

07/22/2013

Membership Meeting Minutes

We had our welcome and Introductions. The question was: What is your favorite energy saving tip that you want to share?

Adam Cavendar from Pragmas Home Efficiency Company – He began by giving tips for keeping older homes efficient. He talked about conserving water, turning lights off, keeping temperatures up in the summer and down in the winter. He said although these things are important, it is also important to look deeper like in the attic. Duct work might need to be looked at to see if you are losing heating or air out of leakage areas. He talked about Mastic Paste Air Duct Sealant which is good for sealing and using long term. Spray Foam ‘Great Stuff’ is another great product to stop air from getting through. Back in the 40’s and 50’s era houses were built with slats under the flooring, but now OSB is used. Slats tend to leak air. If you have access under your house to look at your flooring by way of a basement, you should try ‘Great Stuff’ to fill in the holes. A spray foam gun also works and is neater to use. Spider webs will be in areas where there is air drafts so check those areas well. Insulation is also very important. If your home is older than the 70’s you might want to redo your insulation. ‘Foamular’ blocks are used in the attic and it comes in boards. It can be cut and snapped in whatever shape you need; it is easy to form. It is good for putting on the hatch as well. Question: If you use the gun down into a wall, will it blow out the wall? Answer: He said that it was not heavily expansive. New windows can help or dampers can be put in, you can also put in a high efficiency heating and air system. Spray foam would take a lot to hurt a wall, cellulose would be the best or large scale spray would be better and would not break plaster. Question: Can you seal your house too much and make people sick? Answer: It is possible to have too little of flow. You can have this tested before and after doing the work to be sure you have enough flow for the number of people in the home. Question: Where do you put the putty? You look for your 90 degree junction on the metal. At the flex joint, the duct work has a tie and smear the putty on the metal. We thanked him for his time and tips.

Officer Roark gave a Police Report. He talked about last meeting we brought to his attention that there were speeders on Busbee Rd and Cruze Dr and they were able to catch a few speeders. There were several homes that were broken into on Cruze Dr and Lancaster Rd. They do a grid type of paperwork when this happens and then he checks into any type of connections that there might be to see what they can find out. So after studying it, Officer Roark cruised around. He found some guys hanging out. As it turns out these guys had stolen a lot of items from homes. He suggested that if you have a fire arm, lock it up. 50% of all guns used in crimes are stolen. Be vigilant to keep items like that locked up. Put your name or a sharpie mark on your items which can be very helpful to the police if it is ever stolen. It is also important to prosecute folks that are stealing even when it is your own family members. It is better to do this and get them the help that they need rather than letting them go and feeling sorry for them. He said that these burglaries are all drug related. Another magnet for robbers is a “For Sale” signs. Criminals will think that they can get away with stealing from homes that are for sale because they do not think anyone is in them or watching them. Someone made mention that a house was robbed and an entire A/C unit was stolen. He suggested that we be good neighbors by noticing who is living next to you and then calling the non-emergency number if you see someone you do not know. A common trick of criminals who are want to break in: They will knock on the front door and when no one answers, they will go to the back door and break in.

Nick Pavlis – State of the first district – He said that he had 3 things and then 3 more things. First, he thanked Finbarr Saunders and let all of us know how involved he is with so many neighborhoods and is a

great At-Large Representative. Second, he said that the size of the group keeps growing (42 tonight), which is wonderful to see as other groups are dwindling. Third, June 20 came and went and now he will be with us another 4 years since he is running unopposed. The second 3 things were: First, Fort Dickerson, sometime after this Thursday there will be a presentation to show what the park will look like. There is a design for the entrance way on Chapman Hwy. There will be a pavilion for about 30-50 for anyone to use. There will be picnic tables too. There will be a family friendly area with a playground area and two latrines. They are keeping with the Urban Wilderness Theme as well. We are under budget for getting all of the work done to the entrance, the trails, and everything which is great news. We can now swim in there too. Second, Tennova site (or Baptist Hospital as it is known) is going to bring in a 100 million dollar development. They will start with putting in student housing then they will build upscale condos. We will benefit from this as well as the Fort Sanders area with it being built up as well. There is also a plan for a 150 room hotel (Hilton or Marriot) to be coming. It is not in Ink yet but Developers wanted to go ahead and make the announcement. This might be done by the end of this year. **Did I hear this correctly?** This will help many of the merchants. The river walk that is being put in will connect with this development. Third, "Checkpoint Challenge" is coming to South Knoxville October 10-12, 2013. There will be 200 bike racers with their families coming to Knoxville, which will help stimulate the economy. We are blessed to have gotten them. There have been two regional competitions here and because they were impressed with what we have we got the big event too. This group has 10,000 members in it, so that is putting us on the map! They were very excited to be here! Also what is going to help stimulate the economy here in South Knoxville with this is Ackerman PR, which the UWA&TD secured with the \$70,000 given from city and state funds to help the merchants and to promote South Knoxville. Question: What are all of these clothing and shoe boxes for Veterans that are popping up everywhere? They are not asking the stores if they can put them there and they are taking away donations that could go to our regular charities. Nick asked about them and they were described as green boxes that no one knows where they are from and who is putting them in. Nick said that he was not sure and he would check. Question: What is the status of the JWP? Answer: By the end of the month TDOT will make a decision and make an announcement. Question: Why are there so many check cashing places? Can we say no more? Answer: That is a zoning issue and the city can't really tell a business they cannot come in if they meet the zoning regulations. He did say that our time has come! We are on to something here! People are feeling the changes. There was also mention that the tire shops on Chapman highway accumulate water and becomes a hazard with the mosquito and West Nile Virus issue. Nick suggested that Mike Brown might be able to get the health department to get the businesses to clean out the water in the tires TDEC might help too. It was also brought up that the pylons at the end of JWP have been in disrepair for a long time. Question: Can we get it repaired? It was noted. Nick said that we should contact him if you need anything and he will reply. He announced that there are 5 councilmen running. He suggested that we show up to VOTE so we do not have the lowest numbers ever. We need to show the city that South Knoxville DOES get out and vote even when there are only a few to vote for. We thanked him for his time and efforts.

Neighborhood Business

The secretary notes for March and May meetings did not get sent out to the membership yet. Janice encouraged people to put a star by their name on the sign in sheet so that we can add them to the email list.

Treasurers report: There was a starting balance of $439.73 + 480.00 - 396.18 = 523.55$ (WHoSW 274.14 and 249.41 for SWNA). We discussed with the membership that at the board meeting we wanted to donate money to the church for the use of the room. The board was recommending 10% of membership dues and what we make on the silent auction, which came to \$50.00. Someone mentioned

that the number seemed low and it was mentioned that if we get more members we can donate more. There was a motion to donate \$50.00, there was a second and the motion carried unanimously. There was also a motion to approve the treasurers report, it was seconded and passed unanimously as well.

Danny presented a letter that he wrote in response to a phone call we got. A neighbor read in our last newsletter and the article about codes violations and she asked for help with her neighbor. Janice, Danny and Debbie went over to visit with her and saw they house she was talking about. The board agreed to send a letter to the homeowner that asked him to keep up his property and invited him to join us in conversation etc. It was a well written letter and we agreed that as a board or membership, we were not going to call codes, but people living in the neighborhood could call if they so choose. Danny suggested that this was intended to start dialog with our neighbors and go about this in a friendly manner first. He presented the letter to the membership and let them they could get a copy of the letter if they wanted to do something similar. A question was asked about how do we know who the owner of the home is and Danny said that they could go to KGIS to see who the landlord is.

Janice gave a description of SKNBC. The group started 3 years ago and there are 2 reps from 6 neighborhoods and UWD&TD. The purpose is to get issues to and from the neighborhoods to SKNBC and then to the city. It has been a great place to learn about what is going on in the area. There have been many people come and speak about many different issues and it is a good way to stay involved with what is going on in South Knoxville. Janice and Debbie are the current representatives. Debbie is asking to step down and Kenny Bradley has volunteered to take her place. The floor was opened for questions and if anyone else would like to run for the position. There was a motion to accept Janice and Kenny as the representatives for the next fiscal year, it was seconded and the motion passed unanimously. There was an announcement that Mayor Rogero will be coming to South Knoxville on Aug 14, 2013 at 5:30 at Woodlawn Christian Church in the sanctuary. SKNBC came up with topics for the Mayor. SKNBC came up with the following topics: (1. With the Henley Street Bridge re-opening, how will the city address corridor planning and business façade improvements along Chapman Highway? 2. How can we help the City make dangerous roads, specifically Hillwood Drive, a priority? These streets have been promised money and changes for years. 3. Please update us on the James White Parkway Extension. We keep getting promised TDOT announcements but they never happen. 4. Please update us on the near and long-term plans for Fort Dickerson. What is the progress on the new Fort Dickerson entrance? 5. Please update us on the South Waterfront Development and Urban Wilderness progress. 6. What is the city doing, or could be doing, to make mass transit a viable alternative to extending the James White Parkway or widening Chapman Highway? 7. Are there any plans to provide safe conditions for children walking to school on Decatur? 8. Please update us on what the City is doing to decrease the break in and robbery crime occurring in South Knoxville, specifically as it pertains to citizen safety, businesses, and potential for growth.)

There was an update by Debbie on WHoSW and the Outdoor Classroom – All of our required homes are certified! But we may need more homes if we do not get our points from a couple of churches that are still pending. We said that we would be preparing for a party after we got all of our required points in and became certified. We thanked about Margaret Held for doing pro-bono legal work for us by reviewing the contracts before they were signed. A few questions were asked so Debbie did a review of the certification process and the 30,000 dollar grant to build the outdoor classroom. We were also reminded to announce about partnering with Stanley's Greenhouse. Part of our points came from partnering with a local nursery to identify native plants so we came up with a "Native Tennessee Plant" Sticker that we placed on the plants a few weekends ago. That was a great success and lots of fun.

We talked about the welcome packets. These go to new home owners. Kat needs the address, date delivered and who delivered it.

Announcements- Pet Supplies dog washing station will wash dogs by food city if you request it. It is set up there but they don't know that South Knoxville wants it. Maybe if we make a showing and let them know that we want it opened, they will open that part up.

There was an announcement about Chapman Pool Membership which has been reduced by 30% through the rest of the summer and they need our help. They are struggling and need more participation. A comment was made that the website does not have much information. It was mentioned that they are very short handed right now. They also need plain white chairs donated if anyone is able.

There was also an announcement that City View showcased South Knoxville in this last issue. There were three articles in it! "Where the Wild Things Are" by Joanna Henning was all about South Knoxville. There was another that mentioned TREK South and there was an article on Bayou Bay Restaurant. We need to let City View know that we are appreciative of them including us in the articles. Contact them if you are able.

We had the Raffle and then we adjourned at 8:45 pm.