



**MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE
MINUTES
October 24, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Michaelson
Kristin Stauffer
Samuel Johnson
Esther Patt
Diane Marlin
Michael Bily
John Roska
Jerry Moreland
Laurel Prussing, Mayor

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Barry Weiner
Betsey Cronan

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Richard Redman
Norma Linton
Al Johnston
Dave Barr

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Gitz
Libby Tyler
Sally Eissfelt
Kathy White

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

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

Updates on Study Topics – Rental Registration Update

Libby Tyler reported that the Rental Registration Ordinance will be going back to the Committee of the Whole on November 13 and then proceed to Council on December 4, 2006 with an effective date of January, 2007. She indicated that the council has requested that the ordinance be broken into several pieces.

Ms. Tyler reported that the 2003 International Code Series will be brought before the Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals. This series would replace the current 1990 BOCA Code Series.

Jim Gitz distributed an updated copy of the Rental Registration Ordinance with changes made since the last meeting.

Esther Patt asked about “prohibitive lease clauses”. She also indicated that the Zoning Ordinance has greater fines for over occupancy.

Mr. Gitz stated that he would check the Zoning Ordinance and lease addendum.

Ms. Patt stated that the usability would be easier if all the codes were listed in one section instead of being in different places. This would also make it easier to distribute information to new people coming to town.

Mr. Gitz suggested having an ordinance that includes all sections or preparing a brochure for distribution.

John Roska asked what the penalty was for failure to register.

Mr. Gitz reported that the fine can go up to \$750.00 per day.

There was a discussion concerning what to do to get tenants out if the property has not been registered.

There was a discussion about what the tenant needs to do if they find out the property they are renting has not been registered.

Mayor Prussing indicated that these issues need to be explored further.

Libby Tyler suggested that her department would like to make some calls to find out what other communities are doing with these two issues.

Sally Eissfelt asked if there has been anything brought up about items that are attributable to the tenant. She stated that the Housing Authority uses an inspection that lists things that the owner must address and things that the tenant must address.

There was a discussion about tenants damaging property and the owner not wanting to fix the problem until the tenant has been evicted.

Crime Date Update

Chief Bily distributed crime statistics for certain apartment buildings which gives a break down of the types of crimes. He indicated that location is part of the equation but, sometimes it has more to do with management.

There was a discussion of screening processes and educating landlords on the Human Rights Ordinance.

Ms. Eissfelt asked if a meeting could be scheduled with the Central Illinois Apartment Association and Chief Bily and other property owners to brainstorm about how to improve management. She offered to help with the scheduling.

Next Meeting Date

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room. One of the topics will be Chief Bily bringing forth suggestions that would help neighborhood safety.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary