



**MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE  
MINUTES  
May 4, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chief Patrick Connolly  
Sam Johnson  
Theresa Michelson  
Mayor Prussing  
Libby Tyler  
Marianne Downey  
Jeremiah Sullivan  
Diane Marlin  
Esther Patt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** John Collins, Bart Hagston, Patrick Wade

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**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Prussing called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

The agenda was amended to add Public Participation.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of March 30, 2011 were reviewed. A motion was made by Theresa Michelson to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Jeremiah Sullivan. Motion carried.

**III. Old Business**

Due to the number of people attending who wish to address item b. Item b will be discussed prior to item a.

b. Number of Alcoholic Liquor Outlets in Neighborhoods

Lisa Searing addressed the task force on the issue of density of liquor establishments in neighborhoods.

June Swartz addressed the task force in opposition to locating a liquor store across the street from Grace Methodist Church.

Dorthea Smith addressed the task force about picking up empty alcohol containers and indicated that trash is a problem.

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Dorothy Palmer addressed the task force indicating that trash is a problem and also speeding along Scovill.

Robin Smith addressed the task force as an owner of Truly Fit. She indicated that there is a big problem with empty alcohol containers and litter from the gas station that she finds on her property. She also commented that panhandling has become a big problem.

Mike Smith, Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church addressed the task force and is concerned about the quality of the neighborhood. He doesn't feel that adding a convenience store will promote quality of life in the neighborhood.

Mayor Prussing addressed the group with a historic view of outlets selling alcohol in the City. She distributed a handout. The Mayor stressed that the City is concerned about crime. She reported that City Staff has discussed crime in the neighborhood with the owner of the convenience store and have discussed options for preventing crime. The City is also looking at apartment owners as an option to deal with criminal behavior.

Chief Connolly reported that it is becoming apparent that a number of properties are allowing criminal activity to occur on their property by both their renters and visitors. The police department is working with some of these properties to increase security and make changes to their leases.

Theresa Michelson indicated that she realizes that legally there is currently nothing the City can do to prevent these liquor outlets from opening but many feel that due to the change in the ordinance there should not be any more licenses issued.

Mayor Prussing stated that the City does have an ordinance to address problems with businesses, the Aggravated Criminal Nuisance Ordinance.

Ron Cowan addressed the task force commented that the problems do not come from the liquor stores but from the apartments and having too many liquor establishments contribute to the crime.

Mayor Prussing reviewed security measures that are currently in the Liquor Code and added that in addition to the liquor code, the aggravated criminal nuisance ordinance could apply.

a. **Snow Removal**

A copy of the City of Champaign's ordinance was distributed which has been revised. The Mayor reviewed the revisions that she has made to apply to Urbana. There was a discussion regarding what the timeline should be before requiring walks to be shoveled.

Bart Hagston reported that the first year would be on a call in complaint basis and an education plan would be done with the community.

There was additional discussion about widths for handicapped accessibility and fines.

A motion was made by Jeremiah Sullivan to send out the ordinance to the neighborhood associations. Motion was seconded by Samuel Johnson. All voted yeah. Motion carried.

**IV. New Business**

There was no new business presented.

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**V. Future Goals**

There were none presented.

**VI. Announcements**

Neighborhood groups should provide input on snow removal ordinance for Council consideration.

**VII. Next Meeting Date**

**VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolinda Ross  
Recording Secretary

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