

The neighborhood enjoyed a great turnout for our meeting today about the mineral rights issue before us. We had a standing-room-only crowd of about 125 folks for our meeting at Harmony Baptist Church. We discussed the flaws of the Cheaha offer, and were encouraged by the recent announcement of the newest high deal offered to the South West Arlington Property Owners Assn. this week. SWAPOA was offered \$16,850 per acre, and 25% royalties...this tops the previous high offer to the DWG group of just over \$15,000 per acre. While this is encouraging, we must be reminded that the total amount of acreage we have to negotiate with (as a group) will set the tone of how much our per-acre deal will be. While we had a large turnout today, many of our neighbors could not attend today's meeting. We need to remember that the more of us who band together for negotiating purposes, the better a proposal we will get from the drilling companies.

We noticed today that we are expanding beyond the original Ashbury Square Neighborhood. We had more neighbors from Kingston and Montclair, and several in attendance from neighborhoods south of California from the Gunn Jr. High neighborhood. They, too, have received offers like ours, and we are seeking to work with them in order to increase our total acreage for negotiation leverage.

To this end, **we are changing the name of our group** from Ashbury Square Neighbors to **AreaWatch.org**. One of our neighbors, a professional webmaster, has developed a website to increase communication among the neighbors. On this site we will post the latest information in the Mineral Rights negotiations, as well as useful web links to information presented at today's meeting and a page for tips in our Community Watch Network effort -- tips to make our community a safer place to live. You may visit this site now at: www.AreaWatch.org

Those who attended the meeting today decided to follow the SWAOPA group's example and form a volunteer committee to represent the group in negotiating with companies who want to bid for our mineral rights leases. Those who volunteered to serve include a professional land man who lives in our neighborhood, a lady whose profession is to negotiate property sales as a profession, and myself as the coordinator/communicator for the group, as well as others. This committee will communicate with leaders of other groups who have negotiated successful lease contracts, will seek bids from companies who have been working in the area, and will communicate with you the results of our findings.

Some asked today, "How long will this process take?" To be honest, there is no way to know for sure. We ask for your patience as your volunteer committee of neighbors works to negotiate the best deal for all of us. We also ask for your patience with offers that may come our way in the mail. If you get a new offer from a land lease company or a drilling company, please contact the network so we can have our negotiating committee review the offer and contact the company to see if they are willing to negotiate. We feel sure this process can work to our advantage as long as we stay unified and communicate with each other. Patience and communication will be the keys.

Thanks again to all who were able to attend today's meeting. It was encouraging to see so many neighbors looking to work together on an effort that will benefit us all in the long run! Please talk to your immediate neighbors about this gas lease issue. If they were not able to attend the

meeting, they may be receiving these emails and are connected. BUT, there are still many who are not on the email network and were not at the meeting. We will benefit if these folks get plugged in...encourage them to visit the new website at www.AreaWatch.org and write us from there in order to get into the network.

Stay in touch...and stay vigilant!