

Morning Sun Neighborhood Association

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September 22, 2015

The Morning Sun Neighborhood Association convened on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at Jim Thorpe School, with the meeting beginning at 7:12 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes for the last meeting were approved. The treasurer's report reflected a balance to date of \$739.37, down from \$1,122.35 as last reported, with year-to-date expenditures of \$378.00 noted, as well as a negative income -\$4.99.

Speakers:

Linda Lewis and Bill Hamilton from Second Harvest attended the meeting, and Linda presented an interesting and in-depth behind-the-scenes look at life in the group's bustling 120,000 sq.ft. warehouse at The Great Park in Irvine. Founded in 1983 by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Second Harvest has become one of the largest charitable organizations to help and feed the hungry and less fortunate throughout the country. Linda proudly boasted that 90 cents out of every dollar actually goes to those in need instead of administrative costs. Some of the largest donations to Second Harvest come from farmers. Representatives of Second Harvest actually glean the fields after a commercial harvest to retrieve any produce left behind. Donations also come from restaurant kitchens and food manufacturers.

Along with maintaining the warehouse where personal and group tours are available, Second Harvest reaches out to the community in many ways. Among them are a 'brown bag' program for seniors; kids' cafes near schools and boys' and girls' clubs where kids can get nutritious after-school snacks; mobile pantry trucks filled with fresh produce; and on-site field harvesting where kids help with the picking of fresh produce.

Volunteers are a key ingredient to the success of Second Harvest, as are those they serve. One such individual, Isabel J., a grateful recipient of the services offered by Second Harvest, wrote a beautifully illustrated children's book, "Cooking Monster," which was passed around for all to see. The book is a touching tribute to the work done by Second Harvest, and serves to remind everyone about the important role that children play in carrying forward the traditions and service of Second Harvest. Another moving exhibit at the Irvine site is the 214 sq. ft. mock 'motel room.' Here visitors get the full visual impact of how many less fortunate people are forced to live, sometimes as many as a family of 6 living in such a cramped space, about the size of a bedroom in a small house.

Linda ended her presentation by inviting anyone interested to sign up for a personal tour, group tour, or to learn more about volunteering. Interest was shown in a neighborhood group tour, and information on that will be forthcoming.

Chris Dalton from the City of Santa Ana gave a demonstration of the City of Santa Ana's website, pointing out some of the more notable links, such as the Municipal Code, the Police Department, the City Council, etc. Attendees were shown how to log on to the website and navigate among the pages, and a hand-out of log-in instructions was made available.

In addition, Chris re-introduced the phone app, "mysantaana," as a quick and easy way to reach the Public Works Agency to report any public works issues (including but not limited to graffiti, broken water line, trees down or damaged, etc.). With the app, a user is able to take a picture of a problem and instantly upload it anonymously to the Agency. Although such issues can also be reported by phone, use of the app guarantees that the person reporting the issue will be notified that the report was received and will also be notified when the problem has been resolved. It was noted and reiterated that the app is not for the reporting of crime.

Questions arose about activities on local streets where surveyor markings are appearing and whether or not we have some way of finding out or being notified by Public Works of any work being done in the area, such as the work crews that appeared on Greenville St. just south of Segerstrom on the morning of Tuesday, September 22. In addition, questions were raised about the possibility of installing left turn signals at several intersections along Greenville between Warner and MacArthur. The Association will follow up on that issue, as well as perhaps providing a link to Public Works on the Association's website where residents can find up-to-date information.

General Business: Three (3) \$50 grocery gift cards were approved as prizes in the upcoming Holiday Decorating Contest. Also voted on and approved was an expenditure of \$75 for the annual Fire Station Gift Basket.

An end-of-year dues drive was announced – information forthcoming.

Evangeline Gawronski, President of Com-Link, noted that the next Com-Link meeting is Thursday, September 24. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. and is held in the Santa Ana Police Department's Police Community Room located at 60 Civic Center Plaza.

Also as a VIP in the city's VIN (Volunteers in Neighborhood) Code Enforcement program, Evangeline, along with Robin MacDonald, spoke to the reporting of Code Enforcement violations, with Evangeline distributing a 'cheat sheet' delineating the various issues that constitute Code Enforcement violations pursuant to the city's Municipal Code. Evangeline also distributed her card and welcomed concerned residents to call or contact her personally. As an addendum, Robin encouraged residents to continue submitting reports of code violations via the Association's email so that the Association can be kept in the loop and follow up where needed. It was noted and acknowledged by Evangeline that in the past, the Association has presented to Evangeline a valuable color-coded spreadsheet of violations which allows Evangeline to consolidate her inspections and maintains a direct line of communication between her and the Association.

The issue of Neighborhood Watch signs was brought up again, and it was noted by both Robin and Evangeline that the reason the signs have never been installed was due to lack of interest in the prerequisite training involved with setting up the Neighborhood Watch Program. It was noted that although the signs themselves serve as a deterrent, they play only a small part in the overall scheme of things – that lay persons need to be trained on how to properly respond to criminal activities that may be observed in the neighborhood. However, the question was raised as to whether or not the signs could be installed in the absence of the training. Evangeline stated that she will follow up on that request and report back to the Association.

Judy Bryant of the Executive Committee called on attendees to voice any interest in organized community activities, e.g., pancake breakfasts, Christmas caroling, etc.

It was announced that the Ralphs grocery store at Fairview & MacArthur is closing, with the last day of business being October 31. Mention was made that it will be replaced by another grocery store, although none was named.

Callers annoyed by 'robo' phone calls were directed to the site, Nomorobo.com, for relief.

The 13th Annual Madison Park Neighborhood Association Walk-a-Thon, Resource Faire & Cultural Festival was announced. The event takes place on Saturday, September 26. Details as to time and place can be found on the Association website.

It was announced that the City Council approved the flying of the 'rainbow flag,' a symbol of LGBT solidarity, at City Hall for a limited period of five (5) weeks beginning on Harvey Milk Day (May 22). More information about this can be found on the Association website.

The winner of the Second Harvest Hope drawing was Jon Barkman. The winners of the door prizes were Virginia King and Judy Lillemoen.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. with the announcement of the next meeting date being January 26, 2016.

Signing In:

Jon Barkman
Judy Bryant
Rob Corl
Becky Ebert-Vargas
Carlos & Esther Fuentes
Leslie Guerrero
Earl Jones
Ron & Virginia King
Ed & Grace Kropidlowski
Bruce & Judy Lillemoen
Jerry & Robin MacDonald
Gloria Shanks
Mike Simmons