

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017, IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT THE SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER.

The meeting began at 7:34 p.m.

Members present were: Rick Ransom, Ray Raysor, Dan Hamlin, Dea Zugby and David Moran, Staff Liaison.

Welcome & Introductions

Rick welcomed everyone and read the Community Pledge.

Approval of Minutes

Ray moved approval of the minutes of April 11, 2017 and May 2, 2017. Dea seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Assessment of Police-Community Forums and next steps

Rick asked for feedback on the forums.

Ray believed the facilitator was excellent and appreciated the officers participation. He believed CRAB had met the charge. Ray did an informal survey of Franklin Park residents and reported three major findings/reasons why people didn't attend.

1. working class community
2. immigrants fear reprisals and don't trust the Police
3. short-term residents and turnover

Dea felt the forums were fairly well attended. She was surprised there were no complaints at Greenbriar. Dea relayed a personal experience that her son-in-law had with the Greenbelt Police and asked why it took an hour for the Police to resolve the matter.

Rick noted even the best Police Department in the country probably has some complaints. He was concerned about the example raised about a young man in Franklin Park who had been detained by Police.

Ray stated the son was traumatized by the ordeal and that the mother was not OK. Dan believed stated that the woman may have indicated she listened to the officers but had not been OK afterwards.

Rick stated there should be another level between the Police and the citizen. Ray stated that some in Franklin Park residents thought that CRAB should play that role.

Dan thought maybe CRAB or some other body should perform that role. There was discussion of a citizen oversight body. Ray indicated that people want to be heard.

There was discussion of CRAB's role and meeting frequency. David explained some of the history.

Ray moved that CRAB participate in Labor Day at Information Day. Dea seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning for Youth Forum (timing, location, format, follow-up with ERHS)

Rick stated that Rashawn favored a table and small-group format. There was also the suggestion of using scenarios.

Ray suggested a skit/scenario where someone is stopped by a patrol car or a scenario where an officer approaches a youth.

Dea discussed an experience where she was on her deck and someone came onto the deck and grabbed tried to grab her. The Police responded and caught the guy who was visiting someone nearby. The Police suggested she put up no trespassing signs.

Ray stated that every Police Department has a personality. He indicated that citizens need to know how to handle certain situations.

Dan suggested CRAB hold additional forums periodically in the future which would get CRAB into the community and also listen to feedback. He indicated CRAB needed to be taking the temperature of the community.

Rick referenced the Syrian/immigrant issue. He thought CRAB may need to get back to this. There was discussion of the hate incidents occurring around Greenbelt.

There was more discussion of the youth forum. CRAB wanted to consult with Rashawn at the next meeting.

Council Referral – 13th Amendment/Freedom Day Holiday

There was preliminary discussion of the referral.

CRAB Liaisons

Rick expressed the hope that CRAB liaisons could reach out to people who had a concern like the Westway resident who attended the May 23 Forum.

Dates & Locations of Future Meetings

Ray stated there needed to be some consistency and CRAB should continue to hold summer meetings. CRAB agreed to hold their next meeting on July 18 at the Municipal Building. The August 15 meeting would be held at Greenbriar Community Building.

Other Issues

Ray stated the youth forum was important. Rick suggested the Community Pledge be included in the City Information ad every week.

The meeting ended at 9:05 pm.