

MINUTES
THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF PORTSMOUTH FORUM
FEBRUARY 3, 2004

The forum was called to order at 7:10pm, with Susan Landauer presiding.

Minutes of the previous forum were accepted as written. Moved, Seconded, Passed.

Introduction of Walt Garcia, the North Portland Crime Prevention Program Coordinator, who passed out business cards.

First presentation: Preston Wong, speaking on Gang Awareness. Mr. Wong retired from the police force in 1999 after 26 years of service, the last 8 of them on the Gang Enforcement Team. He defined a gang as a "group of people who commit crimes to benefit themselves or the gang. Gangs are intimidating because of their numbers and their weaponry. Gang culture is a culture of violence that seeks to solve problems through violence. He passed out a list of early warning signs of gang activity and a second list of gang behaviors. Gang activity is largely motivated by racial issues, drug sales as a source of income, and quests for "respect." The best way to prevent gang activity is to keep youth involved in activities that develop skills and morale.

Second Presentation: Jason Christiansen, Neighborhood Officer, speaking on what is happening nearby. The biggest problem in the area is methamphetamine, which is driving car and identity theft crimes, as well as mail theft and household break-ins. He advised never parking a car in front of the house with a garage-door opener in the car.. There has been a recent investigation of a North Portland business involved in methamphetamine production. Officer Christiansen exhibited a bean bag gun and said that the police force uses bean bag guns and Tazers whenever they can, turning to lethal force as a last resort.

Janice Fowler reported that the North Portland Business Association wants to coordinate letters of support for keeping detectives based in the precincts. Officer Christiansen advised that having detectives in the precincts is an important aspect of community policing.

Neighbors were advised to use the on-line site, especially the Back Fence, to talk about goings on that are raising questions for them. The e-address is www.portlandonline.com/portsmouth.

The new neighborhood website is portsmouthneighborhood.org. Neighborhood newsletters will be sent via e-mail whenever requested or possible.

Next meeting will be on March 2, 2004, at 7pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Knepper