

HMPA General Meeting Minutes- 1/5/2009

Call to Order- 7 PM by President Kellie Welborn

Recognition of Volunteers

External Reports

- Health & Hospital Report- Gary Caudill

Gary provided a written report and took properties to add to the list from neighbors, including 1621 N New Jersey, 1826 N. Alabama.

- Sherry Minkis spoke representing Herron Square.

Stated that due to market conditions (no pre-sells, others backed out) they need at least 3 to buy in before they can continue. Acknowledged demo order on the foundation but would prefer to put in a chain-link fence (H&H says unacceptable, IHPC says is acceptable).

Tom Forman inquired about 3 properties listed on Talbott- regarding keeping them mowed and cleared while for sale. Sherry agreed to do a better job but requested that neighbors please stop throwing trash into the basement foundations, and then calling H&H to request trash clean up. This is a drain on the Minkis resources to have to respond.

Kellie Welborn- question from another neighbor about lighting. Any plans? Sherry stated no lighting was removed but there is also no power in the building so the light may not be on.

Jonathan Chumley asked Sherry if Minkis would pay for the lights, if IPL determined that "out" lights were on their property. Sherry agreed, if that turns out to be the case and if the cost is reasonable.

Jonathan noted that it is the responsibility of the neighbors to take care of their own properties and asked Sherry to reconsider her comment about neighbors dumping trash at Minkis, especially as others have problems with trash too. Sherry apologized if it seemed blame was placed on the neighbors and thanked the neighborhood for their time.

- IMPD- Matt Jennings

Officer Jennings had several requests for the neighborhood, including:

- Abandoned homes- if lights are on, people are going in and out, call 911 right then. Large potential for fire hazards with people lighting fires, etc.
- Blue cards are very important- neighbors know much more than people patrolling about who is and isn't supposed to be there. Call with any suspicious behavior
- Court Watch- very important also- there are lots of people in jail and courts right now. When citizens come there is a higher impact on judges. It is a frustrating but rewarding program. If people don't remain in jail, they have a habit of returning to the same place they were before. When citizens go in with safety concerns they take it into consideration. Will have someone from CW at the next meeting.

Julie Brooks asked about seeing more crime, especially with guns, in the last 5 months. Kellie noted there have been 15 armed robberies in the last 2 months. Officer Jennings noted that, esp in December, crime does go up. Charles Ingram (MNL) noted he is

hearing same concerns from all over the city. With recession and short manpower, people are increasingly bold. Trying to get more people on the street, but the best solution for now is nosy neighbors working together. Can't fault the city- people are just brazen right now.

Kellie noted that the mayor promised 100 new officers, but local officers are saying that the numbers have been cut and the beats extended. When are we going to see the increase in officers?

Charles replied that we need to have a town hall meeting with all the neighborhoods. HMP still has one of the safest. Yes, there was a merger between the departments but the sheriff depts. moved back.

Tom Forman noted that the city is not going to fix crime for us. The prosecutors office needs help. The city can say whatever they want, but they're not really going to do it. Officer Jennings noted the need for a community policing program. Need people to report suspicious activity, use info for the benefit of the police, really do the courtwatch program.

Jennifer asked for tips on identifying people walking through the neighborhood who have a purpose versus those who don't. Officer Jennings noted that people walking purposefully are often just walking, versus those who loiter around. Officers can keep an eye on that, but neighbors should walk for people who don't seem to be moving to a destination.

Victoria noted that crimes against properties don't carry high sentences, so many offenders don't seem to care. Officer Jennings agreed and noted that the Courtwatch program helps this. Chris Newlon noted that, as a taxpayer, there are people worth keeping in jail. Victoria also noted that she provided photos of criminals that were taken with the video recorder but it didn't seem to matter. Charles noted that things like this help prosecutors build a case. Someone asked if any of the broken-into homes had dogs, and Jessica Harbison-Weaver noted that they did but they were up on the 3rd floor and "really, a dachshund?"

Officer Jennings noted that if people can't see in your house, they can't figure out what to grab. Charles advised that if anyone comes to the door, don't open it. Talk through it and refuse all offers. Call police if they seem at all fishy. Jane Root advised block captains to look out for vacant homes and inquired why we're so generous with giving people time to leave houses vacant? Officer Jennings noted there is only so much H&H can do.

NESCO did something with going after vacant homeowners. Charles shared that Sharon Franklin in the mayor's office is working with vacant homes for re-claiming.

A guest from ONS noted that if the mayor's office wants people to live downtown, they need to do something to make people feel safe. Maybe a cross-collab between ONS and HMP because we deal with the same people. When people are getting broken into multiple times, we don't want to live here. Taxes are too high to be getting bad service.

Charles- people are just not respecting each other anymore

Chris N- wanted to clarify that "listserv" is a constant conversation btwn neighbors

Kellie- both Officer Jennings and Charles should be on listserv if they aren't already

Chris- noted need to share more photos

Tom- noted that Scott Newman, on the news, was sharing a story very different from Charles'. Would like them to look at that the crime itself is changing in type. We are still seeing increase and not feeling safe.

Kellie –Moving on, still looking into the 4way stop at 17th & Alabama?
Charles- DPW is looking into it. Speed sign for school is probably not going to happen unless we can get one moved from another area
Kellie- Requested rep from DPW at one of the next meetings
Charles- trying also to get the traffic units out more
Maxine with Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods introduced herself- they work with IMPD and US attorney's office with the goal to reduce gun and gang violence.
Encouraged HMP to think about ways we might partner, give the ideas to Kellie and we can brainstorm in the future.

New Business

Kellie introduced Brad Beaubien, who presented the KPADC Comprehensive Public Safety Improvement Plan. Questions and comments can be directed to Brad.

Comments about Safety/Crime after included:

Victoria noted a dog on a leash hit by a car at 20th and Delaware. Be careful and also keep eye on the Crime View map. You can see which offenders are living in our neighborhoods and see photos. Also recommended new safety products:

Big Jammer Door Jamb

Solar film that you can put on windows so they are harder to break

Door Jamb Armor- noted, requires IHPC approval

Outdoor Sirens for your alarm system- otherwise they are hard to hear. Also, keep a short call list

For Court Watch- make sure to tell prosecutors if you are coming.

For Private Security- we are trying out an officer while off-duty. He listens to his scanner and is also doing "non obvious" patrols. Will try to circulate his photo so we know him. Even \$20/month helps keep him in the neighborhood. Neighbors can write checks directly to him. Helps some more than others, and will keep time sheet.

John Carter- Stressed importance of putting house numbers on back of house in alley

Joe Pendleton- Court Watch used to include a "Stay Away" program that we can use if former neighborhood offenders come back here.

Tom Forman noted that when neighbors move, we may not know if offenders against them have been released. Prosecutors should notify neighborhood.

Chris Newlon would like to see this info going several years back to track offenders

Victoria- watch for similar descriptions of people on listserv- call police

Kellie- keeps camera handy to take photos of people walking through neighborhood.

Other Updates

HHS- working on a deal to deliver Urban Times through students. They will also soon have a recycle bin that they make money off of, so please recycle! The Park is also getting a blue/yellow recycle bin.

Committee Reports

Membership- 60 paid

Clean up- Russ, Kellie and Elisabeth met. April 25 is neighborhood "Green Up," June 6 is neighborhood "Clean Up," and Sept 12 is fall "Clean Up." Meeting with KIB to talk about services they provide.

Children & Family- next big thing is Easter Egg Hunt

Finance- Jessica shared balance sheet

Foundation- Julie talked about the annual meeting and the neighborhood market

Art Fair- June 13 and 14

Publicity- seeking hosts for Progressive Dinner

Newsletter- Becky shared details of new plan with Bill Brooks and HHS

Old Business

Website update- Kellie shared that Kelly Pfladderer and Apparatus is working with HMP to redesign. Adding tools so that we have control of future updates. We hope to have links by Feb to share

Next steps for KPADC plan:

Brad to go to all neighborhoods in next month, collecting feedback and developing task forces. They are seeking neighborhood buy in. Rob Helfenbien suggested that at the next meeting we might do a formal statement of support. Tom Forman suggested we do that when the final plan is ready. Brad noted that they will move forward with meeting with IMPD and Ballard when they have a final plan.

John Carter noted that we are all fighting the same battles, it is good to have the umbrella program over it. Kelie noted that we do have reps on the KPADC comm., any help would be appreciated!

Adjourned at 9:30 PM