

City of Greenbelt Public Safety Advisory Committee
June 4, 2024 Minutes APPROVED

1) ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Peggy Higgins

Committee Members Present: Peggy Higgins, Chair, Stan Zirkin, Eunice Pierre, Steve Mirsky, Mary Thomas. Absent with notification: Dr. Laura Kressler

Also in attendance: Councilmember Silke Pope, City Manager Josué Salermón, Police Chief Rick Bowers, resident Bill Orleans

3) AGENDA APPROVAL:

Stan Zirkin made a motion to approve the June 4, 2024 agenda. The motion was seconded by Steve Mirsky and unanimously approved.

4) APPROVAL OF MAY 2024 MEETING MINUTES:

Steve Mirsky made a motion to approve the May 7, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Stan Zirkin and unanimously approved.

6) OLD BUSINESS

a) City Manager: PSAC recommendations re Police Department's General Orders

City Manager Josué Salermón was welcomed. He stated he is reviewing PSAC's March 6 report and is in discussion with both Chief Bowers and Peggy Higgins regarding individual items. He also spoke about the city's initiative to move forward with the purchase of 14 license plate readers and 6 cameras.

The Chief answered questions about the LPR program. The discussion included PSAC's recommendation that the training of officers includes the possibility that a car identified as stolen may have been returned to the owner as it may not yet have been administratively cleared.

The Chief is currently working on a draft general order on License Plate Readers. He anticipates submitting the draft order to the City Manager, Council and then PSAC within the next few weeks. Resident Bill Orleans spoke about the balance between public safety vs liberty. He questioned whether any analysis is available on the usefulness of this technology that could be reviewed before making such an expense.

City Manager Salermón mentioned the new county ordinance requiring cameras for apartment complexes of 100 or more units. City-owned Green Ridge subsidized apartment building is affected by the new ordinance at a cost to the city of \$40,000 to install 25 cameras.

b) Planning for PSAC community meetings this fall on radon, carbon monoxide and how to be prepared for weather crisis.

Steve Mirsky updated the committee on the work he has done in preparation for the presentations to the Greenbelt community. He has made arrangements for all three meetings to be scheduled at 7 pm on a Thursday. They are October 10 at the Greenbriar Community Center, October 17 at the City Community Center Room 200, and October 24 at Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

He developed an acronym for the presentation - CREWS for Carbon Monoxide, Radon, Extreme Weather Safety and has drafted a presentation. He also contacted the Greenbelt Fire Department and through the staff there connected with the Prince George's Fire Department who offered information and posters. The Chief offered to reach out to Chief Ray of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and connect him with Steve.

7) NEW BUSINESS

The Chief announced that the GPD was setting up neighborhood walks throughout the city. The first walk was scheduled for June 20 at 6:30 pm in the Greenbelt Station neighborhood and every other week. Other walks were in the planning stages for Belle Pointe, Charlestowne Village, Windsor Green, Hunting Ridge and Greenbriar. The Department is also planning an Open House.

a) August 6 National Night Out

It is anticipated that last year's National Night Out locations – Hunting Ridge, Windsor Green and behind Beltway Plaza would be holding events again this year and maybe Charlestowne Village. Committee members' availability to attend will be discussed at the July meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 2, 2024 – 7 pm

August 6, 2024 – National Night Out, no August PSAC meeting

September 3, 2024

Meeting adjourned

Stan Zirkin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Eunice Pierre and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Higgins, Chair