

## **Minutes from MENA general meeting, March 20, 2014**

Meeting called to order by Michael Rideau at 6:38 p.m.

Election of board members - Don Wright and Michael Rideau were approved for a second term. Margaret Evans was elected to fill the vacant seat of Jim Dickerson.

Neighborhood Police Officer Williams was introduced. She reported that a gang of ten juveniles, responsible for 2 home burglaries, and 50 vehicle burglaries since August, has been busted. Seven have been arrested, and warrants are out for the other three. Most of these burglaries happened in the adjacent subdivision, but a few were in Meadow Crest Estates.

There was open discussion on a change to the bylaws, concerning the frequency of general meetings. The proposed change would be from "a minimum of two meetings per year" to "a minimum of one meeting per year". There seemed to be support for leaving that as is, but relaxing the requirement of the specific week for the meetings. Also, we discussed changing the frequency of the board meetings from four per year, to three per year, with email threads counting as a meeting. Official votes on these changes will be at the next general meeting.

Judi Lazerus reported on the iSign program, since she has become the new leader for this program that helps MENA raise money, by collecting illegal signs on public right-of-way. If you would like to help, please contact Judi. Judi also reported that our NextDoor social networking site now has 69 registered Meadow Crest users.

Rex Gifford gave the treasurer's report, informing us that MENA has \$22,408 in the account.

There was discussion about the National Night Out, and other neighborhood activities. There seemed to be support for doing it this year. It would be in October, when it's cooler, and held on a weekend, to get more participation.

Michael Rideau reported that the Neighborhood Vitality Grants for our two wall projects have been approved by the City of Garland. Unfortunately, we are short of the needed amount, so more money is requested from each homeowner that will get a new wall. Many variables were unknown at the beginning of this project. The number of participants in the project, the amount of donations from non-wall residents, sales taxes added to the MENA share of the price, and increased costs for brick, mortar, and steel, caused this need for additional funds. We are requesting an additional \$450 from each of the people getting a new wall, with the exception of 2517 Ridgemeade. This home has only five sections of wall behind the house, and one along the alley beside the house, so an additional \$225 is requested from this address. The paperwork has been signed with the city, so we're ready to move forward with signing the work contract. We need the additional funds to be in before May 15, so the work can begin. Checks should be made out to MENA, and mailed

to Rex Gifford, 2701 Wedgemere, Garland TX. We're considering using the same brick that was used to replace the Century Park entrance walls. MENA's share of the cost of wall replacement on the four homes on the Garland Avenue side will be 20%, plus tax, of approximately \$38,000. MENA's share of the cost of wall replacement on the six homes on the Beltline side will be 25%, plus tax, of approximately \$57,000.

There were 20 Meadow Crest residents in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.