

Public Safety Advisory Committee City of Greenbelt

Date/Time: February 6, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Greenbelt Community Center

ROLL CALL:

Committee Members Present: Cindy Comproni, William James, Eunice Pierre, Mary Thomas, Stan Zirkin. Absent were Matthew Inzeo and Dr. Laura Kressler. Also Present: Liaison Silke Pope, Greenbelt City Council; and Visitors: Nicole Ard, Greenbelt City Manager, Henry Hasslinger, Greenbelt Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, Teresa Smithson, Greenbelt Cares, and Betty Timer, Greenbelt Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair, Cindy Comproni.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting minutes from 12/5/2017 approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Indian Creek Stream Valley: Mrs. Comproni is waiting for the referral and was informed she needed the referral in order to proceed. Ms. Ard and Councilmember Pope indicated that PSAC may not need a referral to do some preliminary investigation, but that they would follow-up and provide PSAC with the requisite information to move forward and address this issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cell Phone Safety Issue: Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Naloxone (Narcan) Training, Teresa Smithson: Greenbelt Cares, Ms. Smithson provided information about opioid overdose and the use of Naloxone (Narcan) as a method to reverse an opioid overdose. Ms. Smithson discussed training available to individuals who would like to learn more about the prevention and response to opioid abuse, and how to administer Narcan to someone showing signs of opioid abuse. Training is voluntary and free, and participants who complete the training session would be provided with Narcan. Ms. Smithson hopes to be able to conduct 3 training sessions in 3 areas of Greenbelt. It was the consensus of the committee to request a session on education.

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (SCAC): Henry Haslinger and Betty Timer, Senior Advisory Committee (SCAC), discussed 2 of its hosted events: Not for Seniors Only and the Open Forum. Not for Seniors Only provides education and information on a variety of issues and is usually held during Greenbelt Weekend. The next Not for Seniors Only will be held on June 3, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Open Forum provides SCAC with an opportunity to compile information, feedback on a variety of issues of interest to the community, and make recommendations to the Greenbelt City Council. The most recent forum yielded many concerns such as the need for a new Greenbelt Bus Connector, limited parking space at Springhill Lake Center, increase in cars being broken into and vandalized and theft of packages from homeowners' front steps. SCAC is currently in the process of planning, and is seeking feedback and additional resources. SCAC aims to provide educational sessions to help address the variety of citizen concerns at the upcoming Not for Seniors Only event. Mrs. Comproni suggested PSAC members assist with educational information. Mrs. Thomas will get information from Safeway on Amazon Drop boxes as a tool for residents to avoid stolen packages.

Status of referral on emergency siren: Silke Pope, Greenbelt City Council, inquired whether PSAC responded to whether Greenbelt should implement the use of emergency sirens as a way of alerting residents about emergencies. Councilmember Pope was not sure if a formal referral was ever provided, but indicated she would look to see if one was ever issued. Mrs. Comproni indicated that the issue was discussed at previous PSAC meeting, and members decided against the need for the emergency siren due Greenbelt's Alert notifications. Mrs. Comproni indicated she would review old minutes to provide more details regarding the disposition of this issue.

Police Chief Recruitment: Nicole Ard, Greenbelt City Manager, is in the process of searching for a new police chief. There will be Meet and Greet opportunities to meet the current Greenbelt Acting Chief of Police, and to get feedback from the community about the qualifications they want in the next police chief. There will be a Meet and Greet on February 15, 2018, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and on February 17, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Schrom Hills Park. Online surveys and response cards were also created to capture the public's input and feedback on the new chief of police search. Thus far, 40 response cards and 60 online surveys have been completed. PSAC members shared with Ms. Ard some qualifications/skills that should be considered when reviewing candidates for the new police chief position.

Next meeting is March 6, 2018. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.