



**MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE
MINUTES
January 24, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marianne Downey
James Moreland
Theresa Michaelson
Kathy Wallig
Norma Linton
Esther Patt
John Roska
Chris Stohr
Laurel Prussing

OTHERS PRESENT: John Schneider, Mike Monson

I. Call to Order

Mayor Prussing called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Additions to the Agenda

Mayor Prussing asked to amend the agenda to include approval of the minutes. There were no objections.

III. Approval of Minutes

Esther Patt made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 20, 2016. Motion was seconded by Norma Linton. All voted aye. Motion approved and minutes of the meeting of December 20, 2016 were approved as presented.

IV. Public Input

Diane Marlin addressed the Task Force to report on a meeting held on January 12th with owners and managers of property located on Vawter Street. Ms. Marlin commented that there was a great turnout and she wanted to recognize the owners and managers and thank them for attending. She indicated that they had a good discussion. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Police Department and Community Development staff. The owners all indicated a concern for the neighborhood and a willingness to work with the City. After the meeting Jessica with Snyder properties arranged for a cleanup day on Vawter.

V. Reports from Neighborhood Groups

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Marianne Downey reported that HUENA has had three meetings to discuss crime. The group discussed forming a neighborhood watch, but decided it might be better to connect with the neighbors throughout

the neighborhood. The group is set to meet again in another two weeks and this will be an ongoing process.

Ms. Downey reported that the group did discuss the hiring of more police officers and there appears to be a mixture of those in favor and those who would like to see more social support in addition to the hiring of officers.

Chris Stohr added that the neighborhood likes the idea of coming together and getting to know each other better.

James Moreland reported that the LNAC neighborhood is in favor of hiring more police officers; however, they are unsure how the City should pay for them.

Mayor Prussing reported that the Committee of the Whole has approved adding two officers in this budget year and adding three more next year. The item will go to the full Council next Monday for a final vote.

John Roska had nothing to report.

Kathy Wallig reported that she sent each member the comments that she had received back from the SUNA neighborhood about the issue of hiring more police officers. She stated that SUNA would also like to see more help with mental illness. She indicated that she would be curious to know how many calls start out due to a mental health issue and then turn into a criminal matter.

Ms. Wallig reported that she received a comment that one landlord would like to see landlords working with each other, as they are concerned with property values.

Esther Patt indicated that looking at crisis intervention team data might get some answers on the mental health issue.

Theresa Michaelson added that in general SUNA would like to see more police officers added, however some thought it wasn't their job to decide where the money should come from. She indicated that she was asked the question of whether the police are ever able to meet with the tenants to let them know of the issues that are going on in a particular building.

Norma Linton reported that most of the WUNA neighborhood is in favor of adding more police officers. She indicated, however, whenever the issue of the City's budget comes up people often ask about the money that has been spent trying to renovate the former Jumer's property.

Ms. Linton indicated that she has been asked about where to obtain flyers that were previously distributed to new neighbors, which listed different City services and who to contact. She stated that many are not inclined to look the information up on line, they would rather have a leaflet in their hands.

Libby Tyler reported that the City has partnered with the University to print door hangers for the incoming students that directs them to information on the website. She stated that new students seem to want to be able to access information on line but, that doesn't mean that paper flyers couldn't be printed for some of the residents to have in hand.

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Esther Patt added that new tenants need to be aware of trash pickup. Many come from cities where the City arranges the pickup and they don't know that they need to arrange for it themselves.

Norma Linton added that there appears to be a big rat infestation in her neighborhood and she has heard that it is all over the City. She commented that a big problem could be the trash and people not using proper containers for their trash.

Mayor Prussing addressed the issue of the Landmark Hotel. She stated that the property is currently in negotiation with a developer who has done historic renovations in the past and indicated that the hotel will have a brand name. She also reported that the City received the 1 million dollars back from the owner of the Landmark because the project was not completed in the timeframe that was given. Mayor Prussing stated that an announcement on the hotel should be coming soon.

Kathy Wallig asked Libby Tyler if there were plans to continue meeting with property owners and landlords in the Silver/Vawter area.

There was further discussion about the meeting that took place and Ms. Tyler reported that the meeting was initiated because Councilwoman Marlin was getting asked by landlords if the City could help with providing security cameras.

Ms. Marlin added that the increase in gun violence was what originally initiated the meeting. In addition to landlords confused about how to enforce no trespass orders. She stated that the landlords would probably be willing to meet again if there was a specific topic.

VI. Next Meeting Date

Mayor Prussing asked for suggestions on what to discuss at the next meeting.

James Moreland indicated that he would like to discuss Aspen Court.

Tommy Askins asked to address the group on the issue of Aspen Court. Mr. Askins stated that there is a problem with pit bulls running wild in the Aspen Court area and he is concerned for the safety of children who are outside playing. He also stated that there are a number of people who are "hanging out" in the area that do not reside there. He stated that most of the people who actually reside there stay inside due to safety concerns.

Mayor Prussing stated that the City is working with a developer to redevelop the property at Aspen Court.

John Schneider addressed the group concerning one measure that the police department has taken to reduce the traffic going through the property. He stated that one end of the property has been blocked off so that there is a dead end. Mr. Schneider added that if there is a problem with dogs running at large, residents should contact Animal Control.

Mr. Schneider reported that what he does know of the redevelopment of Aspen Court is that "due diligence" is currently being done so that the potential developer can obtain tax credits in order to have the cash to put into the redevelopment.

There was a discussion concerning why people might not be calling in problems to the City, whether it be dogs, noise, nuisance, etc. Some people might not think an issue is serious enough to call 911 or they may not know who to call. Others may be afraid of retaliation. The issue of confidentiality was also discussed.

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Topics for the next meeting will be:

Rats

Aspen Court update

Flyers that can be distributed regarding City services and how to report crimes

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary

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