

Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes

4/11/19

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the CVNA was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Mike Adjemian at the Burges High School Library.

II. Texas Tech's Cancer Prevention Institute

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mike introduced our first guest speaker, **Dr. Jennifer Salinas**, from Texas Tech's Health Science Center. She gave us an overview of what Texas Tech's Cancer Prevention Institute is doing to help the population prevent cancer. It follows a Social Ecological Model that offers:

- 1) Free classes on nutrition, physical activity, cooking demos
- 2) Training for healthcare workers
- 3) Community Challenges such as:

***Walk the Walk Team Challenge**, an employer-based team walking challenge held in April

***Pasos Para Prevenir Cancer**, an education and outreach program focusing on obesity prevention, physical activity, and nutrition

***Group Activities to Parks**

***10K Steps for 100 Days**, a challenge for participants to get through holidays starting in October.

She also pointed out the importance of knowing our **BMI (Body Mass Index)**. Having a **BMI of 25-29** is being **obese** and a **BMI of 300+** is being **overweight**. (Nobody in attendance knew their BMI). She recommended we ask our physicians and encouraged us to become physically active.

III. Community Safety Programs

A.J. Navarro, Neighborhood Relations Coordinator, Pebble Hills Regional Command Center, talked about the Community Safety Programs they provide such as:

***Child Safety Car Seat Program** --- A TxDOT Traffic Safety Specialist can advise you on your child's car seat's safety and proper installation. In case a parent can't afford one, one will be provided at no cost.

***Citizen Advisory Board**---Serves as a liaison between community and police dept. to help reduce crime and enhance the quality of life. Anyone can join. Meets 1st Monday of every month; all meetings are open to the public.

***Neighborhood Watch of the 21st Century**---We can register our home and business security cameras with the police department. Thus, our cameras can help protect our property and that

of our neighbors. Participation in registration is voluntary. Neighborhood Watch Street Signs are available at a cost of \$37/ sign.

***Explorer Youth Program (ages 14-21)**-- Participants learn about law enforcement, government, medical fields, and more. It is a one year commitment; youth are mentored by other teenagers.

* **Child Safety, Stranger Danger, Security, VIN Etching, Home & Business Security Assessments**

IV. Big Brothers, Big Sisters of El Paso

Guest speaker, **Stephanie Gavin**, presented an overview of the non-profit program that partners an adult mentor with an at-risk child. This program relies on grants and fundraisers like Bowl-a-thon and Dancing with the Stars. It works with the schools and with the Child Crisis Center and services the entire city. Children ages 6- 16 who are referred must want to be in the program. Mentors are screened and trained to work with at risk children. They are required to commit to meeting with the child at least 2X per month for a year. Bully training is also provided for children. New initiative includes police officers as mentors.

V. News on Burges and other Schools

Our EPISD trustee, **Al Velarde**, confirmed that **Dr. Woods** was removed from his position as Principal of Burges due to improper administrative decisions he made in order to allow certain students to participate in sports. **Mr. Jason Long**, former Principal of Socorro Valle Verde High School, is now the Interim Principal at Burges. **Mr. Velarde** also confirmed that **Ross MS** and **Huey ES** will become **Hartley School**, a Pre-K – 8 new school named after a coach. **Henderson** and **Clardy** will also consolidate. He did not say name of new school they will form. The old downtown building that used to be Hospital Hotel Dieu, will be the new EPISD's Central Office. It will be ready in about 1.5 years.

VI. Other Business

Mike introduced **Grace Ochoa** as our new 3rd VP. She replaces **Josh Herrera**. **Dino Medina** gave an update on the **Enchilada Fundraiser**. **Bertha Adjemian** announced that we now have available new **CVNA** shirts and discussed plans for our upcoming Luau this coming Saturday. **Armando Renteria** read the March Meeting minutes as well as the Treasurer's report. **Mike** gave an update on the Edgemere Linear Park. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Estela Provencio