

HHIA Meeting Minutes May 23, 2011

Roll Call

Tara, Stacy, Anna, Kendal, Ted

Not here: Beth, Brenda, Paul

Treasurer's report

Introduction of neighbors – several people came to the meeting wanting to find out about some of the crimes that have happened.

Police officer not here

Woerner School principal. Happened on Thursday.

3rd grader dropped off an hour before school – not a smart thing to do.

Child came to her and said a man had grabbed her and told her to come with him. She broke away and hid until the school opened. Police got description of the suspect and have been making their presence known.

Guest Speakers

Sister Catherine

Catholic School collaborative

We like to think we are one of the good things going on in the neighborhood.

May not be your choice but we encourage you to at least take a look at us. Brought card that talks about philosophy. We do have to talk about tuition. We realize it gets more and more expensive, but there are options. Tuition only covers portion – donations from individual and the parish cover the rest.

Our teachers are all certified, well-educated and excellent, dedicated teachers. Biggest expense is teacher salaries.

We have schools that have been established over 100 years. We have a proven history of academic excellence.

We have a particular philosophy and faith basis. Core curriculum in each of 20 elementary schools. Each has a web site. If you are looking for schools with a band, or theatre program, or early childhood. Not every school has everything. Partnering with high schools. Special learning consultants with special training to work with students with any learning need. Program at St. John the Baptist with special education teacher.

We usually go according to parish boundaries, but when there are special areas that you want your child to have, we do allow that. We accept students of all faiths, but one of our requirements is that students must attend the religion class. They do not have to profess the faith, they are learning the tenets of the faith. Encourage parental involvement. Our children graduate from 8th grade ready to go into the Catholic high schools and also the public schools in the city and county.

We want the neighborhood to understand that we are an asset to you and we feel the neighborhood is an asset to us. We want all schools to be excellent. We simple want to be one of many excellent choices.

Megan Bohac – principal at St. Stephens. We are about full, which is very exciting for us.

Last few years introduced a learning consultant, a Spanish program, very strong theater program. Happy to meet with parent over the summer.

Guest Speaker

Rachel

Community Affairs at Circuit Attorneys

Natalie Warner

Jennifer Miles – investigator – if you have information

Jennifer Joyce wanted her staff to get out and talk about what their office does

How many people know that our office has a role in enforcing child support, sex offender reporting, child sex abuse

Few people know this

Child support – with dept of social service helped enforce child support for over xxx children

Help locate parents and hold them accountable – sell assets, garnishee wages, including drug proceeds

2.7m in back child support collected. Professional boxer was \$100k behind children were on welfare – followed up with his venues etc and were able to collect \$95K.

When the parent could support them but doesn't then the state is supporting them. When we collect back child support we pay back the taxpayers

\$77k came back to taxpayers from child support collections

Work with people when they are clearly not able to make the payments. When they can afford to pay we work to make them accountable.

Encouraged anyone to call office if they know people with child support issues.

Sometimes when drug dealers are arrested, when cash is seized and they can't show it is proceeds from a job, office can seize these funds and apply to back due child support.

Myths and facts of child sex abuse

Sex offender registration list on web site

Warrant & fugitive section of police dept – they track down and bring to person in CA office

By partnering with police dept and state police to hold sex offenders accountable

Sex offenders unit. Those cases are some of the toughest to prosecute. The work that that unit does to hold that person accountable and also to help the kids get through it in a way that keeps them whole.

Natalie Warner – team lead lives in Holly Hills – Christine Kreug sp?

Like Law & Order SVU – they require a little special handling

One CA handles the case all the way through so they are not retraumatized every time they have to talk about it.

Great success in prosecutions last year

Usually very little physical evidence, no eyewitness, just the word of a child.

It's very important to listen to a child – it might be hard for them to speak up. Domestic violence victims, embarrassment.

Victim advocates work with children as well

Some people are scared to “turn in” somebody. The very most important thing for victims – domestic violence and child abuse – is for someone to believe them, listen to them.

Child abuse hotline doesn't mean you're calling the police – it doesn't mean someone is automatically going to be arrested. If you make a report it's completely anonymous. Someone will check it out within 12 hours.

It's better to get involved and have it turn out to be nothing. We'd like it to turn out to be nothing.

Tom villa

Assessments – feels bill explains where money goes quite well

Explained the assessment process – key barometer is when comparable nearby property sells

Painting Lyle house started today – contract shows 40 days to get job done. I'm kind of an interloper here – I'm not taking credit here. Alderman Wessels and my nephew Matt got this started.

List of new street pavings – Bel Rive from Grand to 55 – that's a pretty expensive, long wide street. Matt was able to save up some money to get that done.

The tentative completion dates – Loughborough Bridge, July 1 to be completed.

I don't understand how it's going to work – it looks like a new lane to nowhere but hopefully they've got an engineer from Rolla who has figured that out.

Holly Hills scheduled to reopen on Oct. 1

Delor St. scheduled to reopen Nov. 1

All pretty ambitious dates.

Little parks near St. Boniface have been fixed up and look great.

Coca cola syrup plant – new apartments

Park across the street – lion's park all new concrete, new playground. Really nice. It should help that gentleman rent those apartments. Visually pleasing and help uplift the spirit of the neighborhood.

People are stealing everything – manhole cover on stolen twice in two days apart.

No law we write is going to correct a jerk, but it's really a problem.

I wouldn't leave anything on your car seat at all. Don't leave a CD there. Put it in the trunk.

Are we living in a war zone? No. but don't tempt fate. A lot of people need money in this economy.

Stealing empty refuse drums in the parks for the metal. They're going to take anything which is a sad commentary.

If you have any doubts, if you do anything on your property, call us to see if you need a permit. If you get into housing court there's not much I can do.

Redevelopment plan for grand and holly hills. Tadpole Saloon, Southern Funeral Home, Shoppers Cleaners building, Foodland. There is a possibility they are going to call on me to file a redevelopment plan. I will keep you in the loop. There's something afoot. There's been a series of meetings with the mayor's office. The key is to clean up that parking lot.

Entire 11th ward by end of the month, supposedly, will have three kinds of Dumpsters – trash, yard waste and recycling.

I've never been an alderman before. I was president of the board of alderman, but this is real work.

If you've got a sewer backup – MSD is pretty responsive. We need to get a list of those sewers that are backing up.

Q. Sewer near grand ave viaduct has been backed up for 6 months. I called MSD and they said it was the parks dept.

A. Encouraged him to call his alderman to contact MSD to get it fixed.

New alderman, Larry Arnowitz, from the 12th Ward

I think it's apparent if you live in the area you should show up. Being fairly new, my project right now is getting all the weeds and trash at the vacant houses cleaned up. Trees that need to be trimmed, alleys that need to be cleaned up.

Going back in the neighborhood to check with residents and develop a priority list.

Re-districting – there will be some boundary changes – not official until later in the year. Things shift because of the census.

One thing that's bothering me is these bath salts that are being sold in the city. Spoke with CA's office and something at the state level may be coming.

Cross walk at Trainor – some people want a stop light – I don't think we need that, but we need a stop sign. Playground

Wessels

So much of the tax money you and I pay goes to dealing with these jerks. The jails. I know there's over 1500-2000 spots at these two facilities. But the cost to maintain these correctional facilities, the cost of probation and parole – it's one of the things that bothers me about this job – spending so much money on these type of folks. But it's necessary. The police. They have been very cooperative with their budget. They have not had a pay increase. They've done a lot to keep their budget down.

1400 uniformed officers and they do a great job but it costs us a lot to maintain a force like this.

If you live in the 13th ward and you don't have a recycling bin in your alley, you should. It was supposed to have been completed a couple months ago. I get a couple of calls from blocks they've missed. If you're in that situation let me know.

I'm at Foodland every Friday. If you want to email me it's fredwessels@hotmail.com. I've got a web site.

I live at 3950 Dover. I'm in the phone book. You can call me anytime.

Larry mentioned redistricting. The bill is very close to being finished. I expect we'll have a committee hearing next week. Sometime in June we'll have a bill passed. Wherever you are (in this area) you'll have one of the three of us. There won't be any big changes.

Budget – 150 fewer jobs than currently. No decrease in the number of police officers. Unpaid furlows for most city employees – one week for most employees – 2 weeks for management. Third year in a row we've done that. No pay raises of course. Less capital spending, less streets paved – we will get some.

Bates from Ulena to Morganford, Grace street.

No fee increases of any sort that I'm aware of.

Answer to question from audience - Lyle House – I don't consider it to be closed – it is leased to the pinocle club.

If you drive by you'll see cars there at 8 am, by 1 o'clock they're gone. Having someone in there everyday is a good thing – having someone in there sort of watching it.

There are many fewer guys in the club then there were 15 years ago. I don't know what the future is of that club. When the demand isn't there, we'll probably try to rehab the interior – that's my idea in there anyway. It would probably be available for meetings.

Do you see it as a revenue stream for the park where you can rent it out? I see it as a revenue loss. You're not going to make money on a building like that.

I would not do it to make money. I would do it to make it available to the public. You have to be careful, someone could do a lot of damage to the place. I don't ever see it as a restaurant or anything.

Question from audience about crime

More police presence

Murder above paladora pizza place – police think it was drug related

Police go about it pretty scientifically now

We're putting a lot of resources into the police dept and the circuit atty's office.

Question from audience about property that always takes a long time for the person to cut the grass – they cut it eventually – Wessels – we can send them a fine letter (if city has to cut it, they send them a bill).

Bigger problem is vacant buildings – so many foreclosures – everywhere, not just in the city. It's a very slow process.

Question from resident – woman who has called NSO about dogs constant barking – Wessels – call 911, it's peace disturbance. And don't let the officer argue with you. Most of them won't, but some of them do. It's peace disturbance. Call the police and keep calling them. The police will get tired of them and give them citation.

TJ Minden – Did send letter and asked animal control to check on them. Concurred with Wessels about calling police and also let NSO know. We can start giving them citations for lack of vaccinations, not cleaning up after them etc. Once these start stacking up then we can get something done.

Call CSB about tree limbs – forestry needs to know where they are.

Whitaker music festival at the garden

National night out

Brian Kolde – Ward 11

Explained CSB – the main way the city disperses problems to city departments to get taken care of. Pot holes, tree limbs etc. Rather than having to call each department individually. You get a service request number and a time frame.

Problem properties etc. Ordinance honed over the years to go after problem property owners.

Announcements

Movies

Dumpsters

Change of meeting locations

Increased ad sizes available.