

**8/17/19 10AM
Town Hall Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 10:13 AM
- Introductions

Announcements and Board Updates

- Shane reminded neighbors that the minutes from this meeting will be shared on NextDoor and our website. He asked if neighbors could share information with those who don't use the internet or social media.

Traffic Committee

- Shane reported on the Traffic Committee, noting that they've met over the last few months and taken notes on traffic flow, accident areas, highly trafficked roads, etc and are making strategies for how to improve traffic in the neighborhood (more one-way streets, stop signs, etc). A neighbor noted that rumble strips may work well, and another neighbor asked if they'd look at speed going down alleys. Both neighbors said that they'd get involved with the Committee. This plan would be shared with the group at the meeting in September.
- Shane reminded the group that if there's something that they want to be a part of, we'd love to have the feedback and like for them to be involved. He asked neighbors to send an email or give a call. There's contact info on back of agenda.

Illegal Dumping

- Shane reminded the group that the best way to report illegal dumping in the community, in alleys, or boulevards, (this includes yard waste bags in median areas) they should try to take a photo of the dumping (if you feel safe), and ideally write down the license plate number. They should report this information to 311, either over the phone or through the app, then get a reference number and pass it on to Shane, who can help move it forward.
- A neighbor asked what the best way to have yard waste picked up is, to which Mary Pat Clarke responded that if you put it out with your trash in bags labelled 'yard waste', they should pick it up, but there is a 5 bag minimum. You should not put yard waste in your green trash cans.

Construction

- Construction has started on Village Center and will be starting soon on Gilcrest Center. This will take access away from the upper green space behind the YMCA.
- Shane reminded neighbors to please keep their dogs on leashes, for safety reasons, no matter the size. He noted that in the past there have been unfortunate situations where they've run towards senior neighbors. He also asked neighbors to please pick up after your dogs.

Misc.

- A neighbor asked if there was anything that could be done about how dark the alleys are, asking specifically if they could ask the Dept. of Forestry if they could come trim tree limbs or have LED lights installed. Shane responded that the Dept. of Forestry had done limb trimming before and that he would see if they could expedite a request. Mary Pat Clarke addressed the LED question, saying that many neighborhoods have gotten them, then decided they were too bright and had them uninstalled, so they're working out a better solution.
- There were several questions about how to address lamp poles that aren't working, or go out often, or haven't been reinstalled. Shane noted that each lamp post has a number that coincides with it, if you write that number down and send it to Shane, the Board can work with BGE to report the issue.

Safety Committee Update & Micro Community Policing Strategy

Safety Committee Update

- Joe reported that he wants to restart Citizens on Patrol, but he's had issues with people signing up. He asked if folks could reach out to him to sign up.
- Joe explained Micro Community Policing to the group, stating that they reached out to OSI (Open Society Institute), who is interested in helping us fund this project, in which we come together as a community to figure out what safety looks like in our neighborhood and develop strategies to address the issues that we deal with as a community.
- He noted that they've asked the question "What does public safety mean to you", at several meetings, and the answers ranged. He noted the need to have an honest conversation and find intersections where we agree, and identify action items to move forward. He added that community input will be vital during this process.
- Joe introduced a moderator, who came to the meeting to help facilitate a conversation which will inform how we move forward with the plan for our neighborhood.

Micro Community Policing w/ Moderator, Changa Onyango

- Changa Onyango introduced himself as a professional facilitator, who will help lead the conversation between neighbors. He noted that he will not be interjecting answers, but will be a neutral party and to make sure that everyone feels heard.
- A few neighbors relayed personal stories about crime that they've witnessed in the neighborhood and how it has affected them. Changa noted that crime has influenced those in our neighborhood on many different levels, and their values have changed because of it. We all have competing values and passions and the room is stratified, but there are areas that we can agree on.
- He noted that this meeting won't produce a full strategic plan, but it can set the stage for a long term plan.
- Changa posed this question to the group: What are your top two priorities for the Public Safety Committee to think about in making this plan?
 - Preventing violent crime against persons
 - Community Activism/ Collective Action
 - Even spreading of resources
 - vacant houses
 - areas that are labeled 'nice' being overlooked
 - more resources for police & let police do their jobs
 - partnering with universities for their resources
 - Pressuring the City to do more to help
 - burden shouldn't be on us
 - one person responsible for patrolling our neighborhood so they know us
 - not focus on one individual neighborhood
 - push city to work together to fill vacancies
 - put money into training police officers
 - Research into why this crime is happening and perpetuating
 - research specifically about residential neighborhoods
 - research into personal crime
 - research what other similar cities have done, don't recreate the wheel
 - Corporate sponsorship for resources for those who can't afford them
 - Doing our part as citizens
 - what can we do to be more of a community
 - noticing what goes on in the neighborhood
 - organize with other communities who are experiencing the same thing

- Changa reminded the neighborhood that It's very rare that a community gets an opportunity to be in front of the money and being asked to dream up what to do with it. He thanked all all who participated and encouraged everybody at all levels of impact to be involved in this process.
- Joe thanked everyone for having this conversation and informing the work that will be done going forward. He noted that the next Safety Committee meeting is on Wednesday. Folks can call in, google chat, watch it later (it will be recorded), but to be involved and provide input. He noted that this isn't a perfect process, but at the end of the day, we have to make sure were doing something in the community to prevent what's happened in the past from happening again
- Shane reported that there will be a series of neighborhood walks, light surveys, etc. The first walk will be on Sept 11th, and Commissioner Harrison will join us with his team to meet folks, etc
- September 17th is next community meeting
- Joe reminded the neighborhood be conscious of putting personal information on NextDoor

Closing

12:13pm