

SWNA Monthly Meeting  
May 27, 2014  
7:00pm

- Pledge of Allegiance
- May Agenda approved
- April Minutes approved; posted on website
- Treasurer's report: Osage balance: \$ SWNA balance: \$
  - Chris Hoppman wasn't able to attend so the treasurer's report was unavailable
- Community Policing
  - Officer Arroyo
    - 27 Beat: City waiting to replace Officer Cornwall
    - 28 Beat
      - Burglaries down; in south Seneca area a 15-year-old identified & apprehended due to parole violation; burglaries sting resulted in a few arrests
      - River Festival takes place in part of our area; vehicles and items can easily be stolen; have fun but be aware of your surroundings; there will be a police presence
  - Officer Douty
    - 13 Beat
    - Discussion of the areas closed due to River Festival activities; sections of McLean will be closed; officers will be present on foot, horseback, bicycle and patrol.
    - No issues at West High like had been anticipated (fighting)
    - Trailer theft higher in March and April but numbers are dropping
  - Josh brought up issues regarding kids vandalizing outside bathrooms at Osage Rec Center and confronting kids' parents; Officer Arroyo suggested the possible usage of dummy cameras as deterrents; Josh is going to contact City Parks (Karen) about the idea to help protect the City's investment.
- Brandon Whipple, State Rep
  - Flags purchased by the state should be manufactured in the US; added to another bill but can't get a vote on it
- Tim Norton, County Commission
  - Budgeting: Closing Judge Riddel Boy's Ranch because it's too expensive and needs too many updates/upgrades; requires \$1.6 from county to operate plus funds from state; facility was a place to rehabilitate and not just house; approximately \$70K per year per youth; now will be placed at other YR2C facilities; would have required \$4 - 7 M to renovate

- \$3.5M raised for Child Advocacy Center, including mental health facilities, Center for Exploited & Missing Children, reps from CDF, human trafficking, child abuse; have purchased the former Lincoln Elementary school to use as a facility
- Discussing the privatization of the SG Co. Zoo; talk about the Zoo being non-accredited which he doesn't believe is the right way to move and will only create issues for the Zoo in the future.
- Jim Ward, State Rep
  - Put the County into a false choice by forcing closure of the Boy's Ranch over opening/funding the Child Advocacy Center; not funding the Boy's Ranch will have long-term far-reaching effects; bad way to determine success is whether boys commit new crimes after leaving Boy's Ranch; most of these boys have been given multiple opportunities and services to keep them from repeating and returning to the Boy's Ranch; mistakes were made in the way the Ranch was funded years ago and the State's never been willing to do the right thing and fund the Ranch the way it was intended. Should have made the investment now because to open anything else like it in the future will be so cost restrictive, it'll never happen.
  - Core function of democracy is that we should get to vote every 2 years; has proposed a bill that would put an end to the on-going voter suppression.
  - Fiscally responsible tax structure: \$191K individuals and businesses not paying taxes and the rest of us are having to make up the differences.
  - Most important thing State gov't does is to fund state schools; educators should be properly trained and certified; voted against the bill to remove due process; money needs to be put back into funding school
- Discussion of having a voter's forum, if not here possibly at library like we have in the past; would be held in July for the August 4th primary; deadline for registration is next week; the only politician looking to have a primary is Les Osterman; will wait until next month to decide on forum
- Osage Committee: Natalie discussed open gym and basketball on Tuesdays; movie nights on Saturday evenings.....April canceled due to weather, May rescheduled due to holiday; we have not been able to get the computer lab up because KETCH has told us we're not able to use the storage area due to facilities issues and the fact that they've decided to do something else with the computer lab area; our contract with KETCH expires June 1st and if we're asked to vacate, we need to be thinking about other possibilities. KETCH is being difficult about the use of the front doors instead of the south side door, the possibility of a dry erase calendar in the front window was denied, doors not being secured, and other ongoing issues. We're meeting our requirement of providing 25 hours of community service.

Brandon suggested that moving out should be a last resort and we shouldn't jump to any conclusions. He proposed having a meeting with KETCH to find out what it is that they actually need from us. Osage Rec Center is in the middle of his district. He brags about our neighborhood association to all those in Topeka and he doesn't want to see us lose this space.

Tim Norton and Jim Ward suggested a meeting with Ron Passmore, the CEO of KETCH, about the ongoing issues at Osage Rec Center. Tim suggested that because KETCH receives funding from the county he's not going to want to hear that the County is disappointed in what was discussed at tonight's meeting. Josh, Tim, and Brandon will arrange to make this meeting happen.

Osage Rec committee agreed that the facility can be used for private events as long as the user makes a \$50.00 donation and other parts of the building will be open to the public, i.e., a private group wants to use the gym so SWNA will open the computer lab for public use.

The Osage Rec Center calendar is maintained on the southwichita.com website. Discussed possible ways to make finding information easier.

Garage sale tables are available for rent for \$10.00. The money is due at load-in on Friday or Saturday. SWNA is taking donations for this event and will help load items.

- Neighborhood clean-up:
  - Brandon has already posted information on his FaceBook page.
  - Cleanup is schedule June 28th at 4 locations:
    - Historic McCormick School at 855 S. Martinson St. (Young Marines)
    - Salvation Army at 1910 S. Everett St.
    - St. Anne Catholic Church at 2801 S. Seneca
    - Osage Rec Center at 2121 W. 31st St (Gators Football)
  - Scrap metal will be dealt with separately as it was last year
  - Will have packer trucks as we have in the past; will have their own flyer for that area
  - Will have a separate truck for tires only
  - RSVP number on flyer from senior citizens
  - Gators and Young Marines will canvass area to get out flyers
  - There should be approximately 5 officers available to help out, whether assisting with the trucks and traffic or at the drop-offs and directing traffic.
  - Any donations are appreciated; volunteers still needed at St. Anne's or the Salvation Army; Josh has checked into using individuals from work-release

- All workers and volunteers will meet at Osage for a meeting at 7:00
- Food will be provided at Osage after the event (12:30 - 2)
- Lenn Ball is in charge of McCormick and Salvation and Mel Bosley is in charge of St. Anne and Osage. Natalie and Brandon will supervise St. Anne's and Ron will supervise Salvation Army.
- The trucks will not be limited on the size branches they will accept. Josh has checked into a chipper and it's not available currently.
- There is a form on the website if anyone is needing pickup from their home.
- If anyone needs more flyers let Josh know. Josh will forward the electronic version to Central Inspection so they can distribute to individuals being written up for trash violations.
- Officer Arroyo is looking for a group to help clean up the park area at 55th and Seneca. The City has shown some interest in renovating the area to keep it free from people drinking and doing drugs in the area. He suggested it would take about 2-3 hours on a Saturday. Josh suggested the Gators and maybe the City would provide the dumpster. Officer Arroyo suggested the football team could keep any aluminum they collect to recycle for money.
- A member asked when Officer Cornwall might be replaced and the Community Policing Officers present said it would probably take 2-3 months. Josh said those doing the replacing have asked for SWNA's input in the past.
- Natalie offered an open invitation to all present to attend any Osage Committee meetings.
- Adjourned at 8:45pm.