

Lakeview Crime Prevention District Meeting

February 21, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Saint Dominic-Thomas Aquinas Hall, Memphis Street

Brian Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM. Roll was called, in attendance were: Reid Raymond, Joe Landry, Jeb Bruneau, Brian Anderson, Nancy Lytle, Rory Bellina, Michelle Douglas, Val Cupit, and Freddy Yoder. Also in attendance were board accountant Larry Jacobi, and board attorney Richard Bordelon and LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin. A quorum was established with 9 board members present. Also present were approximately 2 members of the community.

Approval of minutes: Brian called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2017 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting was made by Nancy and seconded by Michelle. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.

Public Interest Agenda:

Brian introduced new board member Rory Bellina and called on Rory to tell those attending the meeting a little about himself. Michelle explained that Rory was appointed by the LCIA and that it was his first meeting. Rory joined LCIA in 2010, and the LCIA board in 2012. He has served in several positions on the LCIA board and is currently president-elect. He is an attorney, living in Lakeview, is married and has two children. Brian pointed out that as president-elect, that Rory would be filling the LCIA president position on the board next year thus requiring another position to be filled on the LCPD board at that time.

LCPD President remarks regarding neighboring crime prevention districts: Brian reported that he had been in contact with neighboring crime prevention districts. He attended the Lake Vista Crime District January meeting. They have a smaller population base and their budget is close to two hundred thousand dollars a year. They have only 12 miles of streets to patrol. They inquired about the LCPD by-laws. They use Metro Security. Brian also shared with the board Lake Vista's crime camera program that consists of 12 cameras at 6 locations. Their cameras are also license plate readers. They cannot monitor nor pull video from the cameras without the city's approval. If something happens, a report must be made and the victim then provides Metro Security with the NOPD item number. Metro then down loads the footage and reviews the video. They then turn over their findings to the NOPD detectives handling the case. The take-away was that Jeb and Brian would like to continue a dialog with Lake Vista's Crime District. Jeb added that it was good interaction and that it was more of them asking us questions about our board than us asking them.

Brian announced that because of the change of the schedule of the meeting that Third District Commander Jeffery Walls was not able to attend and that he was rescheduled for next month's meeting.

Crime Prevention Report & Statistics: LCPD Commander Sgt. Rene Benjamin reviewed the attached February 2017 Crime Prevention District Report of crimes through February twentieth. Auto burglaries continued to be the predominate crime to occur in Lakeview. There were 10 car burglaries in Lakeview, and there was no sign of forced entry in any of the cases. Two cars were stolen, both had the keys inside of them. One firearm was also stolen in Lakeview from an unlocked vehicle. Sgt. Benjamin concluded his report by reviewing tips on how to prevent auto burglaries. Reid stated that he had recently seen horse mounted patrols in Lakeview and Sgt. Benjamin confirmed that this was correct. Brian asked about the third district response times in Lakeview. He pointed out that LCPD response times were less than 6 minutes from LCPD officers but that we were over seventeen minutes for third district officers responding to Lakeview calls. Val added that she believed that those numbers were for report-writing cars who respond to code ones. She also reminded the board that the LCPD is supposed to be a supplement to the NOPD and that she would like to see a third district car also respond to code two calls. She felt like they were going more towards other areas. Sgt. Benjamin reported that at night that there were typically between five and seven cars operating in the third district and that this included the report-writing cars. Val pointed out that Interstate six-ten is a real drain on third district resources particularly when there is an incident there. Both Jeb and Brian mentioned that State Representative Hilferty is looking into why the State Police do not respond on the interstate. Brian added that Lake Vista crime district does not have a way to measure response times and that there is not a lot of accountability with Metro Security. He added that it doesn't appear that Lake Vista area is getting seventeen-minute response times from NOPD, and he questioned why Lake Vista would be getting much better response times from NOPD third district than Lakeview. Val questioned if Lakeview was getting any city services beyond the patrol-writing cars. Brian summarized that he understood that third district Commander Walls was doing everything that he could with the resources that were provided to him. Brian added that if we wanted any more from the NOPD, that perhaps we should look higher than Commander Walls. Val reported that the Endymion Krewe had hired 40 police officers to direct parade participants from entering Lakeview and to direct them to park in City Park.

Financial Report: Larry reviewed the financial report (attached) for February. He reported that we had collected over five hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars in the month of February and that we have never collected that much this early. We have collected over two thirds of our annual fees already. He speculated that it was because the bills went out early and that many paid them in 2016 to include that in their taxes for the previous year. We are well on the way to collecting all the fees owed. Larry stated that the financial reports looked very good. He expected to be timely with the June 1st requirement to file the budget with the legislative auditors. Larry also reported that in order to have Joe Landry as a signee for the check book, that once the papers were ready, Joe would have to go to Capital One and sign some papers. Larry expected that it would be done before the next meeting.

Brian announced that the LCIA was both running and funding a Lock-It-Or-Lose-It Campaign. It would consist of going into the schools in Lakeview and targeting the children to see if they can convince their parents to lock their cars. It would also include street signs in the neighborhood as well as a page on Facebook.

Public Comments: There were no public comments, but Brian did thank the members of the public who were present for attending.

Administrative Agenda: Brian announced that the proposed changes to the by-laws had not previously been approved by the board. Michelle asked for clarification that the changes seemed to be just cleaning up details such as the location. Brian stated that there are no substantive changes that were made. Michelle made a motion to accept the changes to the by-laws as submitted, Jeb seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A vote was held and all were in favor of accepting the by-laws as submitted (attached) and none were opposed. Brian charged board attorney Richard Bordelon with grooming the by-laws into a final version. Jeb asked that the new by-laws be posted on the website. Reid said that he would take care of it. Michelle inquired if the new by-laws should be filed with the secretary of state.

Pilot Camera Program: Brian reviewed the status of the camera program. The first twelve cameras came in. He currently has two proposals to install and is waiting on a third and there were twelve organizations/residents that had agreed to place the cameras at their locations. As soon as the third proposal comes in, he would look to see who the lowest bidder was and that he would get with Richard on a right-of-entry form. Brian explained that because of the size of the project, an RFP was not required by law. Brian explained that he initially reached out to people in the community who knew about cameras and asked them to submit names to him. He had proposal from a local fireman, and one from an installer listed on the camera provider's website. He also listed it on Facebook.

Brian and Richard reminded the board members who served on the board in 2016 of their requirement to submit a completed Tier 2.1 disclosure form to the ethics board before April 15. Val pointed out that you can go online and see who has submitted and who hasn't. Brian stated that he would ask for a raise of hands of who has submitted at the next board meeting. Freddy asked for the address of the Friends of Lakeview to complete his form. Freddy also requested that the possibility of discussing a neighborhood electronic bulletin board be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Brian agreed to do so.

Jeb pointed out how the crime statistics were pretty good. He thanked Sgt. Benjamin for doing such a good job and felt that because when things are not going well, everyone is quick to complain, however that because everything is fine, that no one says anything. He asked that we be proactive about how safe of a neighborhood we are right now. Nancy suggested that it could be included in the newsletter. Brian agreed to list the distribution of the car decals on the next agenda.

Brian then called for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Freddy, it was seconded by Nancy and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:03pm.