

Neighborhood Watch Minutes

January 19, 2010

Attendees:

Bob Lyford
Hiroko McCamey
Douglas Murphy
Bob Baskin
Linda Glew
Bill Glew
Maree Webster
Scott Egloff, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
Kathy Strom, Mayor
Officer Dana Stroman
Alicia Delaune
Samantha Nolan, Chevy Chase D.C. Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

1. Samantha Nolan, the Neighborhood Watch coordinator for Chevy Chase, D.C. for almost 10 years, explained the benefits of the NW program and how it helps prevent crimes of opportunity. This is done through community building and education. Ms. Nolan mentioned that people talking on their cell phones or listening to an iPod are more likely to be robbed. Their NW program does not conduct patrols. The communities that do patrol have active drug and/or gang activity. Tagging, or graffiti, is the first symbol of gang activity and should be dealt with immediately. This is used by gangs to mark their territory. Mayor Strom noted that the Town did find and immediately report graffiti along the trail. It was removed. Dark places encourage crime and light areas discourage crime. People should keep their front and back porch lights on at night so passing officers can see their street address and people in their front yards. Officers on foot patrol are also very effective. The Chevy Chase DC program established a network of neighbors who walk home at night from work and from public transportation. There is safety in numbers. Block captains are responsible for the houses along one block on both sides of the street. Each block captain has an alternate in case the block captain is on vacation. The Chevy Chase DC coordinator checks the 2nd District Police listserv every day and sends out important information to all block captains immediately. If the news is not urgent, the coordinator sends out a weekly update. The block captains then send out this update to those on their block. If someone does not have email, they are paired with a "buddy" who drops a hard copy to their door. Ms. Nolan discouraged omitting reports of crimes outside of the immediate community. Both Ms. Nolan and Officer Stroman agreed that criminals do not know/care about boundaries. Officer Stroman also encouraged residents to look out for Alert Montgomery which will serve as a real-time notification system.
2. The NW Committee suggested hosting a Town wide meeting on safety tips and useful information. The meeting should be held in April. Samantha Nolan and Officer Stroman could

both attend and present their expertise on personal and home safety issues. The announcement should go out in the Forecast.

3. Recruitment/moving forward with NW: Block captains can host parties or go door-to-door to get the program started on their respective blocks. Ms. Nolan suggested starting immediately to educate residents. Add message to the Forecast that NW block captains will be starting to contact their neighbors about the program. The article could list blocks that are currently covered or have block captain volunteers. This notifies residents that they might receive a visit and advertises the blocks that still need volunteers.
4. Next Steps-
 - a. Present draft synopsis of NW program and documents to be included in block captain packet to the Council at their February meeting.
 - b. Start planning/reserving space for April information session.
 - c. Next meetings scheduled for 3rd Tuesday of every other month at 7pm.
 - i. March 16
 - ii. May 18
 - iii. September 21
 - iv. November 16
5. Officer Stroman presented updates on recent crime trends in the 2nd District. There is currently a crime trend in Potomac of stealing high value jewelry.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.