

# **MENA MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 11, 2013**

The meeting at the North Garland Library Branch was called to order by Michael Rideau at 6:32 p.m. There were 37 residents present, as well as 3 visitors from the City of Garland. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

The changes to the bylaws were approved by voice vote, allowing MENA board members to serve three consecutive terms. Rex Gifford and Leta French were elected to serve on the board for another term.

Judi Lazerus reported on NextDoor.com, and mentioned that more information can be found on our website.

Rex Gifford gave the financial report, with the only activity being a \$1,000 refund to one resident that withdrew from the wall project. The current balance in the account is a little over \$20,000.

Neighborhood Police Officer BJ Williams was introduced, and made several comments about crime rates, and told how to contact her for help or information.

Two guests at the meeting were Felisa Conner – Neighborhood Vitality Manager, and Bill Heinze – Field Engineer, from the City of Garland. Ms Conner explained the purpose of vitality grants, and why our application was not submitted to the city council. Only 8 of 26 homeowners participating in the project would not have given a good result, or used the grant money wisely. She mentioned that Code Enforcement can write tickets to the homeowners for a failing wall, and probably would do so in the future. After Rex Gifford suggested doing the wall replacement in phases, she said we should talk to Anita Russelmann – Director of Planning first, then the city council. Mr. Heinze explained how wall maintenance responsibility was determined by the subdivision developer, when the homes were built. In response to a question, Mr. Heinze explained that there are no firm specifications for what is unacceptable for screening walls, at this time, but much of our wall is badly deteriorated. He added that the bid we have from our contractor is very good, if he does a good job. Officer Williams said that our crime rate is lower than adjacent subdivisions that have no wall. Ms Conner advised us that Applebee's does a fund raising promotion, where local groups can raise money, by selling coupons for a dinner at their restaurant.

It was agreed that we would form a wall subcommittee, to draft a letter to Ms Russelmann, and hopefully meet with her, to discuss doing our project in phases. There is no way we could afford to replace the entire 26 home wall at this time, so doing it in phases will allow us to use money from this vitality grant, to do some of the wall, and more later. The people that volunteered to be on the subcommittee are:

Johnny Garrett

Darrell Alsup

Jeanne Sloan

Margaret Evans

Kelly Oexman

Judi Lazerus

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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