

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012 IN THE MEETING ROOM AT SCHROM HILLS PARK

The meeting began at 7:35 p.m.

Members Present were: Dea Zugby, Kevin Hammett, Jackie Carrington, Janet Jacobs Parker, Rick Ransom, Dan Hamlin, Jamie Krauk and David Moran, Staff Liaison. Also present were Edith Beauchamp and Randall Evans, Windsor Green HOA Board; Capt. Carl Shinner and MPOs Kelly Lawson & Mark Holden, Greenbelt Police; Herbert Wyche and Laura Kressler, Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC); Stan Zirkin and several other residents.

Minutes from 10/23/12

Jackie moved approval of the minutes. Dea seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Referral – Youth Curfew Law

Rick welcomed everyone and provided some background on CRAB's prior discussion of the issue on 10/23/12. Randall explained what had led up to the request for a curfew. He stated there had been an uptick in crime in Oct/Nov of 2011 specifically for homes on Canning Terrace which share a border with the Chelsea Wood complex. There had been an armed robbery at the bus stop on Mandan Road and suspicious activity near the playgrounds in Windsor Green. There was a joint meeting between Greenbelt Police, County Police and Assistant States Attorney Angela Alsobrooks, and discussions at homeowner and GEAC meetings. These problems seemed to be caused by underage youth. Randall also cited a shooting incident near the basketball court on Mandan Road. He noted that Windsor Green was trying to revitalize their Neighborhood Watch program.

Carl indicated that there had been border issues with residents from Chelsea Wood coming into Windsor Green. He noted that Windsor Green had considered installing a fence. He reported that the Greenbelt Police had conducted saturation patrols in conjunction with the County police. Kelly discussed the community walks which residents from both communities had attended.

Herbert discussed some of the similar problems that had occurred in Greenbriar including smoking marijuana, urinating in hallways, etc. He strongly encouraged Windsor Green residents to call the Police if they observed suspicious activities. Herbert noted that sometimes residents fear retaliation and can remain anonymous when they make reports. He reported that PSAC had considered the curfew referral and did not think it would address the problem. He indicated that Police did not have the resources to "babysit" curfew violators and that the State's Attorney would not prosecute such cases. Also since a curfew would only affect youth under 17, it would not solve problems caused by older individuals. He suggested removing some trees at Mandan Field to make it more visible and suggested removing the basketball court.

Carl provided information on curfew laws in general. He noted that laws had to be carefully written in order to protect Constitutional rights. He reported on several laws that had been struck down by the courts.

Randall acknowledged that a curfew wouldn't stop crime and viewed it as a tool not a panacea. He appreciated all the Police do for the Windsor Green community and noted there had been an increase in police presence since the community walk with Chelsea Wood.

Edith stated there were several issues here. She reported that problems at Mandan field were caused by a non-resident group of adults that was using the field without permission. The shooting near the basketball court had nothing to do with the request for a curfew. Edith indicated there were teens from Chelsea Wood coming into Windsor Green. She reported residents had found drug paraphernalia and condoms in wooded areas and at the playground.

Carl indicated that saturation patrols by Police and traffic stops in the area do work to help reduce the activity being discussed. He agreed to arrange some increased police presence along these lines.

Randall stated that pursuing a curfew law was something Windsor Green residents wanted and that is why the Board had made the request to the City Council. He expressed support for the Greenbelt Police.

Jackie suggested signage at the playgrounds listing closing times. Kelly offered to tour the problem areas with Windsor Green residents noting there may be other solutions such as signage and improved lighting.

Mark reported on some of his experience working in the community. He urged residents to report any specifics to the Police.

Dan appreciated the real concerns being expressed by Windsor Green residents. He also appreciated some of the actions being suggested. Jamie also expressed thanks to everyone for their comments.

Edith reiterated that Windsor Green residents had encouraged the Board to raise the curfew issue with the City.

Kevin believed that CRAB should allow the Police and community actions discussed at the meeting to be implemented before further consideration of a curfew law.

The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Prepared by David E. Moran, Staff Liaison