



**MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE
MINUTES
April 17, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Moreland
Theresa Michaelson
Mike Bily
Esther Patt
Barry Weiner
Al Johnston
Laurel Prussing

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Samuel Johnson
Richard Rebman
Diane Marlin
Dave Barr
John Roska
Betsey Cronan
Norma Linton

OTHERS PRESENT: Clay Baier
Charlie Smyth
Ron O'Neal
Candace Godbolt
Bill Gray

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2007 were reviewed. A motion was made by Jerry Moreland to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion seconded by Esther Patt. All voted aye. The minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2007 were approved.

III. Updates on Study Topics – Crime Statistics

Chief Bily distributed handouts with crime statistics for the entire City for 2006. He reviewed each category and explained any increases or decreases. Chief Bily then distributed the statistics for 2007 to date.

There was a discussion about when a citizen should contact the police. Chief Bily indicated that anytime someone sees suspicious behavior, they should contact the police department.

Candace Godbolt asked about loud noise levels, specifically loud car stereos.

Chief Bily reported that the police department did a blitz last year and ticketed a number of people for loud music. He indicated that if any citizen feels that noise coming from a residence is too loud, they should call the police. The policy is to give a warning the first time and then if the police return to the same residence anytime within the following two months a notice to appear would be issued.

Chief Bily distributed information on apartment building statistics. Chief indicated that next month Al Johnston will discuss neighborhood watches and he will give comparative information on apartment building statistics.

Esther Patt requested seeing information on College Park police calls.

Sidewalks

Bill Gray addressed the group on current city sidewalks. He reported that the Operations Division is the largest division of the Public Works Department and they are responsible for sidewalks. He stated that the Engineering Department would become involved when repairs are needed.

Mr. Gray distributed maps from the Capital Improvement Plan. He reported that Figure C is an overview of funding which will occur over the next 10 years with the 2nd page showing a detail of sidewalks, bike paths and bike lanes.

Mr. Gray reported that May 3rd there will be the first open house at Urbana Middle School at 6:00 p.m. This open house is for anyone interested in a discussion about bike paths.

Mr. Gray indicated that when a new subdivision is developed, they are required to install sidewalks. As money allows, the City will be installing sidewalks in areas where there are none. He stated that if a neighborhood wants sidewalks prior to the schedule of the City, there maybe some cost sharing.

There was a discussion on future areas being developed and which ones would include sidewalks.

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Mr. Gray referred to Figure M which is a map of the brick sidewalks. He stated that there was a period of time that the City did not use any monies to repair brick sidewalks. The ordinance was modified and since 2003 \$75,000 a year is set aside to replace brick sidewalks and weed repair. He indicated that in some instances the bricks are removed and concrete sidewalks put in their place.

Sidewalk Repairs

Mr. Gray reported that City crews check neighborhoods each year for sidewalk repairs. He discussed the different ways in which sidewalks are repaired.

Sewers

Mr. Gray discussed sewers throughout the City. He reported that in some of the older sections of the City, sanitary sewers were not installed for every residence. This can result in a number of parties sharing one sewer line.

Snow Removal

Mayor Prussing asked for the Committee to survey their neighborhood association members on how to deal with snow removal. She indicated that she would like to have a plan that would start with major streets and then work with neighborhoods to get it done. She stated that she has spoken to the University and would like to get some cooperation from the Park District, as well.

Ronald O'Neal reported that there has been an appellate court case about snow removal from sidewalks. He expressed concern about enforcement if it were to be the responsibility of the homeowners.

Mayor Prussing stated that she would like to increase awareness and have people talk with their neighbors.

Esther Patt suggested publicizing 1979 legislation and working with neighborhood groups to start in October to solicit people who are willing to shovel.

Mr. O'Neal suggested getting local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops to adopt a block to shovel.

There was a discussion that Champaign does have a law that apartment owners have to remove snow within 12 hours of daylight. It was noted that Urbana does have a code that states that surfaces are to be kept free of hazardous conditions.

IV. For Next Meeting

1. Neighborhood Watch in Apartment Buildings
2. Crime – Problem Apartment Buildings
3. Sidewalks

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V. Next Meeting Date

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary