****Palo Verde Park Neighborhood

Association

<http://paloverdeparkneighborhood.com/>

**Minutes, June 20, 2018 meeting**

Present:

Norma Coffman, President

Mike Southworth, Vice President

Jack Kulawik, Treasurer

Rhonda Bodfield, Secretary

Virginia Stanek, zone delegate, Mañana Vista

Absent:

Andy Weiss, zone delegate, Riviera Estates

* **Roll Call and introductions**

The President called the meeting to order and roll was taken. Appreciation was shared with Scot Osborne, who took photographs of the meeting for the newsletter and website.

* **Code of conduct**

The President shared the general expectation that discourse will be respectful and shared a commitment to honor participants’ time commitment and limit the meeting to one hour.

* **President’s report**
* Ms. Coffman indicated the July meeting will feature Tucson Electric Power and reservations are being accepted.
* Splash pad construction anticipated in late August, as will construction on the fencing around Palo Verde Park pool to accommodate seating around the pool. The City of Tucson is considering a water slide in 2019.
* Fall meetings will include a park cleanup in early October to gather to clean up the park; first Saturday in November will be a wellness in the park event to include yoga, tai chi, massage, meditation
* We continue to look for sponsorships to be able to fund additional newsletters and to encourage shopping at neighborhood businesses.
* **Officers’ report, as needed:** None this month
* **Approval of May minutes**

The President opened the discussion of the minutes. Jack moved to approve, Mike seconded and it was passed unanimously.

* **Presentation by Sgt. Jeremy Williams, Tucson Police Department**

Sgt. Williams introduced himself as an 18-year veteran with the force, spending last 9 years in east side operations division. Among other duties, he is assigned to assist with sharing information with neighborhood associations and promoting Neighborhood Watch.

Operations Division East encompasses a vast area - approximately half the geographic size of the city - which runs Craycroft east, north to the city limits and south past Rita Ranch, about120 square miles. Station servings us is at Golf Links and Harrison.

At any given time, 5-20 officers are patrolling.

Looking at our geographic area, there were 1,775 calls over the last six months. That number is less startling than it seems, he noted.

More than 700 were traffic stops alone, he said. Other calls included:

* 119 were proactive patrols.
* 72 calls were suspicious activity calls.
* 24 false alarm.
* 16 burglaries.
* 103 check welfare.
* 50 calls traffic hazards.
* 60 larceny reports, which could be a shoplifting call or someone got their potted plants stolen. There is some petty theft here and there. 10 a month is not ridiculous for an area of this size.

Sgt. Williams talked about when to call 911: 911 is not just for large emergencies. If you think you need an officer to check something out and it is happening now, call 911. Calls will be prioritized so don’t worry that you will take them away from more important crimes.

In a response to his question about what people are seeing, answers included: Homeless in the park, drug addicts in the park, vehicle break-ins, stolen mail, stolen packages, people locking themselves in the park bathroom after hours.

Sgt. Williams said get to know your neighbors and be willing to engage the police when you see suspicious activity: Bad guys don’t like it if come into neighborhood and cops are rolling through. They like neighborhoods where the people don’t know each other, where you don’t know which cars belong where. The best way to combat the activities you are describing is to be extra vigilant about calling when you see suspicious activity.

Other advice: Lock it or lose it. Every week there are 4-6 firearms stolen out of vehicles on east side. 80 percent of those are stolen out of unlocked cars. Everybody knows to lock your cars, but you get complacent. Don’t leave purses, wallets, laptops in cars.

Sgt Williams noted there were 16 burglaries in past 6 months - that is not a high number given the scale of the neighborhood. Take steps to make house a hard target: Make sure doors are working formerly, cut back shrubbery, install appropriate lighting. Sliding glass doors notoriously easy to get Into. Hardware stores sell items that can help, or slide wooden dowels.

He also noted there is no law against a homeless person being in the park in normal park hours.

Sgt. Williams said he would share with the motor unit that there is concern about people driving too fast down Mann.

Finally, he encouraged neighbors to consider Neighborhood Watch, which is a small area within the neighborhood, and typically a street or two at most.

* **Adjournment: 7:32 p.m.**