



MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE
MINUTES
February 28, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Maryanne Downey, Mayor Diane Marlin, Megan McGinty, Theresa Michelson, Esther Patt, Kathy Wallig

MEMBERS ABSENT: Norma Linton, James Moreland, Jerry Moreland, John Roska, Christopher Stohr, Clyde Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Sylvia Morgan, John Schneider, Kathryn Levy

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Mayor Marlin.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Esther Patt, second by Theresa Michelson, to approve the Minutes from the September 27, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

III. Public Input

There was no Public Input.

IV. Presentations

Giovanna Dibenedetto provided an update on past, current and future happenings in the Silver Street/Vawter Street Neighborhood. Joining Dibenedetto was Neil Wieslow who discussed Hope Worldwide, a benevolent arm of the International Church of Christ, and the desire for a community center in Southeast Urbana.

Anthropologist Jeff Martin and Chief Sylvia Morgan presented on work related to a Qualitative Survey for Community Policing in Urbana. The survey, a mixed quantitative/qualitative survey of the police/community relationship in Urbana, will be conducted as part of a research grant in conjunction with the University of Illinois. Mr. Martin will serve as the Qualitative Research Director with UPD Crime Analyst Melissa Haynes providing the classic criminal justice side of the research.

V. Discussion Topics

Chief Morgan provided an update on the recent rash of break-ins in Southeast Urbana and indicated a sharp decrease in residential burglaries since arrests were made a few weeks ago. Morgan also requested that the community continue to observant to things happening in their neighborhoods.

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Kathy Wallig asked if anyone has been monitoring discussion on Nextdoor, the private social network for neighborhood communities. She mentioned discussion concerning the George Huff/Shuman Circle area and a dialog concerning surveillance cameras and patrols.

VI. Reports from Neighborhood Groups

Esther Patt reported on an armed robbery in the WUNA neighborhood.

Kathy Walling reported that all was good in the SUNA neighborhood.

Theresa Michelson mentioned the great work of the Police Department concerning the recent robberies (as mentioned in the News Gazette). Mayor Marlin responded that it was a great combination of detective work and community collaboration.

Megan McGinty reported that the King School Area neighborhood looks great these days with new Habitat for Humanity houses and less foot traffic. Mayor Marlin mentioned that Habitat was about to build its 50th house in Urbana this summer in the 1400 block of Beslin.

Marianne Downey reported a lot of anxiety in the HUENA neighborhood concerning the robberies.

Mayor Marlin read two emails into the record; one concerning a resident concerned that Lincoln Avenue is dangerous from W Urbana to campus and warrants a Pedestrian Safety Plan, and a downtown business owner citing that bike riding on downtown sidewalks is a continuing problem that puts customers at risk and requests stronger police enforcement.

John Schneider provided a report on the Aspen Court development property saying that a fence has been installed to limit access to the property until rehab is completed. Schneider mentioned that the developers financing is in order but construction documents still need to go through the approval process.

John Schneider also announced that the contract for demolition was been signed for 1118 Hill Street and that there had been a ribbon cutting at Highland Green on Kerr Avenue for the new multi-family/single story development.

VII. Next Meeting Date

Mayor Marlin stated the next meeting as May 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Council chambers.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.