

**Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2023 Spring
General Membership Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2023
Donna Buhr, Secretary**



The following are the Minutes of the Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2023 Spring General Membership Meeting held Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at Berkner High School.

Call to Order

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association President, Gene Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

President, Gene Lawrence; Vice President, Stephen Beyer; Treasurer, Holly Goodside; Secretary, Donna Buhr

Leadership Team Members Present

Membership Chair, Carol Weldon; Beautification Co-Chair, Judy Bergstrom; Beautification Co-Chair, J.J. Wampler; Social Chair, Allison Turner; Newsletter Editor, Delphia Lawrence

Visiting Dignitaries, Speakers, and Guests

Richardson City Manager, Don Magner
Richardson Mayor Pro Tem - Council Member Place 3, Janet DePuy
Richardson Police Chief, Garry Tittle
Management Analyst, City Manager's Office, Haley Alsabrook
Richardson City Council Members:

- Place 1, Bob Dubey
- Place 2, Jennifer Justice
- Place 4, Joe Corcoran
- Place 5, Ken Hutchenrider
- Place 6, Arefin Shamsul

Candidates running for Richardson's City Council seats on the May 6, 2023 ballot:

- G. Scott Waddell, Place 1
- Curtis Dorian, Place 1
- Steven Springs, Place 3
- Todd Hunter, Place 5

Opening Remarks

- President Gene Lawrence offered greetings to members and introduction of guests.

Treasury Report presented by Treasurer, Holly Goodside

• Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	\$11,860.48
• Current PayPal Balance	425.40
• Pending Deposit	220.00
• 2023 Deposits to date	1,830.00
• 2023 Expenses to date	(428.16)
• Current Total Funds Available	13,907.72

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Guest Speaker: RPD Chief, Garry Tittle

Topic: Police Department Update

Police Department Update

- RPD Chief Gary Tittle provided a presentation on the Richardson Police Department annual review.

When Chief Tittle first took the position as Richardson Chief of Police, he had four areas he wanted to focus on: Organizational Structure, Communications and Partnerships, Management and Efficiencies, and Coaching and Performance. Chief Tittle touched on each of these areas during the presentation.

Organizational Structure – “Continues to be there for us, but is really driven by staffing.”

Communications and Partnerships – “We stay true to that both inside the department and city, and inside the community and those we serve.”

Management and Efficiencies – “We are continually looking for more ways to be efficient within the resources available and making sure they are managed effectively.”

Coaching and Performance – “Again staying true to something that we as a department strive to do as it relates to coaching others and empowering those around us, and making sure we as a team are accountable for our performance as we move the department forward in public service.”

Staffing - Chief Tittle discussed the public safety staffing and the challenges the department continues to face in hiring and retaining qualified staff. A slide was shown of the current numbers of authorized vs. actual filled staff positions for sworn police officers, 911 dispatchers, and detention. Hiring incentives have been offered in the attempt to fill open positions. This has netted 9 new police officers, 3 new 911 dispatchers, and 1 new detention officer. Chief Tittle described the hiring process and ways the department continues to fill open positions through recruiting, testing, and the lateral entry program for applicants with prior experience.

Crime Stats 2021 vs. 2022 and Crime Trends – While violent crime is down compared to 2021, property and auto theft-related crime is up. Burglary of habitation and building continues to drop, but auto theft and theft of vehicle parts is considerably higher. Theft of vehicle parts is primarily due to thefts of 485 catalytic converters in 2022, up from 331 in 2021. There are no specific trends for when or where catalytic converter theft occurs, because it happens across any day, time, or month. Other notable crime trends include 23% of stolen vehicles had keys inside or close by, 18 % of stolen vehicles were pickup trucks, 29 guns were stolen from vehicles, and half of all business burglaries experienced were storage units, constructions sites, or building storage.

Crime Strategies and Departmental Tactics – The department is “sticking with what we do well”, such as a hybrid model of intelligence led policing with strong emphasis on community policing, strategic focus on people, places, and behaviors, and data driven density policing of calls of service, offenses, and arrests. RPD is improving tactical capabilities by procuring an armored rescue vehicle (SWAT BEARCAT), adding a padded detention cell for the safety of prisoners and employees, and partnering with the Fire Department and Information Technology on a new radio system.

Community Relations – Overview and status update of the Community Relations team and successful community programs, such as Coffee with a Cop, Dog Walker Watch, Drug Take Back, and the Youth Citizen Police Academy. Updates and statistics were provided on the Crime Watch Patrol, Neighborhood Crime Watch, Business Crime Watches, Volunteers in Policing, and National Night Out.

2022 Departmental Accomplishments – Chief Tittle provided a list of accomplishments for 2022, Some of the highlights included Placing 1st in National Night Out for cities of 100,000-300,000 population, Obtained Texas Police Chief’s Associations Re-Accreditation for statewide best practices, Hired a 4th Captain who oversees the Support Division, Approved NARCAN for officers to carry in effort to combat opioid overdoses, and Doubled the size of participation in the Youth Citizens Academy.

Neighborhood Beautification Update

BPNA President, Gene Lawrence provided an update on Matching Funds Beautification (MFB) and neighborhood projects.

- The MFB project on E. Spring Valley Road and Spring Creek Drive is underway with newly planted flowering butterfly plants. This is known as Version #2 of the Berker Park Butterfly garden. The MFB project cost is equally shared between the city and BPNA.
- S. Yale Boulevard renovations are also underway with new mow strips that will include beautifully designed river rock, flagstone, and native plants. This is a multiple phased project fully funded by the Richardson Parks Department.

Member or Neighborhood Concerns and Q&A

Open discussion with BPNA members and City Officials. Topics discussed were parking restrictions, the Richardson Square Mall Sears building, Berkner Park playground renovations, city budget requests, and the upcoming city elections.

Important Updates & Announcements by President Lawrence

- Meet the Candidates Event - Tuesday, April 4, 2023
- Trash Bash - Saturday, April 15, 2023
- Spring Fling – Saturday, April 22, 2023

Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Refreshments donated by

- **Papa Johns Pizza at Richwood Shopping Center**