

CIELO VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes November 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by the association's president, Mike Adjamean. He then introduced our guest speakers, after which members present introduced their selves and told us on what street they live. Our first guest speakers were from Coronado High School and are members of We (fill in the blank). This group encourages high school students to become involved in elections. Students eighteen and older can vote and it is their responsibility to become politically aware. Students who are eighteen should understand the political issues locally up to nationally. Their group sponsored a political forum in 2011, Congressional Primary issues forum in 2012, a Congressional debate in 2014, a City Council and a School Board debate in 2015, a District Attorney debate in 2016, and a Mayoral debate in 2017. They used the Socratic Method and had traditional debates.

In 2012 and 2016 one hundred students participated in polling voters as they exited the polling venues. The We (fill in the blank) group then analyzed the data obtained by gender, ethnicity and other subgroup identifiers.

The We (fill in the blank) group engages with youth in El Paso and in Juarez. They worked with students in eighth grade helping them write and promote policy to increase engagement in politics. We could be a powerhouse if we could get students on both sides of the border interested in political concerns on both sides of the border. Borderize was a youth symposium which included students from El Paso, Juarez and Las Cruces. They had a regional round table followed by breakout sessions. The students then developed a White Paper and the group arranged a teleconference with Beto O'Rourke to present the students concerns and suggestions. This would, they hope, help bridge the gap between politicians and their youthful constituents. Insights obtained included: 1) There is a huge gap between elected officials and students 2) Political apathy is common 3) We need more opportunities for youth to participate in politics 4) Young people need to be aware of problems and suggested solutions, and the beliefs of political candidates.

We (fill in the blank) wants to get the community interested in politics and encourage decision-making thru understanding that they, the citizens, are valuable. Politics is not a negative, it is a way to spread the word, to communicate. Our community has a moral responsibility to include all citizens in decision making.

Social Media, such as Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook appeal to youth and should be used to involve young people. Conducting Question and Answer sessions via social media provides interactive experiences making the users part of the process. Having competitions on social media will attract the young people because social media has a strong impact on users.

We (fill in the blank) is trying to have outreach to local middle schools, not just Coronado High School's feeder schools.

They have received praise for their concept from audiences. They are nonpartisan. Their job is to raise awareness, encourage research, not to advocate for one candidate or political party. They are presently forming committees to work at bringing their concept to other high schools. The group is also expanding its outreach to Juarez.

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Following the We (fill in the blank) presentation Officer Luis Gomez, from the Pebble Hills Crime Prevention Program, spoke to us about security. He emphasized that when we call about a problem we need to be efficient. He also said that they deal with repetitive calls, such as barking dogs, and noisy children, parties, and cars. The police cannot make neighborhoods run smoothly without cooperation from the public. We need to help with solutions, not just bring up problems that repeat daily. But we do need to heed the "See something, say something." We should participate in keeping our neighborhoods safe. When we call the police we can be anonymous; however, we will be asked for our name, address, and phone number. Be informed about where to call: Animal Control for loose dogs; street maintenance for any dangerous road conditions, the police for suspicious activities.

Our homes are a big investment. We have groups such as Neighborhood Watch to help us look out for each other. Neighbors should be aware when we go on vacation so they can report any suspicious people or activities to the police. Notify police when a home will be empty so officers on patrol can check the home during a drive through the neighborhood. The police will come for a home inspection and give advice on how to protect the home. A certified officer will come and check your home for standards: peephole, thick door, locks, dead bolts, window locks, screws on door plates sufficiently long, and many other safety features. The officer will give dollar friendly advice to improve your home's safety. We must be proactive all the time.

The Neighborhood Watch Program is great, but only if we know each other. We must take care of ourselves. Notice a dog walker checking the door handles of doors as he passes by. What should you do? Vacant house being broken into? In both cases, call the police. How do we know who belongs in the neighborhood? Neighborhood Watch. All residents of the block should be members. We should meet three times a year. The police will send speakers if we notify them of a meeting. Put up signs at the end of every block. We need people assigned as block leaders, but any citizen should follow the 'See something, say something' rule. Police immediately tell the policemen patrolling your area to check out the situation. For a nonemergency report call 832-4400. For a Home Inspection call 212-4707. When you have a problem do not go see the police, make a report by phone.

Do not call to say that your neighbor looked at you in a strange way. Do call for something like a stolen bicycle, but have the details. Report a house break in, domestic violence, sexual assault, or minor accident, by phone after the fact. Don't go to the station. Call the correct entity. Botherome dog? Call animal control.

Make your home look lived in when you are not there. Have lights that turn on and off at intervals. Use CODE WATCH and the police will check your home during their patrol. Have your neighbors keep an eye on your home. Use a system that will notify others when there is a possible break in. Cost can be a consideration. Use a system you can afford. Good locks will send the robber next door.

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We should call 212-4707 in an emergency, and 832-4400 for non-emergency. Remember, give NO information if someone calls you; if you call them, give information they need to have. Also, avoid confrontation. Don't get into an argument with an angry driver.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving began when a mother's grief over her daughter's death due to a drunk driver inspired her to establish a group to remind drivers of the danger of driving after drinking. Recommend that drinkers be of age, and that people drinking should have a designated driver. They advise young people to refuse to get in a car if the driver has been drinking. They offer support for those affected by drunk driving. There is no cost for this service.

CVNA will be lighting luminarias along Edgemere Linear Park from Hawkins to Airway on December 24th. Donations for candles (10 cents each) are requested. The sand will be donated. Roger will donate the bags. We will ask Burges students to help setting them up Christmas Eve.

Patricia Bender talked about the Boosters Club raising funds for the Banquet for Burges football players. The banquet honors the players who work hard in school to be eligible. Burges has been in the play-offs the last three years.

The Christmas party will be at the Multipurpose Center on December 14 at 6:00 PM. Bring a covered dish of your choice. We will have a keyboard player.

Cesar Blanco participated with us getting backpacks for Burleson students.

CVNA will participate in a Halloween Carnival at the Multipurpose Center.

The minutes for the October meeting were approved. The Treasure reported that CVNA has \$785.86. His report was approved.

A representative for Cassandra Brown reported as follows: Improvements on Viscount continue; Hawkins will be closed Nov. 12 through Dec. 10; Viscount improvement plan conflicts with utilities. They are in discussion and have resolved 90% of the conflicts; improvements in Edgemere trail lighting have been funded, more information soon.

The Burges Project Committee has architect's rendering for changes being made at Burges. A group will be working with the architects to implement the improvements. Burges is the first of 18 schools to begin the remodeling. Classes won't be impacted as the new building will be built in front of the old building. Classes will move to the new building when it is ready, then the same process will be repeated. 85% of the present school will be remodeled.

Miscellaneous subjects included: a) Two Burges students have been chosen to attend CVNA meetings and be liaisons between CVNA and Burges High School. b) the Winter Wonderland Ball, a fund raiser sponsored by Burges, will include the crowning of Mr. and Miss Burges. c) Please support Burges basketball. There are cheer leaders and lots of excitement.

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d) The Assistance League of El Paso clothed 38,000 this year. e) ASC kits are used by The Center for Family and Sexual Violence to provide clothes for victims as all of the clothes that they were wearing at the time of the incident are needed for evidence. Children are also given teddy bears by the police. f) The Posada Home provides items for the Center that are needed by children or their mothers who are victims of family violence. The home's biggest need is for money due to reduced government monetary support.