

## Cool Spring/Tilton Neighborhood Association

### Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2011

Attendees: See attached list.

#### 1. Welcome

Meeting chair Clara Zahradnik welcomed CS/TNA meeting attendees.

#### 2. Committees

- Wilmington Clean-up Day in April. Since the city will not have special clean-up activities due to cost constraints, officials have asked the communities to organize clean-up projects. Ideas for Cool Spring/Tilton include renting a mini-dumpster for the neighborhood. Please sign up to be involved.
- Community Yard Sale in May. Ideas include a bazaar-type event in the Cool Spring Plaza Circle with music and food.
- Streetscape around Cool Spring Park. CS/TNA has an opportunity to apply for \$500,000. in government funding to improve the streetscape including trees and grass (not the interior of the park) and following the master plan in this two-year project. The neighborhood association must raise \$50,000. in grant money to contribute as well as complete and submit an application within one month.

#### 3. Community Gardens

West Side Grows is an initiative of residents of Cool Spring, Tilton, and other West Side neighborhoods in partnership with Public Allies and Cornerstone West and is working to establish community gardens on the West Side of Wilmington. Rodney Street Reservoir and Father Tucker Park have been identified as possible sites.

Please attend the West Side Grows meeting on Monday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Latin American Community Center, 403 North Van Buren Street for input.

#### 4. 1109 North Franklin Street DRPC Hearing

Peter von Glahn and Clara Zahradnik will propose changes to the exterior of their home (1109 North Franklin Street) to the DRPC in late January and for informational purposes, Peter von Glahn presented the proposed modifications to the CS/TNA. Renovations of the kitchen will result in minor exterior changes including modified window sizes and replacement of double-hung windows with casement windows which will be replicas for the original casement windows.

A motion to accept the changes was proposed, seconded, and voted in favor by all attendees. This presentation should serve as a model for informing the community of changes to houses by owners that will be proposed to the DRPC at a later date.

## 5. Wilmington Police Department

Several members of the Wilmington Police Department (names below) reported on public safety issues in Wilmington and specifically in Cool Spring/Tilton neighborhoods.

Don Bluestein, West Side Supervisor, presented an overview of the police activity on the West Side which encompasses west of Market Street and south of the Brandywine River to the city border. Each platform has 30 officers with the goal being for each officer to spend as much time in his/her home territory as possible.

Officer Michael Fossett described the Community Police effort in the Cool Spring/Tilton neighborhood. Contact information is attached.

Community Police officers answer non-emergency calls (for example, a car that has not been moved in three days and may be stolen) in contrast to Patrol Police who handle 911 (emergency) calls. Non-emergency complaints should be directed to the community police officers or 654-5151 (non-emergency police number) so that the complaint can be logged into the police computer system. If a resident calls 654-5151, this should be followed up by contacting one of the Community Police officers.

Three officers are currently assigned to Cool Spring/Tilton neighborhoods:

Michael Fossett	<a href="mailto:michael.fossett@cj.state.de.us">michael.fossett@cj.state.de.us</a>	302-547-6171
G. Brian Collins	<a href="mailto:george.collins@cj.state.de.us">george.collins@cj.state.de.us</a>	302-547-1176
Donald Cramer	<a href="mailto:donald.cramer@cj.state.de.us">donald.cramer@cj.state.de.us</a>	302-388-8920

Their area is Lancaster Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue and Jackson Street to Union Street with three shifts (day, night, and midnight).

Questions by attendees and recommendations by Officer Fossett included:

- Neighborhood Watch Committee should contact whom regarding suspicious activity?  
Recommendation: If participants see any suspicious activity during the rounds, call the Community Police officers since 911 prioritizes complaints and may not be as immediately responsive as Community Police officers.
- Loitering is frequently seen at 8<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets and other locations. What should we do?  
Recommendation: Contact Community Police. Community Police officers can focus and spend more time on a problem such as loitering. A specific address is needed. Any information such as hiding places for drugs (including trash cans or hole in a brick wall) is important to convey.

Police Chief Michael J. Szczerba provided recommendations for crime prevention:

- Keep an eye out for the safety of neighbors and houses.
- DO NOT leave anything in plain view in a motor vehicle since thieves may mistake an inexpensive item for something more valuable and break into the vehicle to steal it. For example, a cheap calculator may look like an expensive GPS device; a gym bag may look like a handbag with money in it to a thief. The thief breaks a window to get what he/she thinks is valuable.
- Keep lights on outside of houses and businesses to deter thieves.

In the Cool Spring/Tilton neighborhoods, motor vehicle break-ins are on the rise. Crime increases and decreases depending on who is in jail at the time. Vandalism and theft have occurred in Cool Spring Reservoir Park.

Wilmington Police Officers who attended the CS/TNA Meeting:

Supervisor Don Bluestein

Captain Marlyn Dietz

Officer Michael Fossett

Sergeant Tom Kane

Police Chief Michael J. Szczerba

## Attendees

Eric Zumsteg  
Christian Willauer  
Bill & Barbara Dunn  
John Shaw  
George Ludewig  
Ellen Priest  
Jim Dolan  
Joe Grey  
Alfred Lance  
Rob York  
David Schelat  
Peter von Glahn  
Caitlin Dalih (Public Allies)  
Clara Zahradnik  
Ed Weirauch  
Connie Smith

### Wilmington Police Department

Supervisor Don Bluestein  
  
Captain Marlyn Dietz  
  
Officer Michael Fossett  
  
Sergeant Tom Kane  
  
Police Chief Michael J. Szczerba

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR WILMINGTON POLICE

911                      Emergency phone number  
654-5152                Non-emergency phone number

### COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICERS FOR COOL SPRING/TILTON

Michael Fossett:

[michael.fossett@cj.state.de.us](mailto:michael.fossett@cj.state.de.us)

547-6171

George Collins:

[george.collins@cj.state.de.us](mailto:george.collins@cj.state.de.us)

547-1176

Donald Cramer:

[donald.cramer@cj.state.de.us](mailto:donald.cramer@cj.state.de.us)