

Gaywood Civic Club
Meeting Minutes
Annual Meeting – 31 January 2011
7:00 PM, Rummel Creek Elementary School

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by the President of the GCC, Jim Petruzzi. A total of 15 Gaywood residents were in attendance representing 13 households.

Constable Report

Jim began by introducing Officers Karen Goetz and Mitch Hutter who gave the Constable report. Officer Goetz began by saying that Gaywood has been relatively quiet, and that no homes were burglarized in Gaywood in 2010. There was some criminal mischief, and several vehicles were broken into in driveways and on the street. Nine out of ten times the vehicles were on the street. There was much more criminal activity in surrounding neighborhoods. The lower level of criminal activity in Gaywood might be due to the large number of people out walking, running, etc. in Gaywood compared to the surrounding neighborhoods. She pointed out that most of the time burglars will knock on your door before breaking in. Always acknowledge that you're home because they will usually not break into a home if they know someone is there. If someone knocks, ask them who they are and what they want without opening the door. In the villages a woman is dressing in an orange vest and posing as a utility worker to get homeowners to come out of the house while someone else goes inside and steals valuables. Don't hesitate to call the Constable's office if someone suspicious comes to your door.

A homeowner asked about solicitors. The officer replied that soliciting is legal without permit now. But homeowners should call the Constable anyway to have them checked out if they're suspicious. Homeowners can post a no trespassing sign, but if it's on the front door you need to give solicitors time to see it and leave before taking any action.

Sergeant Mitch Hutter then provided advice about home and personal safety. He pointed out that vehicle break-ins occur because thieves see something of value. Don't leave valuables in your vehicle in plain view. When you're out walking you should not wear jewelry because it makes you a target. He then demonstrated several security devices including the Door Master, a door security bar available at Ace Hardware. He said that double-cylinder locks not code compliant because they can be a security hazard during a fire. Lighting is big deterrent to crime. Dusk/dawn light timers or motion sensor lighting are very effective. A beware of dog sign, a dog bowl, security alarm signs, and big shoes left outside can also be deterrents. When you are not home, try not to make it obvious. Leaving newspapers outside and porch lights on signs you're away. He said to never hesitate to call the Constable if you see something suspicious. They'd rather have 100 false alarms than miss one real opportunity to catch a criminal.

The Constables office offers a free home security inspection. The inspection takes 30 minutes and provides suggestions on how to secure your home with various window locks and door locks. Homeowners who have the inspection could qualify for an insurance discount. To schedule an inspection, call the Precinct 5 Constable's office at 281-463-6666 and ask for Sergeant Mitch Hutter. Sergeant Hutter left several copies of a Home Security Survey. A link to the survey is posted on the homeowner resources page at www.gaywood.org.

Jim commented on the car sticker program, the status of which is currently pending. The program will use the same sticker design featuring a pine cone for 5 neighborhoods. The current proposal is to issue two stickers per home.

A 13-neighborhood email list has been set up to distribute security alerts to area residents. Pat Delaune is the contact for Gaywood, and forwards the alerts out to his list. So far only 25 emails are on his list out of the 118 homes in Gaywood. Email Pat at delaupl@yahoo.com to be added to the list.

2010 Budget

The 2011 budget was then discussed. Operating expenses for 2011 are estimated to be \$45,432, and dues would need to be increased by 5% to \$315/year in order to cover trash and constable increases. After a brief discussion of the budget it was put to a vote and was approved unanimously.

Election of 2010 Officers and Directors

Jim introduced the current officers and directors of the GCC. Elections were held for the four officer positions and for the Director #2 position currently held by Pat Delaune. Jim expressed the desire to have someone else take over as president, but there were no volunteers, so Jim agreed to serve another year. All of the incumbent officers and directors were nominated to continue in their present positions. The complete slate of officers being considered for election was:

President: Jim Petruzzi
Vice President: Perry Harrell
Secretary: Steve Gross
Treasurer: Donna Brown
Director #2: Pat Delaune

This slate of officers was elected by a unanimous vote of those present. Scott Humphrey will continue to serve in the position of Director #1, the term of which expires in 2013. Bill Jensen will continue to serve in the position of Director #3, the term of which expires in 2012.

ACC Update

Several plans were reviewed during 2010. The only issues that were reported were inconsiderate builders parking on lawns and blocking the street.

Other Business

A homeowner commented that poles in yards along the street are making it very difficult for them to back their SUV out of their driveway in. Jim said that poles and boulders along the street have been a recurring issue. The area between the ditch and the street is city property, so if any of these objects are creating a safety hazard, report them to the city.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.