



**WNNA GENERAL MEETING
Oct. 20, 2005
Top of the Cliff Club**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Joe Merola moved to approve the minutes from the July general meeting. The motion was seconded by Kat [Last Name]. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report

Jimmy Turner moved to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Susan Oakley. The motion carried.

Guest Speaker

Jimmy Turner, Director of Horticulture & Research for the Dallas Arboretum

Jimmy is responsible for the Arboretum's plant trials, collections and garden design. He explained that the Arboretum is a privately owned property. It is open year-round. The Dallas Blooms Autumn event will be held through Nov. 6. Events include educational classes about cooking as well as gardening. For details about this and other events scheduled, visit the Arboretum's website at www.dallasarboretum.com. Jimmy also maintains his own website, dallasplanttrials.org. You can reach Jimmy by e-mail at jturner@dallasarboretum.org

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Social Events (John Ridgley)

The Fall Wynnewood Wander is sold out. The Holiday Party is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 10, but we are still looking for someone to host the potluck event. WNNA will furnish the meat and nonalcoholic beverages. Silver Poteet volunteered to host the party. John also solicited volunteers for future Wynnewood Wanders.

Crime Watch (Mary Scherer)

Crime statistics for the quarter are highlighted in the October newsletter. Most recently a lawn mower and a yard statue were stolen in broad daylight. There has been an influx of graffiti. Mary will address this at an upcoming meeting with the Southwest Division. Mary thanked neighbors who have cleaned up the graffiti, but she stressed that these



incidents need to be reported to 311 as vandalism and we must get photos before cleaning it up. Photos will help police determine if graffiti is gang related and will help them watch for other issues, such as turf wars. Be sure to ask that the call/report is routed appropriately. If it is not clear that you are the victim of graffiti, you could end up citing yourself for a code violation. When reporting thefts, be aware that response time could be slow since it's a non-violent/non-life-threatening crime. Recent extensive graffiti on the Merola's back fence.

Regarding property crime trends, Mary stated that the numbers are about the same this year as last, but criminals are getting "bolder." They've moved from stealing yard art and plant pots to getting into storage sheds and stealing more expensive items.

Secretary (Christine Connelly)

Christine expressed her appreciation for volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House breakfast.

Publications (Joseph Hernandez)

The newsletter and directory were distributed recently.

Street Closure update (Joseph Hernandez, Greg Gormley, Mary Scherer)

Joseph provided a review of the issue. In early 2004 following a rash of crimes, WNNA held a special meeting with the Dallas Police Department to address neighborhood issues and concerns. More than 100 residents attended the special meeting. The DPD offered several suggestions, which included speed bumps, street closures and volunteer neighborhood patrols. The general membership at that meeting asked board to review street closure since much of speeding and crime is coming into our neighborhood via Llewellyn. The board also examined other options. They determined that a volunteer patrol would be cost prohibitive and we don't have a sufficient number volunteers to execute the patrols. The board also examined actions that other neighborhood groups have taken. Joseph spoke with other neighborhoods who have closed street entrances, and they said they did so to help reduce crime, traffic, etc. in their neighborhoods. Wynnewood North is in a unique situation, however, since it is located adjacent to a shopping center.

Updates on street closure have been provided consistently at the last four to six general meetings and in the last several newsletters. There are several steps to the process, including contact and meetings with the City of Dallas, the Dallas Fire Department and other authorities. These groups have offered several suggestions and options, many of which are still open for consideration.



Joseph explained that he personally has received numerous calls and visits from residents who voice their complaints about the street closure. Some of these contacts have included threats. Yet, none of the people who made these contacts have asked him why is WNNA is considering the street closure.

Joseph reminded the membership that this is NOT a board-driven issue. Each meeting, the Crime Watch report indicates an increase in crime and an increase in violent crime. We are in an information gathering mode and invite further input. The street closure is not “set in stone” at this point. It is just one of many ideas.

Mary Scherer addressed the group with additional background. Mary reminded the membership that the Crime Watch statistics she provides do not include crimes in the Wynnewood Village shopping center. She added that there is a huge influx of transients filtering into our neighborhood from the shopping center. Crimes have included a robbery at gunpoint. She suggested that insulating ourselves may reduce this crime.

Mary Scherer and Greg Gormley then invited input from the audience.

Kendrick Couch: Stated that he is representing several residents. He thanked officers and block captains for their work. He is concerned about crime on Pratt. He obtained police statistics that indicate more crime occurs on Pratt than on other streets. He is concerned that the alternate traffic route on Pratt created by the closing Llewellyn would jeopardize safety of residents.

Terry Thomas: Terry is a former police officer and former WNNA crime watch chairman. He said statistics about crime on Pratt are primarily domestic. He supports the street closure to reduce traffic and to protect ourselves. Through his experience as a police officer, he knows that criminals “cruise” an area before striking. He would predict a decrease in crime if Llewellyn is closed.

Henley Cobb: Concerned that the alternate traffic route down Bizerte would increase traffic and crime on that street. He suggested also considering the closure of Bancroft

Carol Twitmeyer: Opposes street closure. She stated crime happens where there is no surveillance. Closing the street would create a worse situation due to lack of surveillance



Tawana Jurek: Experienced a break-in. She wants WNNA to look for ways to prevent issues. Feels closing Llewellyn would be a mistake because it would reduce evacuation routes in emergency situation, such as a fire.

Liz Edwards: Asked where the closure would be. Greg and Mary explained that it would be at the same point as the painted crosswalk. Liz then expressed concern that it would close off Heyser to the rest of the neighborhood.

Tim Mistery: He is a 30-year resident. He stated 9-11 didn't shut down New York's airports and harbors. He said we shouldn't blame Llewellyn for the crime. Said we need surveillance. He suggested adding cameras at entrance and exploring other options.

Carl Pipkin: A 28-year resident on Woolsey. Regarding the speeding, he stated that it's own residents. He said WNNA should work more closely with police.

William Wells: His home backs up to Llewellyn. His storage house broken into, but his neighbors ran off the criminals. He said he doesn't see the traffic concern. He said he has watched traffic on Llewellyn and doesn't see it as high traffic. He believes the criminals are coming in from the north across the railroad tracks. He believes street closure is shortsighted.

Shirley Coleman: Opposes closing Llewellyn. She doesn't notice the traffic on Llewellyn. Most of it turns into the shopping center. She suggested exploring other alternatives

Robert Curlen: Said he is on the fence about the street closure. He appreciates the access to the shopping center. He has observed signs in other neighborhood that indicate, "Warning: Neighborhood Under Surveillance."

Jimmy Turner: Has seen a robbery, a car break-in, and a fire. He said the police have always responded within 10 minutes. In addition, they arrive from North Manus, not from Llewellyn. He lives on North Manus, and said he seen people crossing from creek across tracks.

Susan Oakley: Undecided on issue, but she commended board for all its work. She knows it is difficult.



Peter Tripp: Said the traffic problem is not a matter of quantity but speed. He suggested WNNA pursue the installation of speed bumps.

Bonnie Merola: Expressed concern about the increase in crime over last few years, but she is not sure what to do to reduce it.

Doris Miller: New to neighborhood. She lives on the corner of Monssen and Llewellyn. She doesn't see much traffic but thinks speed bumps might be a good start.

Mary K Trostman: Has observed high-speed traffic. She advised the group to take emotion out of the issue. She suggested considering time-motion studies. She said she sees a continuous flow of traffic up South Manus that then turns onto Llewellyn and turns into the Kroger parking lot. She suggested collecting statistics during peak traffic times.

Paul Neilson: Sees lots of traffic from going from Bancroft to the shopping center. He also sees a lot of traffic going down the alley at high speed. It's not just the street. Says he also sees issues in the alley.

Carol Twitmeyer: Said the city encourages mixed-use property to increase safety, such as in areas like the West Village.

Cindy Kirk: Refuted Carol's statement. She stated that Wynnewood Village and Wynnewood North are not in the same economic level as a West Village. She added that the large empty lot is under consideration for multi-unit, low-income housing.

Terry Thomas: Suggested the neighborhood consider making Llewellyn one-way.

Silver Poteet: Added that Mayrant also sees high traffic.

Joey Connelly: Noted that meeting turn out high and that many long-time residents are in attendance. He said he was glad they're here, and encouraged them to attend more frequently in the future. "Don't just be a street number." He stated that this issue has been under consideration for more than a year, with many updates. No one can say they haven't heard.

2006 Board (Dean Rose)



About three-fourths of the current board will not be returning. When board is not active in association, then assn isn't active in neighborhood, and neighborhood declines. Reminded members they should not assume someone else will do the work for them. If you want to see a change, get involved. Elections will be held at the January 2006 meeting.

New neighbors:

Wilma and ?? at 610 South Manus
Doris Miller, 606 Monssen
Kenneth Mirwinkle, corner of Hoel & Monssen.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.