

Notes of the fifth meeting of the Midtown Museum District Neighborhood Association held on Wednesday 28 January at the Hilton Suites, 10 East Thomas Road from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.



1. Introduction and welcome to the event

Margaret Dietrich welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

These were received from Julia and Paul Tourville

3. Keynote presentation: Block Watch Program Officer Doreen Wiegert

Officer Wiegert's work focuses on the education aspects of crime prevention, including education for groups wanting to set up Block Watch programs in their neighborhood. She is also able to bring in speakers from other agencies to address specialist areas. She summarized the key points about Block Watch.

What is Block Watch?

Block Watch is a simple program of neighbors watching out for each other. It is designed to enlist the active participation of citizens in cooperation with the police to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. It does not ask that anyone take personal risk to prevent crime and it leaves the responsibility of apprehending criminals where it belongs, with the police department

Block Watch is:

- Becoming acquainted with your neighbors.
- Working together to identify and solve problems in our community.
- Helping the police by being aware of and reporting any unusual activities as they occur. (You know best what is "normal" activity in your neighborhood)
- Implementation of crime prevention techniques to enhance home security.
- **Not** apprehending someone. Leave that to the police.
- Putting neighbors back into neighborhoods.

How Does Block Watch Work?

- Block Watch works when you and your neighbors use simple techniques to deter, delay and detect crime, and improve the quality of life for the neighborhood.
- Being aware of criminal activity can help in keeping your neighborhood safe.
- Promptly reporting all criminal or suspicious activity to 9-1-1, or Crime Stop at 602-262-6151 helps the police assist you in promoting a safe and healthy neighborhood.
- Block Watch does not require frequent meetings.
- Block Watch signs can be ordered for your neighborhood from the Block Watch Advisory Board

The Block Watch Advisory Board is a non-profit corporation with an initial activity to promote and assist the development of Block Watch organizations. Their primary partnership is with the City of Phoenix Police Department. It is their mission to build partnerships between all kinds of people and groups, in spite of their differences

Block Watch Advisory Board meetings as well as Block Watch meetings city wide, are open to the public. The schedule of meetings is listed in the attachments to the meeting notes. Representatives from the neighborhood are encouraged to send to attend.

The Block Watch Advisory Board can be contacted at:

Block Watch Advisory Board
1702 West Camelback Road
Suite 13, Box #282
Phoenix, Arizona 85015
www.phxblockwatch.org

Officer Wiegert can be contacted on doreena.wiegert@phoenix.gov Telephone: (602) 495-5005

Officer Wiegert was thanked for her interesting presentation

4. Community Action Officer's report: Scott Melander and Al Knecht

Community Action Officer Scott Melander reported that this was his last meeting as he was taking up a new post within the Phoenix Police Department. Officer Melander had been a Community Action Officer for ten years and during this time had established many successful partnerships with all of the neighborhood associations in Precinct 51.

Officer Melander was thanked on behalf of the MMDNA for all the work he had done for the neighborhoods and local communities. His contribution to the safety and well being of many residents and businesses had been outstanding and he will be greatly missed. It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent to Officer Melander from the MMDNA.

Officer Al Knecht was introduced to the meeting. He summarized his experience with the Phoenix Police Department and said that he would be looking forward to attending future meetings of the MMDNA.

It was noted that there continued to be bicycle thefts from Tapestry Condos and all residents were urged to be extra vigilant. All suspicious activity should be reported to **Crimestop on 602-262-6151**

5. Light Rail party 27th December

The Light Rail Party was heralded as a great success and many MMDNA residents had enjoyed the experience of riding the trains. Around 5,000 information bags were distributed on 27th December and everyone who helped on the day was thanked for their time and energy. The photos of the day (and those of the Grand Stuffing Party) are on the website at www.midtownmuseumdistrict.org

The remaining bags have been distributed around the neighborhood, to every home in the Willo Neighborhood, and to local businesses in the neighborhood. St Joseph's Hospital has a number of buildings and services within the neighborhood and the MMDNA looked forward to working closely with them in the future, as a major employer in the area.

6. Financial report

Only one business that had taken part in the Light Rail Community Information project, had not yet made the \$25 contribution, although they were being strongly encouraged to do so.

7. Social Events

Ann Gorton and Beth Wickenden were thanked for organizing and hosting a very enjoyable evening at the Heard Museum on January 13 2009. The evening was informative and fun, with excellent cheese and wine. There was an opportunity to find out more about the work of the Heard Museum Guild, opportunities to volunteer at the Heard, and learn more about the Berlin Gallery.

Kate Crowley outlined some of the major events at the Heard Museum over the forthcoming months. These include:

- **Third Fridays at the Heard Museum with free admission from 5.30 to 9.00pm starting February 20 2009**
- A new exhibition “Mothers and Daughters in Clay” from January 10
- Landscape Redefined presented by the Berlin Gallery until January 30
- World Hoop Dance Contest February 7 and 8
- 51st Annual Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair and Market March 7 and 8.

For more information go to www.heard.org, www.heardmuseumshop.com, or www.berlingallery.org

The next social event was being planned.

8. Business Issues

The website continues to develop and work is in hand to enter the data fro businesses that want to be listed.

9. Any other Businesses

10. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

Meetings are planned for the **fourth Wednesday** of the month from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

The next meeting will be held on **February 25 2009** and will be held at the Fairfield Inn and Suites at 2520 N. Central Avenue. The Keynote speaker will be from the City of Phoenix Planning Department.

The March meeting will be on **March 25 2009** and the Keynote speaker will be Councilman Tom Simplot.

Phoenix Block Watch Advisory Board Calendar of Events 2009

DATE	MEETING/EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
January 27	PBWAB - Hosted by Cactus Park Precinct	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Four Points by Sheraton @ Metro Center (10220 N. Metro Pkwy East -located near Olive Garden on outer loop)
February 24	PBWAB - Presentation TBD	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	PLEA Office @ 1102 W. Adams Street
March 24	PBWAB - Hosted by Desert Horizon Precinct	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	TBD
April 28	PBWAB - Presentation TBD	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	PLEA Office @ 1102 W. Adams Street
May 26	PBWAB - Hosted by Maryvale Precinct	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	TBD
June 23	PBWAB- Presentation TBD	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	PLEA Office @ 1102 W. Adams Street
July 28	PBWAB - Hosted by South Mountain Precinct	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	TBD
August 25	PBWAB- Presentation TBD	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	PLEA Office @ 1102 W. Adams Street
September 22	PBWAB - Hosted by Squaw Peak Precinct	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Washington Activity Center @ 2240 W. Citrus Way
October 17	G.A.I.N. 2009	various	various
October 27	PBWAB Presentation TBD	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	PLEA Office @ 1102 W. Adams Street
November 24	PBWAB - Hosted by Central City Precinct	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	TBD