

El Gheko Neighborhood Association
November 5, 2014
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Tom Wills, President of El Gheko.

Minutes were read by Carla Casler, Secretary, and were approved.

Lieutenant Diana Lopez spoke about changes in TPD's District 4 and the importance of neighborhood involvement in keeping neighborhoods safe. She urged us to call 911 if we see anything suspicious or out-of-the-ordinary, explaining that the police response rate depends on what other calls they have at that particular time (car accidents, assaults, robberies, etc.). Several people brought up specific questions or situations and she provided background on how those would be handled:

- Concern was expressed about where police park to write reports on Caribe and Green Hills just off Speedway – visibility is poor at those corners and parked cars are not seen until the motorist has nearly rounded the corner. Lieutenant Lopez said she would report this to the Traffic Division.
- One neighbor described a situation where a stranger was standing outside her back gate, who didn't respond when she called out to him. She called 911 and reported it – a police car did drive around the neighborhood, but did not stop to talk to her. Lieutenant Lopez explained that the police will not always stop to contact those who phone in – the police will check the area and, if there is no longer any suspicious activity, they will drive to the next call. She pointed out that many people do not want the police to visit them, because it would indicate who called in the complaint. If you are concerned about a situation and you do want the police to stop in to see you about it, mention that to the dispatcher you speak to, when you call.
- Reporting dangerous animals, for instance javelina – you can call 911 and you will be advised of the appropriate agency to call for that particular situation.
- We were encouraged to develop more Neighborhood Watch areas in El Gheko.

Kathy Wilson of the Independent Transportation Network (ITNGreaterTucson) told us about this non-profit service, which provides community-based and community-supported transportation for senior and people with limited vision. The cost is less than taxis, and the volunteer drivers will help with packages and often assist riders in getting to the right location within the building they need to visit. This service also needs more volunteer drivers. To learn more about it, visit their website www.ITNGreaterTucson.org or email info@ITNGreaterTucson.org or call 209-1645.

Annual elections for El Gheko Officers were held. The results were:

- ✓ President: Tom Wills
- ✓ Vice President: No candidates
- ✓ Secretary/Treasurer: No candidates

Miscellaneous items that were discussed:

- The Kingston Knolls pool, built in the 1970s. The pool bond was sold to homeowners for \$300. There's only about 15 members now. Taxes are owed and it has not been maintained for 2 years. Ted Prezelski, with Ward 2 office will call the County Health Dept. about it.
- Concern was expressed about abandoned properties, such as the boarded up house at 6928 E. Kingston, which is owned by a bank. Ted Prezelski said he would check on this.
- Overgrown bushes making sidewalks impassable. Ted Prezelski said he would call the Streets Dept.

Final event of the meeting: the awarding of a \$100 gift card donated by WalMart in a raffle for those in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

.Respectfully submitted,

Carla Long Casler,
Secretary