

ROLAND PARK CIVIC LEAGUE
September 7, 2016

Participants: Cara Kohler, Sara Johnson, Anne Stuzin, Jennifer Vey, Chris McSherry, Robert Connor, Ian MacFarlane, Leslee Bivalacqua, Rob Horst, Kathleen Truelove, Mary Kay Battafarano, Chris Cotright, Steve Grantz, Patti Ephraim

1. Presidents Remarks - Ian attended Molly's funeral service and read the celebration of her life from the service to the group. Susan MacFarlane shared information on prayer circle that people in the community can join
2. Routine Business
 - a. Minutes for the July and August 2016 meetings; board unanimously approved the minutes
 - b. Architecture committee – Discussion of shopping center door replacement. The architectural committee reviewed the door design. Chris contacted CHAP to discuss window replacement and relayed that they would not issue work permit for doors until the windows are fixed. No safety concerns for new doors. Motion for approval of design of new doors approved unanimously
3. Special Community Meeting on Public Safety – Major Richard Gibson and Detective Sean DeLassandro present for the meeting.
 - a. Current crime investigations & progress – crime does not appear to be connected to recent robberies in the area. There was a suspect, but after interviewing at the police department they do not think this person is related to the homicide in RP. Investigating many avenues to include pawn shops, psych admissions during that time, and CODUS. They suspect that the assailant was casing homes in the area to burglar. There was no eyewitness. They are working with FBI on a profile. There is DNA that they are investigating.

Myths and rumors – the assailant did not have a coffee can and a knife; there is not evidence of domestic violence.
 - b. What can residents do as a community? – police suggest keep lights on at homes, to include porch lights, front lights on homes, backyard lighting, cameras on outside of home. Call in tips on suspicious person, suspicious activity. Police can come to the house and assess your house for burglaries (Officer Doug Gibson phone number 410-746-4580). Court watch – impact letter from the community to make sure that people are sentenced for crimes.
 - c. Review of crime statistics for the area – Citywide, crime in the city down 5%, and is lowest this year – down 19%. There were 820 burglaries last year – down to ~500 this year. For RP (2013-2016) – this is the first homicide in 20 years. There have been 7 robberies to date, but includes 3 commercial robberies. Compared to other area – Homeland and Guilford, have very similar crime statistics. Police presence and patrols
 - Robbery in front of the library (5100 Roland Avenue) – had suspects, but the victim could not identify in the line up; believe the person is in the woods along Stoney Run stream.
 - Robbery on St Johns Road – related to a “bump and rob” crew of 32 adults and kids across the city. There have been 25 been arrested.

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Issue of panhandlers in community brought up. City wide this is an issue. There is an established focus group to review this issue and come up with recommendations.

- d. Outreach and awareness – Police patrols are increased and police detectives under cover walking in the woods. Roland Park safety tips being passed on to the residents
- e. Citizens patrols and paid private security – The Guilford community employs a private security service. The fee \$325/year for community members. Of the 800 homes in Guilford, only 40% participate. The total bill for this service is \$120,000 a year. Residents who pay also get an escort service walking to and from house and also more coverage during vacation or when they are not home.

In the Homeland community, about 50-60 residents have signed up to volunteer for the citizen patrol.

There is very little evidence that private security and citizen patrols make a difference on crime. The Pros on the issue is that there could be reduction in crime, but hard to know because there is no evidence to support this; perception of feeling safer. The Cons on the issue are the cost, training and need to develop protocols for private officers.

- f. Infrastructure alternatives, e.g., lighting - Rob Horst and Chris McSherry will service as community leads to coordinate requests to address poor walkway lighting on University Parkway and throughout the community. Forestry has already been contacted to trim trees that are blocking street lights.