

# DRUID HILLS

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## Meeting Minutes August 16, 2012

- Call to order by Clyde Waters.
- New members were recognized. Mike and Heather Gilbert on Craig, Suzanne White on Glenwood, Jeff and Amy Schrag on Reynolds, and Susan Leonard moved back on Mills.
- There was a reminder to sign the Sign-in Sheet and to renew memberships and donation.
- The June 2012 meeting minutes were provided for review. It was noted that “Clyde Murphy” should be changed to “Claude Murphy.” The minutes were approved as amended.
- The treasure’s report was submitted for review.

### Discussion:

- Guest speakers were Captain Marsh, Lieutenant Roberts, and Officer Champion from the Columbia Police Department and Sergeant Lori Tumlin from the Forest Acres Police Department.
- There was an update of crime since January. Not a lot of crime until July. Then there was a lot in FA and in Richland County.
- In August, there have been cars broken into. Criminals are not always stealing something. They are looking for something, probably guns. One gun was stolen. Thieves are also looking for GPS and laptops. All cars broken into were unlocked.
- Let police know about vacant houses, because thieves are storing stolen goods there.
- On Beltline, someone stole an air conditioner unit.
- A neighbor asked about yard upkeep. There are city ordinances. The officers will look into it.
- Are other neighborhoods being broken into? Every neighborhood is being broken into.
- FAPD and CPD will do house checks when you are out of town. Come by and pick up form to fill out.
- Someone asked about UV paint for identification. Sergeant Tumlin stated that FA doesn't have the UV paint but will look into where it can be purchased.
- Captain Marsh stated the City of Columbia uses engraved number identification.
- Sergeant Tumlin recommended you take pictures of your things.
- George Grogan asked if it was okay to ask the alarm company to call the police first, because the alarm company was reluctant to call the police first. The police said it is fine.
- FAPD charges for false alarms. Two free false alarms per year, then it is a \$25 charge.
- CPD does not charge for false alarms.
- Captain Marsh stated that the descriptions of cars the neighborhood provided lead to an arrest.
- Captain Marsh stated there are some unmarked cars patrolling the neighborhood, but if you see any suspicious cars to call it in.
- Captain Marsh stated they work very closely with FAPD.
- Our neighborhood doesn't have the problems that south region has.
- One neighbor asked about alarm systems that set off loud exterior alarm. Ask your alarm company for an external speaker. Alarm companies say they don't like to install exterior speakers because the police don't like it. Sergeant Tumlin and Capt. Marsh both stated that they do not mind external speakers.
- Janet Nixon suggested that we have representatives from alarm companies come to a future meeting.
- One neighbor stated that he had Columbia Welding put some bars in vulnerable window.
- Captain Marsh said you can't kick in outward swinging doors. They have to be pried open.
- FA and CPD will do home surveys.
- Carol Mosser asked about wired vs wireless alarm systems.

- Andrew Epting asked about innovative ideas or surveillance grants we could get. Captain Marsh stated there are community grants for it. He will provide information to us in an email.
- Carol Mosser asked about gangs. Are crimes related to gangs? Captain Marsh stated that yes, there are gangs around, but it depends on your definition of a gang.
- The police stated they are currently looking for a black Cherokee.
- One neighbor asked if thieves are targeting houses. Yes, they are watching. Don't put electronics boxes on corner. Don't leave blinds open. Wave at everybody.
- Neighbor asked if closing streets would be a deterrent. Captain Marsh said you have to be careful of closing streets because it can be difficult for emergency responders.
- Andrew Epting stated cameras would be used retroactively,
- Officer Champion introduced himself. He will conduct property surveys, call 315-6106.
- There are typically 5 to 6 officers in neighborhood at any time unless there is something going on. There is always one in the area.

**Updates & New Business:**

- George Grogan stated the magnets have been ordered and should be ready in two weeks. We will see if we can get poison control number added before they are printed.
- Clyde Waters mentioned that we need to look into dates for the fall cookout.
- Janet Nixon asked for topics for the next few meetings.
- Suggested topics:
  - Recycling
  - Doctors Express
  - Council Members
  - Alarm Companies
- Janet Nixon mentioned helping families at Christmas or Thanksgiving. Glynda Carroll suggested helping a needy family in our community.
- Jane and Dale on Harrison & Concord just had a baby girl.
- Jay Dawson suggested the safety committee look into cameras.
- Andrew Epting stated we will have to provide some cost share.
- Janet Nixon stated we need to continue to push sidewalks. Janet will follow up with our city liaison, Charmaine Clark.

Next meeting October 18th.