

ECCO Monthly Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2011

6:30 p.m. Police and Safety Report – Officer L.C. Walker (803-391-2391)

Capt. Charles A. Ashford is the new Captain over the North Region, replacing Capt. Estelle Young who is retiring. His cell number is 803-413-8267; email caashford@columbiasc.net.

Capt. Ashford was born and raised in Columbia. He previously was in the South Region of the Columbia Police Department and has worked in narcotics, vice and traffic.

Capt. Young attended the ECCO meeting and was applauded for her dedication to the community during her long career.

Earlewood Crime Report:

There were 9 burglaries in May, including Northwood, River Drive, Makeway and Laurel Hill. Some were at 8 p.m. right after the storm hit.

A resident noted that it took 12 minutes to get a burglary call out of dispatch, but then only 6 minutes to get to the house.

Rebecca Haynes reported that “Tuna” of River Drive is active again. He is 6 feet tall, odorous and is related to “Bulldog.”

Officer Walker noted that Daniel, D.J. McCarthy, ran from police in a car chase. The city and county have issued warrants for his arrest. He has been seen at burglaries.

A white Kia with a missing front hubcap has been seen scoping properties.

Virginia Bedford has installed signs at Earlewood Park notifying visitors they can't grill unless they have a city permit.

The only official “halfway house” in Earlewood is at Arlington & River.

Since the formation of the city's “Crime Suppression Team, the number of burglaries has decreased. This week the number has decreased by 47%. Last year, the North Region had the lowest crime in Columbia, but since January crime has increased 9%.. The biggest problem in the North Region is break-ins.

To help get police officers to a break-in faster, contact your alarm company and have them notify the police first. Otherwise, alarm companies will contact you first.

Officers who are working in an area will pop in at community meetings during those times.

Residents have reported that Roger Browning has been begging for food. Capt. Young urged citizens to stop giving anything to Roger. Call the police if he approaches you. One lady said he tried to get in her house. Roger, a known crack addict, lives on Lincoln St. He is white, late 30s, has short hair, and is often seen walking quickly in a nervous fashion through the neighborhood.

Brian South presided over the 7:00 p.m. meeting because President Fred Monk was out of town.

Brian asked for membership input on the carport issue. He requested that members share their opinions with the executive committee. When asked who wanted it to come down, no hands were raised.

Susan Lourie said the owner of the home with the carport at issue asked neighbors to sign acceptance of the variance.

Gary Joise complained about the high grass at rental properties on Union and Clark streets. Brian said the best action is to contact the property owner, who can be found via GIS. It is hard to get the city to take action.

Lib Davis and Christie requested distribution of a current treasurer's report.

One resident complained about the trash left in yards after the See Spot Run event. Dogs walked in yards, and cars were parked in yards.

Brian noted that events like See Spot Run attract homeowners to Earlewood.

Rebecca Haynes said that Keep Midlands Beautiful is asking for volunteers Sat. June 25, 9-11 a.m., in the trestle area at the bottom of Earlewood Park to pick up trash. Heidi of Keep Midlands Beautiful contacted the artist about touching up the mural, but the quote was too costly.

No Committee Reports.

The meeting was adjourned by Brian South

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia South, Secretary