

# **MINUTES**

## **Crescent Homeowners Association Meeting**

### **February 16, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by **Ryan Myers**, President, at the Church of the Nazarene. There were approximately 76 people in attendance.

#### **Secretary's Report – Lana Corneau**

The previous meetings' minutes had been delivered to all Crescent homeowners and were approved as printed.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

**Peggy Loop**, Treasurer, reported on the financial condition of the Homeowner's Association. As of the meeting date, we had received all but 23 of the 2005 dues payments. Our current bank balances total \$75,029.34. An explanation of the line items on the report was given and the Treasurer's report was approved as read. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is included with this package.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **New Business**

Security in the neighborhood was the main focus of, and reason for, this special meeting. Ryan briefly discussed why the neighborhood could not be gated. There are at least six different entrances to the neighborhood and the cost would be prohibitive. Additionally, we would become responsible for the maintenance of the streets if we gated the community. Crescent Park is a City Park and is open to the public, which is another reason we cannot install gates.

Ryan took a poll, asking how many of the attendees had been robbed in the past year and six residents raised their hands. Several other people had witnessed suspicious people or activities in the neighborhood in recent weeks.

Officer Scott Walton, the Crime Stoppers coordinator and a Tulsa police officer, was the keynote speaker. Scott stressed the importance of all homeowner's being aware of their surroundings. Women are often at a disadvantage and prime targets of robbers or assailants because they are busy with children, groceries, busy schedules, etc. Criminals look for opportunities and act on them to rob or attack.

Officer Walton also stressed the importance of watching where you park in lots, being aware of the lighting and the area of the parking lot. Many crimes start out by a perpetrator asking for directions.

Home alarms are a good deterrent but they must be used to be effective. Addresses must be clearly visible on houses to help the police responders find a house when they receive a 911 call. Common sense things must be implemented to insure safety. Have mail and papers stopped or picked up by a neighbor when you are out of town. Tell a neighbor when you will be gone and ask them to keep an eye on your home. Use timers for the lights to give the appearance that someone is home.

The Alert Neighbors Program (telephone 585-5209) is a very effective means of making a neighborhood safer. Mary Young offered to look into the program and present her findings at our next Homeowner's Association meeting on March 16, 2006. The Alert Neighbors Program is an information sharing system. The police want to know if suspicious activity is observed. Signs posted in the neighborhood are also a good deterrent to crime. Block captains will be needed to implement the Alert Neighbors Program. A trained volunteer will come out to tell us how to get the program up and running.

A question was raised about home alarms going off – do the police respond to them? The answer is.....yes, if the homeowner has an alarm permit on file. A permit can be secured from any alarm monitoring company for an annual fee. Another question was raised about getting our resident police officers involved in helping to secure the neighborhood.

What makes our neighborhood a target? Many people come in and out of the neighborhood – workmen, delivery people, gardeners, housekeepers – and they may see an opportunity or know when a homeowner is not at home.

It was suggested that we install security cameras at the main entrances of the addition. Woody Wood, one of our homeowners, is in the security business and he will investigate the cost. Another suggestion was to have Stickers for all residents to install on their rear car window as a means to identify which cars belong in the neighborhood and which don't. Some suggested that both cameras and car stickers would be a good combination to use.

Officer Walton also advised that one can ask the Police Department for a “watch order”, which lets them know that you are out of town and they will assign an officer (time allowing) to drive by and shine a light on the house periodically. This is most often used in an industrial area, however.

A question was raised about the use of stun guns – they are legal. Another question about storm doors came up – they help save energy and put one more layer of security against an intruder.

Our neighborhood security company – Knight Watchman Security 451-0032 – will be providing bi-weekly reports to the Association in an effort to make them more accountable. Their vehicle is not very visible as security – we may ask them if they can do something to improve the visibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.