

Scottfield Civic Association Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 13, 2007, 7:30 p.m., Gauger-Cobbs School

www.scottfield.org, <mailto:sca@scottfield.org>

Attendees: 20 Scottfield Neighbors, Susanne Hussey, aide to Councilman Dave Tackett, and Bill Wheatley, NCC liaison and coordinator of Brookside's Block Watch. If you would like additional information about any of the topics discussed at this meeting, please contact our board for a prompt.

1. Block Watch Training: A 2-part series for citizens concerned about maintaining safety in our neighborhood is being offered free of charge by the NCC police department. Residents of Brookside, Scottfield, Todd Estates and Newark Oaks have expressed interest in this training as Block Watch is revitalized. Training meetings are scheduled at the Brookside Community Center, 900 Marrows Road, at 7:00 p.m. on November 28 and December 5, 2007. Residents are urged to call 911 if they note any activity requiring police intervention.
 - a. Block watch training includes the setting of short, mid, and long-term improvement goals
 - b. Initial concerns will focus on minor graffiti and vandal control and interest in the program in cultivated
 - c. Mid-term goals include Block Watch participant growth, community awareness and possibly participation in national crime prevention programs
 - d. The long-term goal is to involve the majority of residents in Block Watch as we foster a caring community spirit in zone of safety. Suggestions for medians or traffic slowing devices near the entrances and school, a community bulletin board and the vision of a community center were also shared as future improvements for consideration.
2. Holiday decorating contest: Judging will be on December 16th. Neighbors interested in being on the judging committee are invited to contact the board via email. Prize structure: \$75 for 1st place, \$50 for 2nd place, and \$25 for 3rd. If the winning homeowners' annual dues have not been paid, it will be deducted from their award.
3. Maintenance and safety concerns and updates:
 - a. Concern was raised regarding blockage of the drainage creek behind Broadfield Drive. It's believed that new warehouse construction on Dawson Drive has caused the ditch blockage. If left unattended, residents near 843 Broadfield could face flooding consequences during times of heavy precipitation. Request was made to replace old, ineffective stop sign at entrance to school parking lot.
 - b. Observation that sewer/manhole cover located in the sidewalk on the street in front of the school appears to be sinking.
 - i. Susanne Hussey will investigate and work towards resolution on the above issues.
 - c. Snow plowing and sanding bid has been accepted by J&S Snow Plowing (Joseph Frederick) for the coming season
 - i. Many plowing companies are not willing to bid on the Scottfield because residents do not cooperate by moving their vehicles out of the street when snowfall is expected. Drivers cannot clear driveway

- entrances or prevent vehicles parked in the street from being plowed in.
 - ii. Residents are responsible for the full cost of plowing if individual storm snowfall is less than 4 inches.
 - iii. The state does offer reimbursement assistance for measurable snowfall over 4 inches in a single storm, but the plowing service must be paid up front by the civic association.
 - d. Much discussion took place regarding speeding cars and busses in the area. Residents are asked to note date, times and locations of repeated offenses so a TAC unit can be requested police the area. Documentation can be brought to future SCA meetings or forwarded to the board.
4. Membership status: As of 11/13 current membership has reached 93, representing 16.29% of the households in Scottfield. Current revenue stands at a modest \$5,703.41.
- a. Payments can be made by check mailed to the PO Box or through the website via Paypal account or credit card.
 - b. The website list of participating households is constantly being updated as membership increases.
 - c. Residents are asked to encourage their neighbors to renew if membership has lapsed.
 - d. Street Representatives (Governors) may be contacted to make personal appeals in their area
 - e. Bylaws may be revised to make annual dues mandatory for incoming residents.
5. Civic Association communication and revitalization projects:
- a. The website is the most cost effective and easily updated medium, but not accessible to everyone.
 - b. Periodic (quarterly?) SCAN will be printed and distributed to all residents highlighting import information and events and underscoring website access. Some felt that though the Colonial Real Estate newsletter solved the budgeting concerns involved with newsletter production, some residents discarded without realizing it contained community news.
 - c. Meeting announcement/newsletters notices are available to residents who sign up for the email service online.
 - d. The Halloween Parade and Costume Contest was celebrated on 10/29 by small group of residents. Expenses were half of the original budget and will continue next year.
 - e. The Fall yard sale few participants due to short notice and lack of communication. The goal is to piggy-back the Scottfield yard sales onto the M.O.P. semi-annual sales at Gauger-Cobbs. We will try to
 - f. Block Watch committee (please see training reference above)
 - g. Welcome committee is forming to greet new neighbors.
 - h. Proposal to revive" Operation Santa Claus". Parents of neighborhood children buy and wrap gifts for our local Santa to deliver shortly before Christmas. This charming program is a fond tradition that would be nice to bring back to Scottfield. A suit and volunteer Santa are needed if the program is to be adopted.
6. New Castle County information and community support <http://www.nccde.org>

- a. Crime map: <http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/publicsafety/home/webpage4.asp>
- b. Submit an anonymous crime tip: <http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/ci/home/tipsadd.asp>
- c. Land Use home page: <http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/LandUse/home/webpage1.asp>
 - i. Top 10 code violations (to report, 395-5555): <http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/landuse/webdynamic/fileuploads/images/Top%20Ten%20Violations.pdf>
 - ii. Property maintenance complaint system: <http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/LandUse/home/webpage35.asp>