

Highland Neighborhood Association Meeting March 3, 2009

Veronica Sharp (T A Brown Principal) thanked us for being a great community and asked our members to please consider volunteering at the school by mentoring and tutoring the students. She said that we would have a huge effect on the students by doing so

Dr. Furio (Vision Source owner in Lincoln Village) spoke about his fight to keep LeBare out of Lincoln Village. He has owned the practice for 4 years with Dr. Berg in Lincoln Village. They feel that a strip club is not appropriate at that location due to the stigma and safety problems it will impose on our community and their patients. He said that there is a law that it cannot be within 1000 ft of a school, but the law states that this distance is for the most distant point on the lot. If you measured from the actual location it would be illegal. Measuring from the further location on the lot makes it legal. The site plan has been submitted to the city. He will notify us when it is being considered, but estimates mid march. He encourages us to call the city council, planning and zoning board, and TABC to express our opinions. LeBare has signed a 10 year lease.

Damon recognized some representatives of Perla who were at the meeting and left some literature. He said that Perla has been a supporter of HNA issues in the past. Specifically, the opening of Morrow from our neighborhood.

AJ Rodriguez (HNA District Rep at APD) spoke about being our rep for about 6 months now. He told us that recently our crime rates have been low for the central west sector. One neighbor said that his home was broken into recently and asked if officers were going to start patrolling the area during the day. The officer responded that they use statistics to see where crime is most frequently occurring at any given time to target their patrols. Another neighbor asked if traffic violations count in the statistics. The officer responded that collisions do, but moving violations do not. Another neighbor asked about the laborers loitering at St. John and I-35. The officer responded that they are working with the business owners and other agencies to try to remedy the problem. They cannot patrol their 24 hours a day, so it is hard for them to fix on their own. His phone and email address are on the newsletter. Please feel free to contact him with questions or to request a safety inspection of your home.

The master bicycle plan was just released and St. Johns is set to get bike lanes. This will make the sidewalks along St. Johns much safer for our neighbors.

Damon contacted the leasing company for the new development. They would not release names of businesses, but did say that a local coffee shop and local sandwich shop are scheduled to be at the location.

Mow down smog program is going on March 28 at Home Depot.

Austin Energy will be trimming trees in our neighborhood in the coming weeks. They will be working with homeowners to ensure that there is agreement on the trees that will be trimmed.

Dillard's at Highland Mall is closing. Mike Martinez is working to get a soccer stadium built on the site, but the neighborhood contact team is working to get it zoned for vertical mixed use.

Damon stated that both Mayoral candidates would be good for our neighborhood.

A board member from St. Francis said that they want to have a stronger relationship with our neighborhood moving forward. They are against LeBare and are very concerned with what will happen at Highland Mall.

The planned park at 400 St. John's is coming along well. Watershed protection is on board and will be working with city parks to build a retention pond and park at the site.