

Greater Oak Hills Civic Association (GOHCA)
Semi-Annual General Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2017

Officers Present:

President – Brian Hanchey

Vice-President—Beau Wolfe

Treasurer—Rodney Underwood

Secretary—Emme Stansbury

Board Members and Committee Chairs Present:

Libby Ammon, Ellen Elias, Kim Moore, Steve Toban, Justin Smith, Mary Dommert, Bill Austin, Martha Austin, Jimmy Clark, Mario Gannuch, and Lucie Gannuch

1. President Brian Hanchey opens the meeting at 6:35 pm with a welcome to the audience. He explained that we would be going out of order from the agenda due to our guest's need to go on duty. He then introduced the guest speaker, Sheriff's Department Detective Rich.

2. EBR Sheriff's Department at Burbank – phone (225) 389-5000

a. Detective Rich addressed the robberies in our subdivision. He said young gang members are coming out in force to our area and many other areas in the parish. They are mainly looking for cash, fire arms and electronics in unlocked cars. Some come in cars and some on bicycles, but always during the early morning hours between midnight and 4 AM. He encouraged all of us to LOCK OUR CARS so they will move on to another neighborhood. Parish wide, there have been over 1600 car burglaries. A task force consisting of the FBI, EBR Police, and the Sheriff's office is addressing the problem—mainly gang members from the Zion City area.

b. Detective Rich encouraged all homeowners to call the sheriff's department (389-5000) or 911 for any unusual activity, especially young kids walking around in the early morning hours or cars driving slowly as if they are casing a house. The Burbank substation only has 6 officers per shift. There is a hiring freeze due to the flood and lower home appraisals.

c. Detective Rich also commented that currently the crime of choice is burglarizing unlocked cars but as the holidays near, home invasions will increase. Also, they may resort to breaking windows if they are desperate enough, but that makes a lot of noise and they would only get to a few cars verses approximately 30 cars.

d. They have made 12 arrests in our neighborhood in the past month. Perpetrators are juveniles that are repeat offenders with prints in the system. They are being caught because they are being identified by their fingerprints. They don't stay incarcerated long and are released by judges because of their age and are free to offend again. The FBI was brought in because perpetrators will have to serve 90-95% of their sentence if it is a federal sentence.

e. If FOBs (keyless entry or keyless ignition) are visible in the car, there is a greater chance that the car will be burglarized and stolen. Don't leave them in the car.

3. The floor was opened to questions from the assembly.

a. Would becoming a Crime Prevention Neighborhood be helpful? Answer: Yes, the association would have more control over many situations that arise and dues would be mandatory instead of voluntary which would allow more improvements.

b. Are home invasions down because of the Sheriff's patrols during the day? Answer: Yes, the perps never know when the patrols are taking place. The patrols do stop suspicious cars and inquire as to their business in the neighborhood.

c. Are security cameras useful? Answer: Yes, they help identify perps and are time stamped and dated. Also, they are useful for investigating crimes in the neighborhood to identify cars and license plate numbers as they drive by your house.

d. The board was commended for the beautification of the N. Oak Hills / Siegen entrance. President Hanchey gave Vice-President Beau Wolfe well deserved credit for the project.

4. At this point, Captain Stevens joined the conversation. He had a breakdown of the neighborhood's calls.

58- False Alarms	35- Public Assistance	5- Street Conditions	16- Vehicular Burglaries
16- 911 Hangups	3- Hit and Runs	1- Auto Theft	

5. President Brian Hanchey thanks the officers for their presentation and invites everyone to eat Pastalaya.

6. President Brian Hanchey resumed the meeting after most of the attendees had finished eating. He introduced the GOHCA officers and board members to the audience. He encouraged everyone to attend the monthly board meetings and to speak to a board member or officer regarding any concerns they might have. He reminded everyone that the next monthly meeting for November is moved up one week due to Thanksgiving.

President Hanchey answered questions from the audience about Crime Prevention Neighborhoods. He explained in detail the concept of a Crime Prevention Neighborhood and the process of becoming one.

He also answered questions about neighborhood speed bumps such as the expense of their installation and the damage done to the wheel alignment of cars. He suggested to those who were interested to view them in the Homewood Subdivision.

President Hanchey thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. A large group of 75-85 residents attended the meeting.