



**Neighborhood Watch  
Minutes  
Monday, Mar 13, 2023 — 6:00 p.m.  
Molly Bowden Police Station A**

“The mission of Columbia Neighborhood Watch is to inform, train and encourage residents to work together to establish neighborhood watch programs with the goal of reducing crime and increasing public safety.”

**Call Meeting To Order 6:06**

**President’s Report**

- CoMo Gives check received and deposited.

**Vice President’s Report – Jeff**

- CoMo Gives – Update.
  - Check deposited
  - Feb 14, zoom debriefing mtg at 10. Out of the 150 organ, 32 attended. No real problems. Name change from peer to peer to fund raising was confusing.
- Grants:
  - Cosmopolitan club applied.
  - Storage-Mart (For storage) 7/7/2022
  - Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation 10/26/2022 \$ 2,500.00 First cut is April 2023
  - State Farm Community Grant (LOI) 1/9/2023
  - Simmons Bank Community Donation (LOI) 1/13/2023
  - AARP Community Challenge Grant 2/6/2023 \$ 2,100.00
    - County ARPA grant for crime prevention. Denied from City so went to County.
    - County update.
    - County requires 8 trainings. Add City would require total of 11.
    - Meeting w sheriff dept – they are on board.
- American rescue plan: City changed it from an application to a bid process.
- Motion to apply to county. Passed.
- Guest Speaker for the Columbia Apartment Assoc. Feb 8, Jeff presented.
  - Charity of the year (we were selected) update.
- Photo shoot for COMO Magazine, March issue. No news.

**Secretary’s Report – Susan**

- Approval of last meeting minutes. Approved.
- Remember to report Feb hours.
  - New insurance company option. Voted and approved to move to new carrier.

## **Treasurer's Report - Herb**

- Transition of financial records from Herb to Keith requires the following steps:
  - Schedule time to get Keith on account and get card – Herb and Keith. Completed
  - Set up log-in for Simmons Bank – Keith There can only be one sign on per account. Herb will transition the sign in to Keith. TBD
  - Tutor session on our setup in QuickBooks - TBD
  - Process CoMo Gives individual donations into Quickbooks – Keith and Herb TBD
  - Monthly Report Generations TBD

## **UpComing Events**

- Ready Festival – Sept 14, 2023 at Stephens Lake.
  - (Also having a Be Prepared Event at Oakland Park )
  - Add to calendar
- Joint Public Relations event with CPD - last year's plan was emailed to the board.
  - Selected date: Sept 23.
  - We have a credit w parks and rec.
  - Herb discussed with Chief Jones on Feb 24. Toni Messina has responsibility for this and BBB award
- Annual Meeting –Sept 11. Need to book room at City Hall.
  - Brad to book small conference room at City Hall.
  - Ask Chief and/or City Manager to speak?
- Training Sessions – dates, style, location, etc.
  - Feb 27 teams training attended by approx. 27 people.
  - No training session in March.
  - Jeff booked library for April 24<sup>th</sup>. Friendship room. 6:30 p.m. Board members attend 6:00. The library also advertises.
- Add Indian Hills Block Party to our calendar.
- Brad will reach out to Toni and Chris to put our training on the CPD webpage.

## **Sign Report – Rod**

The Vineyards have one sign. Will there be more? 50% trained per 'Neighborhood" First sign free. Second is \$50.

- Rod has signs and tools, waiting to hear where to put signs.

## **Development: Rod**

- Storage Mart is not an option.
- Donation commitments – Rod continues to pursue.
- Assess the donations category for each doner to determine how we display their business info. Herb and Rod. Pending.
- Our current advertising and public face forward discussion. Herb and Rod. Pending.
- Looking at other potential donors.
- Keith suggested that we look at the new UHall facility for storage.
- Do want to find a storage unit. Rod to pursue private small businesses.

## **Captain/Co-Captain Liaison Report**

- Volunteers (2-3).
- Need a quick training session on tools for the first calls.

## Old Business:

- BBB Torch Award – Herb spoke to Chief Jones. Would like to display in City Hall.
- Facebook page status – received a warning by Facebook that we had 9 days to resolve a discrepancy. Old officer didn't take care of it. Our page is back and can post to it.
  - Rod suggested that Facebook is dying. Use Nextdoor instead? Use the same script and board members take turns posting each month. As a business, can join Nextdoor, no fee. Put your credit card on file so they know you are in the city. Did not make a decision if will use this tool.
  - Facebook requires daily activity or you will get lost per Jeremy. 200 posts/year. Agrees Facebook is dying. Internet presence will require pictures/videos, not just words or you will not get seen. Nextdoor was created to give referrals/recommendations. Now it is used for social media.
  - Herb will reach out to Columbia Office of Neighborhood Services for Nextdoor.
- Expansion of training curriculum – update to be forthcoming from Herb. On Hold.
  - Access CERT training. Community Emergency Response Team. Perhaps we could coord with them on training or use some of their material and reference CERT
- Inventory of CNW items On Hold
  - Status of Elaine printing 250 copies.
  - Rodney will reach out to Minuteman press at some time.
- Shirts – Status
  - Ordered approved. Waiting for notification from Dsports that they are done.
- MS Access – Update.
  - Tabled until Michele's return
- Quote for liability and D&O insurance
  - Another insurance provider found - Harrison Agency Review and vote.  
(Recap: West Bend is our current carrier. Insurance requirements: Minimum of \$2Mil liability to use any school for training. D&O is \$1mil a claim.)
- **New Business**
  - Potential board members: Mary Ellen Hoffman, Ibrahim Ajiserere and Jeremy Johnson. They were each unanimously elected to serve on the Columbia Neighborhood Watch Board of Directors. Their appointments are effective immediately.