stickers were envisioned after an incident where two neighbors were following each other, each thinking the other was in a suspicious vehicle. The stickers are **not** required, but are intended to let neighbors know that a car does indeed belong in the neighborhood. The stickers should be placed on the outside, lower left of the rear window. They adhere without adhesive, and will stay on well if the window is clean before placing them. Stickers have been handed out to most households in RHE, but a few still need to be handed out along Prince.
- Tom Rhodes reported on the status of a code violation report for the house at 2425 E Lind (NW corner of Lind & Tucson). This problem has been reported to the proper authorities, but because the owner of record has passed away, it is taking the City longer than normal to address the issue. The Board will continue to follow up on this issue.

Guests:

Officer Adam Smith represented TPD. He asked for questions from the audience.

- He was asked when most burglaries occurred, and he said that they mostly occur during the day when people were likely to be at work.
- He was asked about kids selling candy and alarm company representatives selling alarm systems. He said that when kids are selling door-to-door, they are often bussed into the neighborhood by an adult “handler”. If it feels suspicious, call 9-1-1. An officer will determine if the “handler” has a business license. As for alarm companies, some are legitimate and taking advantage of the increased incidence of burglaries, but they might also be phony. It is required that they have a business license; ask to see it.
- He was asked which is better for preventing burglaries, an alarm system or bars on windows and doors. He said they were each effective, but in different ways, although nothing can be 100% effective.
- He was asked about an incident in the neighborhood in which neighbors reported shots fired but never heard back from the police. He didn’t know about that incident. Sandy found a report in an old email of a similar incident on 1/15/09. According to Captain Neri of TPD Midtown Division, 7 reports of gunshots were called in at about 6:30 pm. Four officers responded and canvassed the area, but nothing was found. The PD contacted only the initial caller, due to time constraints and call volume at that time of day.
- He was asked about the “urban legend” of burglars knowing how to disarm certain alarm systems (ADT, for example), and targeting houses with those systems. He said only if the burglar was an “ADT-installer-gone-bad”.
- He was asked about notifying the newspaper to stop delivery; was it essentially notifying somebody that you are going to be out of town. He said that it’s better to notify the newspaper than to let the papers pile up (and let everybody that walks/rides/drives down the street know you’re not home).
- He explained a bit about how 9-1-1 calls are prioritized. Each call is given a “threat lever” from 1 to 7. Priority 1 would be immediate danger or threat to life; 7 would be no risk to life, like a barking dog. A call from an alarm company is normally a priority 7 if the company cannot contact the owner. If the company contacts the owner who says there should be nobody in the home, then it goes to level 3. So it is important to make sure your alarm company has current contact information (home, work & cell numbers) and possibly a number of a trusted friend.

George Pettit, from the Ward 3 office, spoke briefly. He mentioned that Karin Uhlich would try to make the meeting, but she had 2 or 3 others to attend that night. George was asked about potholes and he said to contact him. Linda mentioned that she had just reported 4 potholes and she will forward that email to George. Sandy told people they could report bad potholes to the Board who will pass on the report to the proper agency.

New Business:

- John Singley expressed the Board’s thanks to Liz Saxby, who stepped down from the Board in September after 7 years on the board, serving as Treasurer of for most of that time. The Board appointed Sandy Miller to complete Liz’s term, which goes until October, 1010. Sandy had been serving as Secretary in a non-voting position. Liz was not able to attend the meeting, but Tom reported that she had asked him to express her sadness at leaving the Board, and her thanks to everyone.
- Linda handed out copies of the Treasurer’s Report and stated that the Auditing Committee, Jon Miller, Ellie Patterson and Lisa Howells, had approved the report. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously that the report be approved. (On file.)
- Linda, the RHENA Treasurer, explained that the major expenditure for the year was for the neighborhood party, and that a large part of the Neighborhood Watch expenditure was for having the car stickers produced. The current balance is \$888.50. A copy of the report is on file.
- Linda, chair of the Neighborhood Watch Committee, reported on the progress of setting up Neighborhood Watch in RHE. She introduced the other members of the committee, Sandy Miller and Barb Soehnlén, then explained the process: (1) two people in a 2-block area agree to co-lead the Watch group, (2) they contact the other residents in their Watch area and get 51% or more to express interest in NW, (3) they schedule a meeting at which a representative from TPD gives a presentation and answers questions, (4) they get house numbers painted on the curb for each residence in their Watch area, (5) TPD inspects the area and places NW signs. Linda reported that we have six NW groups in some stage of being set up. Two have had their meeting, painted house numbers, and been approved for NW signs, and one has already received the signs. A third has a meeting scheduled. A fourth is ready to schedule their meeting. A fifth has co-leaders ready to get started. The sixth group, along Tucson Blvd, is waiting to determine how to deal with street numbers, since they have no curbs.
- Sandy reported on the Tucson/Fort Lowell Crime Prevention Coalition (TFL CPC). She explained that the coalition was formed in an attempt to open communication among the neighborhoods in the area, with the hope of stopping criminals from simply mov-

ing from one neighborhood to the next. She thanked Ward 3 and TPD for their efforts in getting the coalition started. The participating neighborhoods are RHE, Winterhaven, La Madera and Hedrick Acres. The coalition meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Northminster Church (SW corner of Tucson & Ft Lowell), from 5:30 to 6:30. There have been 3 meetings so far. The minutes are sent to the RHE NW email list and posted on the blog. We have also established an email list for the coalition, and people were asked to contact Sandy if they would like to be on it. The first three items that have been addressed by the coalition are: (1) getting NW groups set up, (2) getting out information to the neighborhood on when and how to call 9-1-1, and (3) establishing graffiti removal programs in the neighborhoods.

- John spoke about variance notices that neighbors might receive if someone is requesting a zoning variance for construction. He requested that if a variance notice is received, they get it to the Board so we can react to it, if necessary. Someone asked about the property at 1939 E Ft Lowell, on which the house has been demolished. The current zoning is O-3 (mid-rise office development and other land uses which provide reasonable compatibility with adjoining residential uses). Mike Murray explained that if a change of zoning is requested, the Board will oppose. (In contrast, the day care and car wash are zoned for commercial use.)
- John asked for volunteers for two new committees established by the Board: a Traffic Circle Committee, and a Graffiti Clean-up Committee. Jon Guenther, Mima Falk, Marlene Hughes and Bob Shrieve volunteered to serve on the Traffic Circle Committee. John also mentioned the possibility of establishing a Funding/Grant Committee, but nobody expressed interest.
- Linda, chair of the Nominating Committee, expressed the Board's thanks to Mike Murray and Tom Rhodes, who are stepping down from the board after 15 and 12 years of service, respectively. Both have served as Board president for part of their tenure. They received a round of applause from the Board and the neighbors. Then Linda introduced the candidates for the three board seats up for reelection – Mima Falk, Patricia Lucz Foster, Donna Moulton, and herself. John asked for nominations from the floor, but there were none. Each candidate introduced themselves and talked shortly about their interests for the neighborhood (Patricia was absent due to a conflict).
- Lynn Wilson and Jon Guenther handed out bios on the candidates and ballots, Tom and Mike counted the votes. Mima, Donna and Linda were elected to serve on the Board from October, 2009 to October, 2012.

Question and Answer period:

John Singley explained to the neighbors that the membership fees established by the Association were voluntary. According to the Association By-Laws, "Every person 18 years of age or older, who is a resident of RHE may become a member of RHENA. The rights and privileges of membership are subject to the payment of membership dues as established by RHENA. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote." The fee is currently set at \$5.00 per adult per household.

Mike Murray spoke briefly expressing his love for the neighborhood and his sorrow at leaving the Board.

Tom Rhodes also spoke of the pleasure he has had as a board member.

A neighbor who came late expressed concern about the vacant house on the NW corner of Tucson Blvd and Lind. This had already been covered earlier in the meeting. Lynn explained that the Board has spent **much** time on this issue and will continue to do so until it is resolved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

The following information was available on a table at the entrance:

Sign-up sheet (name, address, phone, email)

Membership forms & dues collection

Handouts – Neighborhood Watch, car stickers, email list, How to use 9-1-1, Blog intro

Copies of the agenda

Car stickers were also available

The November Board meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 pm. It will be held at Jon Guenther's house, at 2201 E Lind.

Respectively submitted,

Sandy Miller

RHENA Secretary



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Richland Heights East Neighborhood

Dated Material

Richland Heights East Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Comments _____

The annual membership fee is \$5.00 per adult. More than one person's name may be included on the form. Mail or deliver complete form and membership fee to Linda Wurzelbacher, RHENA Treasurer, 3301 N Wilson Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719.

Dues: Date _____ Amount: \$ _____ cash ___ / check # _____

Number of adults in household: _____

Thanks for joining and welcome to the neighborhood.