

December 2008 SCA Meeting Minutes December 18, 2008 @ 7:30 pm

The Stoneybrooke Citizens Association (SCA) held a meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2008 in the Stone Mansion. Twenty-nine residents were in attendance.

Call to Order

SCA Secretary, John Finamore, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Eleven residents were in attendance.

New Business

Don Faxon, Stoneybrooke's Neighborhood Watch Chairman, made a motion recommending the following qualifications for anyone wishing to serve on the SCA Neighborhood Watch Committee:

- (1) Each neighborhood watch committee member must be a member of the SCA in good standing (paid membership);
- (2) The Chairman must be a Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) recognized Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, and appointed by majority vote of the current SCA Officers;
- (3) The SCA President or Acting President must approve all neighborhood watch committee members.

After Don presented his motion, we opened the floor for discussion. A few residents voiced concerns over adding qualification to a volunteer position when it is difficult to find volunteers. Another member pointed out that a quorum of 20 residents is required for the transaction of any business. With only eleven residents in attendance, this motion was tabled until the next SCA meeting.

Guest Speaker – Fairfax County Officer Robbie Clift

Officer Robbie Clift from the Fairfax County Police Department was the guest speaker at our December meeting. He came to the meeting to discuss neighborhood watch and role that residents and the police play in keeping neighborhoods safe.

The main point of his presentation was that it is the responsibility of the residents to keep a neighborhood safe. The police will occasionally drive through different neighborhood and will do all they can to help any situation, but it is the responsibility of the residents to be the "eyes and ears" of the police department. He recommended the following steps that residents of any neighborhood should take to create a safe environment.

- Communicate with neighbors. As an example, if you're going to be out of town for a stretch of time, let a neighbor know.
- Call the police if you see or hear something suspicious. The non-emergency number is **703-691-2131** and the emergency number is **911**. Officer Clift

emphasized that if you ever have an inkling of a possible problem, you should call the police department. He would much rather you call and have the police determine there is no problem rather than you not calling and there being an actual problem.

- Do not put yourself in a situation that should be handled by a police officer. If something seems suspicious, do not try to handle it yourself. Instead, call the police department (**703-691-2131** or **911**).
- Keep you car doors locked and remove any valuables. If you have a GPS system that is attached to the window with suction cups, remove the system (and the suction cups) when it is not in use. Also, if the suction cups leave a circular mark on the window, attempt to wipe off the mark. Thieves have been known to break into cars with circular marks on a windshield under the assumption that there is a GPS system somewhere in the car.

Officer Clift concluded his presentation by mentioning the Home Security Survey he offers (free of charge) to residents in his Police Service Area (which includes Stoneybrooke). In a Home Security Survey, Officer Clift does a walkthrough of your house and lets you know how you can make your home safer. You can contact him at his office to set up a Home Security Survey.

After the presentation, Officer Clift asked for questions from the audience. A resident asked about the constant problem at the intersection in front of Stoneybrooke. He asked if the Police Department could look into assigning an officer to this intersection during rush hour to get a sense of the problem. Officer Clift asked the resident to send him an email as a reminder and he would discuss the issue with the Traffic Enforcement Officer at his station.

Next Meeting

The next SCA meeting is to be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.