

**East Allentown Rittersville
Neighborhood Association**

MINUTES

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. on August 17, 2015 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (President Dennis Pearson, Vice President Robert Pandaleon, Treasurer Bob Jacoby, and Secretary Dave Schell) and two other neighbors were present at the meeting, as was Captain Glen Dorney of the Allentown Police Department.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of July 20, 2015. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby gave his report. The current balance is \$551.03, but we have an outstanding bill for \$120 for our storage area, which will leave us with \$431.03. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read. The motion carried.

President Pearson introduced Captain Glen Dorney, who is in charge of the East Side Police Service Area as of today. He has been an officer of the department for nineteen years, and has been in charge of the center city PSA for the past three years. The police administration moved the captains around and Captain Alsleben has traded PSAs with Captain Dorney. Captain Dorney is also in charge of the emergency response team and the K9 unit. We have five police dogs in the Allentown Police K9 unit.

Captain Dorney handed out a flyer on the police "Lock it—hide it—keep it" program. A large portion of the crimes in this part of town are either thefts from unlocked cars or thefts where people set down their wallet or cell phone in a store, forget to pick it up, and it gets stolen. Crime is down 21% over the same period last year city-wide. Major crimes (homicide, robbery, aggravated assault) is down 35% on the East Side over last year, and property crimes are down 29% over the past year on the East Side. This Police Service Area has the lowest property crimes of the four PSAs in Allentown. Property crimes were 351 year to date last year and are 249 so far this year.

Secretary Schell read correspondence that he had received over the past month.

- The Midway Manor Community Association will have its annual yard sale at Midway Manor Park on Saturday, September 5th, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Upper Macungie, North Whitehall, and South Whitehall Townships will hold Emergency Preparedness Day events at the St. Luke's West End Medical Center, 501 Cetronia Road, on Saturday, September 19th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Allentown Public Library has various events such as game nights and classes. Details can be found at www.allentownpl.org. Click on Explore or Services.
- The Great Allentown Neighborhood Summit is scheduled for Sunday, November 1st, from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Details will follow.

President Pearson noted that we have written to the mayor for permission for the Project Haas light display. We will again use help from Dieruff High School students. Pearson also noted that we would like the Dieruff Planetarium to be revived. He discussed activities that EARN once had additional activities, which we were able to accomplish due to a considerably larger active membership.

Pearson noted that as president of the Crime Watch organization he and his board are attempting to get things organized. They would like to incorporate the association. They will have the annual Leonard Buck Dinner and the various police appreciation dinners.

A neighbor noted the location of several properties with various problems including a house in the 100 block of North Irving Street with peeling paint, another in the 900 block of East Hamilton Street with a downed tree and a dumpster, and an apparently abandoned home in the 1500 block of East Tremont Street with a large quantity of overgrowth.

Pearson spoke of various Kiwanis projects both in the city and beyond. He also noted that the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unite is offering College Level Examination Program (CLEP) test preparation courses. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Charlotte Golden, the IU's Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction/Educational Technology at 610-799-4111, Ext. 1201, or goldenc@cliu.org.

It was noted that Mosser Family Village is trying to replenish food bank.

The group had a brief discussion of how decisions are made for entry into the Dieruff High School Hall of Fame, and about possible additions.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully,

David A. Schell, Secretary