

University South Neighborhood Association (USNA) Meeting May 7, 2019

Sara Anne Corrigan, our president, opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Chad Diedrich, our neighborhood police officer, was not present. Sara Anne shared his written report, noting little activity directly in our neighborhood. Sara Anne said she had attended a sector crime prevention meeting where the police had canvassed cars parked at Eastland Mall to note how many were locked and unlocked or having items displayed inside the car. They found over 60% of the cars were either unlocked or had items displayed that would entice break-ins. This far exceeded their expectations (20%) and again reminded us of the importance of always locking our cars, even at home, plus hiding anything of value that can be seen from the outside.

Shannon Stigleman, our treasurer, reported \$351.69 in our treasury.

Sara Anne asked us to consider the questions: What would you like to carry forward or leave behind in your neighborhood?

The next UNOE general meeting is May 23rd at 6:30pm at the C.K. Newsome Community Center. The topic is WEEDS TRASH & JUNK! OH, MY!; Handling code enforcement issues in your neighborhood.

A UNOE-wide "Neighborhood Celebration Day" will be held June 15th at the Franklin Street Farmers Market/bazaar. USNA was invited to set up a table or a tent dedicated to our activities here, but we did not feel we were organized enough to do that.

The subject of the Safe Haven LLC "sober living" facility at 628 Runnymede, a halfway house for non-violent recovering substance abusers, was again discussed. The neighbors on that block remain upset about the surreptitious way in which it was established there along with continued issues about how it is being operated and managed.

Dick Melton, a longtime resident of Lodge Ave., shared his experience with his water, sewer and trash bill, normally \$130-\$150 escalating in January to \$489. He is contesting it and to date there has been no resolution. He shared with us the website www.ewsu.com where you can follow your water usage on a day-by-day (and even hour-by-hour!) and not be surprised with a huge bill due to an undetected water use or the potential of a meter malfunction.

Retired teacher Linda Singer, who hails from the West Side Improvement Association, shared her experience using rain barrels to control her water use. She has six barrels collecting her rain water and uses the collected water to flush her toilets and water her plants. She collects so much water some months, that her neighbor is also using it to water her garden. Singer discussed the pros and cons of utilizing such a system to address lowering water bills and helping the environment. We appreciated her presentation.

Our next meeting will be at 6:30 pm, June 4. We are switching things up a bit and will be meeting at Spuds and Stuff in Ross Center (Sara Anne will be there at 6 p.m.)

We have extended an invitation to The Area Plan Commission and to Mike Hagedorn who is listed as the manager of the Safe Haven properties (there are several!).

The meeting will be an open question and answer period for our neighbors who have questions and concerns about codes and code enforcement as they apply to residential neighborhoods.

We have the use of the back room at Spuds N Stuff at no charge and there is no requirement that anyone spend any money there. However, the restaurant does serve an array of stuffed potatoes, salads, sandwiches and wraps, plus soft drinks, and the room will be set up so that we are all sitting at tables.

Jerri Close for Loraine Luman, Secretary