

Public Safety Advisory Committee
City of Greenbelt
October 2, 2018

ROLL CALL:

- Committee Members Present: Stan Zirkin, Mary Thomas William James, Eunice Pierre, Dr. Kressler, and Cindy Comproni
- City Liaisons Present: Lt. Seung Lee
- City Employees present: Terri Hruby, Director of Planning, Theresa Smithson, Greenbelt Cares

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair, Cindy Comproni

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 2018 minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vagrancy

Ms. Smithson from Greenbelt Cares provided information about the role of Greenbelt Cares in providing assistance, counseling, and referral services to individuals requesting assistance. Ms. Smithson also provided a list of resources available to homeless individuals in obtaining assistance, access to social services, and shelter.

Ms. Smithson also provided information about the process of filing a Petition for Emergency Evaluation for someone who has a mental disorder and presents a danger to their life and others. In cases of vagrancy, Ms. Smithson indicated that it is very hard to remove someone from a public place if they are not a danger to themselves or others. This situation was highlighted when a homeless individual with mental health issues would not accept assistance but wanted to remain in the public area in front of the library. Ms. Smithson indicated an individual who is homeless, have mental health or other issues have to voluntarily accept services; a change in state law would have to occur to require such individuals to obtain assistance involuntarily, if they are not a danger to themselves or others.

Greenbelt Trails

Ms. Hruby provided the committee with information about the Indian Stream Valley Trail and the WMATA trail. The Indian Stream Valley Trail is completed and is designated a recreational trail. As such, there will not be lighting or emergency call boxes on the trail. Ms. Hruby indicated there will be trail identification, and there are plans to obtain grants to have mile markers along the trail. In response to questions about the safety of the trail, Ms. Hruby mentioned that her office is planning on looking at other city trails and identify promising practices in addressing safety issues. Stanley Zirkin asked about what could be done about the overgrown grass and plants in the trail as it creates a safety concern. Ms. Hruby indicated that there were environmental concerns that would hinder their ability to remove or trim some plants. Other invasive plants which are not subject to environmental protections would be cleared and trimmed periodically. The WMATA trail is slated to be completed in about two years and will connect to the Greenbelt Metro. The WMATA trail will allow residents from Greenbelt Station to use the

trail to walk to the Metro. The WMATA trail, since it is not planned as a recreational trail, will have lights, and emergency call boxes.

LETTER TO CITY ON CELL TOWERS

City is still working on issue. No updates.

NEW BUSINESS:

Advisory Board Dinner

Mrs. Comproni reminded all who planned to attend to RSVP.

The Public Safety Dinner

The dinner will be on October 26, 2018.

Election Results

Dr. Laura Kressler is now the new PSAC Chair. There is currently no Vice Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 6, 2018