

CLENA General Meeting
September 8, 2009
White Rock United Methodist Church

President Earl Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. He introduced the elected officials and other guests present and reviewed the agenda for the meeting (Attachment A).

Secretary Barbara van Pelt read the minutes from the CLENA General Meeting on April 14, 2009 and moved that they be approved as read. Michael Janicek seconded the motion and they were approved.

Executive Vice President Cindy Bourne reported on the plan to distribute security window decals with the next newsletter. Each home in the neighborhood will receive two decals; additional decals will be available for purchase. Decals are to be displayed in the rear left window to help identify cars that do not belong to Casa Linda residents.

Cindy reported that the next Movies in the Park will be Saturday, September 19 featuring *Ratatouille*.

Treasurer Susan Hello reported that there is more than \$11,000 in the CLENA account. A more detailed report will be in the September newsletter. The fiscal year ended August 31 and volunteers are needed for the review committee. Barbara Stell, Mary Jane Hannah-Fields, and David Milton volunteered to review and reconcile records and bank statements.

Vice President, Safety Jim Hughes reported that there had been a rash of criminal incidents recently. The suspects in several break-ins on San Saba were arrested as were suspects in several thefts of lawn equipment. Victims are being asked to look at lineups and identify recovered equipment. Burglaries and thefts have been occurring during the day and Jim asked that residents who are home during the day look for strange vehicles and individuals. The security decals will help identify strange cars. Some thefts have involved individuals looking for scrap metal.

Gary Spence is the coordinator for the Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) program. There are currently two people patrolling, but more are needed. Jim urged residents to call 911 to report any suspicious activity.

National Night Out will be held in conjunction with Little Forest Hills. The date and more information will be in the website and in the newsletter.

Vice President, Membership Michael Janicek reminded attendees that it's time to renew memberships to CLENA and to let a board member know of any new residents in the neighborhood. The September newsletter will have updates to the directory and the incoming board will decide on the timing of the next directory.

Vice President, Tom Murray was not present at the meeting.

Vice President Education and Programs, Kay Van de Rostyne reported that Sanger Elementary had received a grant to build a garden. Kay introduced Gretchen Thigpen, the neighborhood contact for the project.

Vice President, Communications Debbie Finger encouraged residents to supply information for articles, postings, photographs, etc. She introduced John Widhalm, the CLENA webmaster. E-blasts are regularly sent for crime alerts, lost/found pet alerts, upcoming events, general information, etc. and residents are encouraged to sign up.

Vice President, External Affairs Patricia Baillif reported that construction on the shopping center and Garland/Buckner intersection are done. She has asked AmREIT for an aerial shot of the area. Patricia also thanked Albertson's for donating the sandwich tray for the meeting.

Vice President, Social Gloria Spence reported on her committee's activities for the year: There were 30 participants in the garage sale, netting a profit of \$741.37 which funded the summer block party featuring a cake walk and games; 100+ people attended the Mystery Dinner Theater. She acknowledged and thanked the social committee (Frances Tackett, Dotty Vidal, Mary Phelps, Judith Wolfe and Margaret Webb) for their work during the year.

Earl Johnson acknowledged the work of Erin Bender, Vice President, Block Captains.

Earl asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, he closed nominations and asked that ballots be submitted to the election judge, Mary Jane Hannah-Fields.

Donna Mason, CLENA coordinator for the White Rock East Garden and Art Tour, is resigning after several years. She outlined the work involved in coordinating the tour and encouraged volunteers to step forward.

Earl introduced Allen Vaught, our state representative; his assistant Sarah Hauser; Councilman Sheffie Kadane; water department representative Charles Stringer; DISD school board representative Leigh Ann Ellis; and School Board candidate Bruce Parrott. He also introduced Little Forest Hills Neighborhood Association Presidents Denise Tyler and Max Davis, and Emily Martin, the publisher of BlackWhiteRead.com, a website featuring news about our area.

Representative Vaught was elected in 2006 and re-elected in 2008. Crime is a focus for him and he sponsored a bill to increase the penalty for driving without a license and insurance after joggers at White Rock Lake were hit by a driver without a license. **Eric's Law:** Creates a Class A misdemeanor for those driving without insurance and on a suspended license and causes or is at fault in an accident that results in serious bodily injury or death. (HB 2012)

He also introduced a bill to allow the use of DNA from older crimes as evidence during the punishment phase in trials, even if the case falls outside the statute of limitations for prosecution. **DNA Notation:** Notations are placed on a criminal history record for DNA matches to sexual assaults that can no longer be prosecuted because of the statute of limitations. The notations are only visible to law enforcement, but bring some closure and justice to the victims with these cold cases. (HB 2932)

Councilman Kadane briefly discussed the city budget crunch, noting that efforts were being made to restore some library and recreation center hours; emergency services would not be affected. September 23 is the deadline for approving the budget. There is \$275,000 in bond funds allocated for the new pavilion in Casa Linda Park. Bonds are scheduled to go on sale in May 2010, a year before construction. He indicated that citizen input on the design of the pavilion would be welcomed. Street repairs were funded as part of the bond program. Trash and recycling will be picked up weekly beginning in April 2010. The City applied for stimulus funds.

Charles Springer addressed the two most serious water issues in Casa Linda: red water and continuing water main breaks and leaking pipes under the streets. He explained that in this neighborhood, some of the water mains were cast iron, over 80 years old. The City has been systematically replacing them in this area of town. Casa Linda Estates is the last area of these pipes to be replaced with PVC pipes. His department has investigated our water problems back to the treatment plant to come up with more stable quality. Quality at the plant is fine, it's the distribution system (pipes and mains) that is the problem. He said the water is fine to drink, but may stain clothes and porcelain. He said to call 311 to report problems so they can catalog problems and send crews out to identify the problem, design a solution, obtain bids, and make repairs – often a two-year process.

Leigh Ann Allis, the DISD board member for District 3, announced that a new principal had been hired at Bryan Adams and improvements are already evident. Reinhardt Elementary School is now a recognized school and Sanger Elementary could be exemplary. CLE resident David Baillif served as a representative on the DISD bond package committee and helped develop a matrix for selecting architects and engineers, and evaluating the Superintendent. .

Gretchen Thigpen, with the Early Childhood PTA at Sanger Elementary, talked about the Real School Garden project at Sanger. Experts will design the garden and it will become a hands-on learning experience for science, math, biology. The kickoff is the weekend of Sept. 12 and an update will be ready next spring.

Bruce Parrott, candidate for the DISD School Board, grew up in Casa Linda Estates on El Patio. He attended public schools and is the husband of former school board president Lois Parrott.

Emily Martin is the community liaison for a Casa Linda edition of blackwhiteread.com with free business listings and community news.

Election Judge Mary Jane Hannah-Fields and the ballot counting team of Liz Hodges, Pat Moore, and Kelly Hughes (?) announced the election results:

President: Earl Johnson

Secretary: Barbara van Pelt

VP, Security: Jim Hughes

VP, Communications: Debbie Finger

There were no formal candidates, but write-in votes were recorded for:

VP, Beautification: Jim Witter – 6 votes

VP, Social: Jim Witter – 8 votes

Marva Westcott – 3 votes

Gary Spence and Earl Johnson drew for door prizes. The winners were Kelly Hughes and Barbara Stell.

Earl Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Agenda – CLENA General Meeting/Election

September 08, 2009

Call to Order @ 7 PM

Have a short business meeting of the board.

Call for nominations from the floor.

Close nominations.

Final call for ballots to be turned in.

Start voting count.

Introductions of Guests; Q&A (time permitting): Sheffie, etc.

Results of election announced.

Announcements: meeting dates, any request for help, etc.

Adjourn by 9:00 PM.