

Notes from the Azalea Park Neighborhood Association

Meeting of November 12, 2013

Linda Pennington presented a brief description of the 4-day build of The Gathering Place on a former degraded piece of property in Azalea Park. This included before-and-after pictures of the site.

Our neighborhood ambassador, Jose Diaz, described a projected welcome letter to present to new neighbors which will include important contacts, local businesses, volunteer opportunities and a map of Azalea Park. He welcomes being notified of new residents and he is recruiting members for the welcome team.

Jim Martin spoke of the Meerkat Patrol---the neighborhood beautification team---and said the initial team meeting will take place at his home (4163 Poplar St.) on Sunday, November 17th at 1:00PM. Those interested are welcome.

Officer Rene Murillo summarized the quarterly management report including that violent crime has declined but property crime has increased. He spoke of AB (Assembly Bill) 109 which involves the release of non-violent criminals to supervised return to the community. San Diego has received funds with regard to this. Involve residences have been inspected with some arrests as a result.

Rudy Vargas, from councilmember Marti Emerald's office, praised the Gathering Place as a local asset. He reported on a pending increase in water rates; that in 2014 the average household increase will be

\$1.80 monthly with annual increases expected. There will be a hearing with regard to this issue on November 21st.

Raquel Maden, of Assemblyman Ben Hueso's office, presented the office newsletter and mentioned brief highlights of some articles. She encouraged community input into the legislative process (issues such as disability, unemployment and public utilities).

Gabe Gutierrez, from County Supervisor Ron Roberts' office, reminded attendees to get their flu shots, men to get their prostate exams. He also voiced that e-cigarettes should be used with caution as they are very unregulated.

Ricardo Moran presented flyers describing the "starfish" concept as it relates to decentralized organization in the function of neighborhood groups. He also noted that the Red Cross will be presenting local trainings for emergency preparedness and disaster response.

It was group-decided that our December APNA meeting will be our holiday potluck and will include a short business component.

Volunteers who offered to help set up for the event include Cheryl, Cactus Bob, Linda and Loretta.

Cactus Bob reported that the monthly Water Conservation Garden maintenance day will now be the 3rd Saturday of each month (to allow for greater neighbor participation). He will report on the needs of the garden at each APNA meeting.

Carla Pisbe will be the guest speaker at our January meeting.

Notes presented by Bob Walters, APNA Secretary