

Azalea Park Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

From November 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm with introductions; APNA President Justin Boone presided; and approximately 37 people attended. The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Officer Danny Medina, Mid-City's 830s CRO discussed the most recent outreach efforts to deal with the continuing homeless situation; continued low staffing levels for SDPD and ancillary departments; the importance of calling in to the SDPD and noting details as we see possible crimes in progress, even if it is just someone driving vehicles through the park off-road and/or after hours; press the STAR (*) key for quicker access at the non-emergency phone number; increased gang activity (mostly graffiti) between University and El Cajon Blvd. and 32nd Street and I-15 which is primarily two rival Hispanic gangs; and the need to be vigilant in awareness of our surroundings with the current rise in terrorism/random acts of violence, especially in crowded spaces/events.

Kelvin Barrios of Councilmember Georgette Gomez' office noted the City's approval for 3 new giant tent structures to house the homeless for one year at a cost of \$5,000/month/person; continued open-door office hours for the Councilmember and her staff every Friday from 10am to 1:30pm at the City Heights Rec Center; the planned December 14 District 9 year-end State of the District event in Southcrest at the ECC Training Center; the Council members' efforts to restructure bonds to tackle the City's huge deficit; and Councilmember Gomez' ongoing work with MTS to address transportation/traffic issues.

Jeff Brooker of the City Attorney's office reminded the attendees that the holidays are the season to be especially aware of mail/package theft and, if possible, we should arrange to have packages delivered to neighbors or other monitored sites if we know we will not be home for delivery. He also noted that he's been communicating with the Vice department regularly regarding the walking prostitutes that have been reported in/around AP recently; while no dedicated enforcement for this currently exists, he and Vice are compiling as much information from reports they receive and are working toward a solution.

Deanneka Flores of Sen. Ben Hueso's office updated the group on the progress of the Senator's bills noting that the Language and Arts Reading Bill was vetoed by the Governor; the bill for Tijuana River Valley funding passed; the bill to stop gas and electric service disconnection for people dependent upon that to stay alive was approved; and the Salton Sea bill passed. The Senate is in recess now until the end of December.

Linda Pennington noted the current rice drive which last year collected 16,000 lbs to benefit local Asian population offering to purchase 10-lb bags of rice from Costco with any donations she receives; that our long-time neighbor Larry May is now scheduled for heart surgery at Baylor in Texas on November 21; recent canyon clean-up activities locally and at the Gathering Place.

Ambassador JP Schuiteman invited all to a painting party for new/returning neighbors, Chris and Stephen, at 4165 Pepper Drive this Saturday from noon until the painting is completed.

Chiquita's gift certificates were awarded in appreciation of deserving neighbors as follows:

- Melissa De La Rosa for singlehandedly and at her own expense cleaning/painting the 85' fence at the Hollywood Canyon trailhead;
- Linda Pennington, "the Queen of Azalea Park", for her continued daily selfless and untiring efforts to improve the neighborhood;
- Max Ortiz on Columbine for her foresight, encouragement and willingness to allow Burly & the Bean next door to her; and
- Carlos Huasco of the US Navy Ship MERCY who has been bringing his crew members and young family repeatedly to volunteer for AP canyon clean-ups.