

## Midway Woods Meeting Blue Tarp – March 8, 2018

**Board Members Attending:** Jennifer Beaver, Chris DePree, Kathryn Michaelis

**Neighbors Attending:** Kristen Tullos, Emily Hite, Jill Lenz (rest of list not able to read; beverage was put on sign-in and cannot read other names)

**Guest:** Major Nicole Rutland (DeKalb Police Department) and Al Fowler (Public Education Specialist; Dekalb PD)

### Neighborhood Watch:

This meeting was primarily to discuss neighbors concerns with safety and theft in our community and what steps need to be taken to get a neighborhood watch off the ground, at the request of many neighbors vial social media.

Al Fowler – works for DeKalb PD and helps neighborhoods with their neighborhood watch efforts. Per Al, here are the things that we would need in order to have a successful neighborhood watch in Midway Woods:

1. Neighborhood watch coordinator(s)
2. Email list
3. Divide neighborhood into sections – with a neighborhood our size, we should operate as four separate neighborhood watches. Each section would have their own coordinator. Those coordinators would be the one to alert everyone to happenings, activity that is going on in the neighborhood. The four coordinators could work together.

Major Rutland discussed crime in the area. She looked at the 911 reports for our neighborhood and it appears that many crimes that are being reported on NextDoor are not being called into the police (several attendees mentioned specific incidents that had been reported on NextDoor that she did not show a record of having been reported). She explained that there is a tier system, based on the severity of a crime. If someone calls in an active shooter at the same time that you call in a car invasion, you will be considered lower priority. One way to ensure the police do follow up is to request that an officer speak/meet with you. You do not have to meet them in person, but if you request a phone follow-up you are more likely to be guaranteed they look into the incident.

Al Fowler suggested that one way to get a grass-roots Neighborhood Watch into effect immediately is to have a “dog walker watch”. These are people who are walking the neighborhood on a daily basis, often with the same pattern/at the same time. They will notice when things are different, when something doesn’t look right. If we can organize in a way that allows these individuals to be our eyes and ears while they are walking their dogs throughout the neighborhood we can get something off the ground immediately.

The issue of safety in Dearborn Park was raised by neighborhoods who live on Creekwood. A discussion was started about the possibility of putting game cameras or pole cameras in the park, or potentially more lights. This will be followed up on during further discussions with the Major. Note: we did follow up with the Major and were put in touch with someone who works with the park system. At this time, the cameras that they have would not be effective in our park. Additionally, with the park being owned by two parties, it will be difficult to get permission to get anything added to the park, in terms of cameras, etc.