



**MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE
MINUTES
June 20, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Rebman
Esther Patt
Betsey Cronan
Samuel Johnson
Michael Bily
Kristin Stauffer
Al Johnston
Diane Marlin
Norma Linton
Laurel Prussing, Mayor

OTHERS PRESENT: Charlie Smyth

Call to Order

Mayor Prussing called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of June 20, 2006 were reviewed. A motion was made by Esther Patt to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Samuel Johnson. All voted aye. The minutes for the meeting of June 20, 2006 were approved.

Updates on Study Topics - Neighborhood Watches

Officer Al Johnston provided the group with a list of the Neighborhood Watch Programs currently in effect in Urbana. He also reported that he sets up a booth at the Sweetcorn Festival and other festivals in order to distribute information and answer questions.

Officer Johnston stated that if someone is interested in starting a neighborhood watch, they should contact the police department and then that message will be passed along to him. He suggested having a neighborhood picnic as a way to meet the neighbors and help get a watch program organized.

July 19, 2006

There was a discussion on safety tips.

Esther Patt asked what tenants should do when they know that someone in an apartment complex is dealing drugs.

Officer Johnston indicated that they should contact the police department and someone will arrange to meet with them off site and discreetly in order to gather the information.

Officer Johnston stated that the police department is currently working on updating a packet that they will be handing out to tenants about what things to look for to determine if a crime is being committed.

There was a discussion about police calls versus police reports.

Esther Patt suggested that the neighborhood watch model might need to be changed for apartment complexes.

Officer Johnston stated that he does have a contact name of someone who does neighborhood watches for apartment complexes.

Next Meeting Date

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room. One of the topics will be How to Deal with Apartment Complexes.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary