

LICTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Community Meeting, October 21, 2015
NSCC Campus, OCE&E Building, Room 220B

Directors Present: Kay Mesirow, Liz Kearns, Melanie Davies, Mike Cuadra, and Ellen Beck.

Visitors: Brigitte Ardea and Dave Wilma.

Treasurer's Report. The September bank balance was \$5,704.81.

Minutes. The September 16, 2015 minutes were approved as presented.

Board Member Liz Kearns called the October meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. We had introductions around the table.

NEW BUSINESS.

Emergency Hubs. Dave Wilma is a neighbor and an amateur radio enthusiast. He is involved with the Seattle Auxiliary Communications Service, which is made up of amateur radio enthusiasts who are registered emergency workers with the City of Seattle. They have established a network of amateur radio operators around the City who are trained to help citizens during major emergencies when normal lines of communication can't be used. The SACS funnel information from the neighborhoods to the City, so the City will know what is happening in the neighborhoods.

Emergency Hubs are bottom up groups of neighbors who set up locations where neighbors can go in a major emergency, where regular communication and transportation has been impacted, and the City is dealing with only the largest scale problems or situations. The Hubs will assist neighbors to take care of themselves until the City is able to respond.

There are several dozens of these Hubs already existing in the City. The closest to us in Licton Springs is the Maple Leaf Hub in Maple Leaf Park. There are two across Greenwood, one at 135th and Greenwood, and one farther north, but they are substantially out of the Licton Springs neighborhood area. A lot of Hubs are set up in school and church parking lots. The College has informed us that their facilities are not available to the neighborhood; they are a Federal Hub.

Some of the Hubs are fairly sophisticated. The one in Lake City received a grant from Fred Meyer and they have a shipping container filled with all sorts of emergency supplies, tables, tents, and things like that. The container is in the Fred Meyer parking lot, so they can also go inside the store if they need additional supplies.

To begin, three to five neighbors need to come together and find a central, convenient location that is a “logical meeting site” for our area, which neighbors can find. This could be a church parking lot, a local park, or someone’s carport. Next the needs of the area need to be identified. Is there a retirement home, schools, or other establishments that may be special need populations? Next identify the resources and skills in your area. Is there a library, grocery store, residents with special skills or tools (i.e., chainsaws) in your area? Then connect with the Seattle Office of Emergency Management and get connected to a Hub Mentor. The City and the Department of Emergency Management will offer training and assistance to us.

Liz mentioned Licton Springs Park where there is shelter and a bathroom and she has keys for facilities at the Park. We can also drink the water coming from the spring at the Park. Oak Tree was also mentioned as a location and has the benefit of a food store being there.

Dave told us also of a Ted Talk by two sisters in Massachusetts who organized an emergency hub for their community after a tornado. If you would like to watch the video, google “Ted Talk Massachusetts Tornado.”¹

What if there was an earthquake that knocked out two of the important bridges in Seattle? In that scenario, the north end is on its own. What if a waterline was severed or several that supply the City?

There is also a CERT (“Community or Civilian Emergency Response Team”) program. Individuals can get light first aid training and emergency organization training.

You can buy battery radios at Costco. They are called Family Service Radios and they are cheap and work great.

The Hub Centers have a website and there are a lot of resources available and training available frequently around the City. The Hub Centers have monthly meetings.

Melanie Davies volunteered to be the contact person, whom anyone in our area who is interested in participating in Hub planning should contact via e-mail. Kay Mesirow will write an article for the Newsletter and will post the same information on Nextdoor. Thank you, Melanie and Kay!!

¹ The first thing that pops up is Caitria and Morgan O’Neill – “How to Step Up In a Natural Disaster.” If you listen to the talk, they have developed a system and have been going to disasters in the country and empowering the people with the knowledge of what to do and how to be prepared.

We will continue to have emergency planning on our agendas going forward. We need to designate alternative locations. Depending on the type of major emergency, our first choice location may not be available.

OLD BUSINESS.

Halloween in the Park. Melanie reported that she has received donations from the Northgate QFC (\$50.00), Costco (\$50.00), and Greenwood Fred Meyer (\$75.00).

The Halloween in the Park will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the music will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The route around the pond will have to be redone because of the construction taking place. She reported having volunteers who will be Friends of the Forest. Melanie explained that she has a friend who works for the Waldorf School. The husband of that friend works at Children's, and he e-mails folks there, and so we have other Friends of the Forest are young adults who work at Children's.

A motion was made to allow Melanie up to \$300.00 for the event. This motion was seconded and passed. It was pointed out that we usually make almost enough money in donations to cover the costs of buying the candy, apple cider, the entertainment, etc. for the event. Thank you, Melanie for all your work on Halloween!!

North Precinct. Mike Cuadra reported that crime is down per the North Precinct Captain. Burglaries are down and assaults are slightly up. The minutes of the North Precinct Advisory Council are posted on the Licton Springs website each month.

The North Precinct is the largest precinct in the City and needs additional officers. The Advisory Council has sent a letter to the Mayor and City Council requesting 30 additional officers above the number needed to replace retiring officers. Mike will forward a copy of that letter to us.

Mike belongs to the Social Service Committee of the North Precinct Advisory Council. At least 90 calls a month into the Precinct are related to mental illness and social issues. He provided a copy of a letter to the County which requests continuation and an increase in MIDD ("Mental Illness and Drug Dependency") funding that the County provides to the City. When a mental illness call comes into the 911 number, the police send a Mobile Crisis Team which goes to the person and stays with them and links them to services. The Team can be with the person from 30 minutes to four hours. If there was more funding for MIDD, the police would be able to more promptly respond to police calls.

Car and camper camping is a huge problem in neighborhoods and Lower Woodland Park and other parks. All we can do at this time is to call in these car/campers. These people are not counted in the homeless numbers. Cars and campers only have to move after three days. And they don't move far, and are a continual problem with trash, syringes and other street problems.

Mike also brought a flyer for a City Hall event with Mayor Murray that is taking place at Meadowbrook Community Center on Saturday, October 24th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Meeting for Neighbors Who Will Take Action. Brigitte Ardea is going to hold a meeting for members of Next Door who will take action for the problems posted on Next Door next Thursday at the Greenwood Library. But she asked for advice on how to run a meeting, which she had never done before. She was advised to have an agenda stating the purpose of the meeting. If she lists problems, list a maximum of three that you want to address. Also, set time limit on agenda items. Also, decide what the future of the group is. You are in charge and need to direct the focus of the meeting.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 18, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Beck, Secretary

