



**MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE
MINUTES
January 15, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Marlin
Betsey Cronan
Esther Patt
Christopher Stohr
Chief Bily
Theresa Michaelson
Libby Tyler
Samuel Johnson
John Roska
Norma Linton
Mayor Prussing

OTHERS PRESENT: John Schneider

I. Call to Order

Mayor Prussing called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of October 30, 2007 were reviewed. A motion was made by John Roska to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Samuel Johnson. All voted aye. Motion carried. The minutes of the meeting of October 30, 2007 were approved.

III. Year End Crime Statistics

Chief Bily distributed handouts showing crime statistics for 2007. He noted that in 2007 crime decreased, however, calls for service increased.

There was a discussion concerning the calls for service in the apartment complexes.

Chief Bily stated that crime in southeast Urbana has decreased.

There was a discussion concerning information available from the Illinois State Police Uniform Crime Report that compares the crime statistics for each city.

IV. Community Center Discussion

Libby Tyler reported that there has been a history of interest in having a "community center" in the King Park area. She gave some background on previous attempts to create such a center. She also reported that the same obstacles exist; which are: 1) what roles would the City, Park District or School District have, 2) who would run it, 3) finding the money to build it.

A discussion followed.

Samuel Johnson reported that he and Councilman Lewis are trying to put together a group to discuss this issue. They are including UCAN, UCAP and the King Park group.

Ms. Tyler offered the help of her staff in putting together a proposal.

V. Snow Removal

Mayor Prussing reported that she would like to set up a task force consisting of neighborhood organizations, apartment building owners and the tenant union. The mission would be to come up with a plan to organize volunteers to clear the major sidewalks in the city. She stated that the consensus of the City Council is to require apartment owners to make sure that sidewalks and stairs are walkable.

Ms. Tyler indicated that the Property Maintenance Code could be clarified to enforce the removal of hazardous conditions. She indicated that Clay Baier would be checking with Sally Eissfelt of the Apartment Owners Association about naming some to participate in the discussions.

Mayor Prussing stated that the focus of the task force would be to get major arterial sidewalks cleared. She suggested that the city sidewalks should be analyzed to see which ones would already be cleared by either the School District or Park District.

VI. Announcements

There was a discussion concerning snow removal. Mayor Prussing indicated that she would like to establish a group to work on snow removal by residents in the City.

Several members agreed to meet once on the topic, those included: Esther Patt, Chris Stohr, Diane Marlin, Betsey Cronan, and Sam Johnson. The Apartment Association will be contacted to send a representative as well as the University to get a student representative.

It was noted that there will be a public meeting on the 28th on the Philo Road project.

There was a discussion about the special census. Libby Tyler indicated that she would bring a map of the areas that will be covered by the special census to the next meeting.

Diane Marlin asked about the possibility of having a celebration for SE Urbana. It was noted that the UBA and the SE Urbana Business Group could probably help out with such a celebration.

VII. Next Meeting Date

It was agreed that the next meeting date would be February 12, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary