



**MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE  
MINUTES  
February 21, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Maryanne Downey  
Megan McGinty  
James Moreland  
Laurel Prussing  
John Roska  
Theresa Michelson  
Norma Linton  
Esther Patt

**MEMBERS EXCUSED** Kathy Wallig

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Christopher Stohr  
Barbara Lewis  
Samuel Johnson  
Thomas Grimes  
Clyde Walker  
Dave Barr  
Jerry Moreland

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Libby Tyler, John Schneider, Mike Monson, Joel Sanders

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**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Prussing called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes and Public Input**

Norma Linton had a few corrections to the minutes and provided the wording she wanted changed. Esther Patt made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by Theresa Michelson. All voted aye. The minutes of January 24, 2017 were approved as corrected.

There was no public input.

**III. Discussion Topics**

- a. Problem with Rats

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Mayor Prussing commented on the issue of problems with rats. She indicated that she had spoken with the Public Works Department and found out that if there is occasionally a problem in the sewer, they hire a professional to bait of them.

Ms. Linton reported that she found that a rat had gone through a pipe to the sewer. (she had pictures to share with the group) She contacted the City and a bait was set and within five days the bait was consumed, however, she then had another rat come through the sewer at a later date. In addition she advised people to check their pipes going to the sewers. She also mentioned that the WUNA list serve suggested that neighbors check for lids on dumpsters and their trash cans in order to keep rodents out. Ms. Linton reported that a WUNA resident indicated that the City should be checking for lids on dumpsters and there should be a fine for landlords that do not keep the lids on the dumpsters.

Esther Patt reported that people need to call in any nuisance items, since it is not realistic for the City to go around and check.

b. Aspen Court update

Libby Tyler reported that the property is in the latter stages of being transferred to TWG. The expected purchase date is March 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be 140 units of which 58 are currently occupied with 48 HUD units. There will be a complete remodeling of the buildings. As updates are done, tenants will be allowed to move into an updated unit. TWG is currently working to get low income tax credits for low income housing.

A Lierman Neighborhood Income survey has been done due to the likelihood of an error with the last census. Ms. Tyler indicated that if the City can demonstrate a low income area then CDBG funds could be used.

Mr. Tyler reported that Brinshore Development has been selected by the Housing Authority for development of the former Urbana Townhomes. Brinshore was the developer for Crystal View (the former Lakeside Terrace).

Esther Patt encouraged the City to provide new management groups a packet with information on the Human Rights Ordinance, Landlord Tenant Ordinance, and Rental Registration so they are aware of the city ordinances.

c. Informational Flyers

Ms. Tyler reported that in the fall a massive handout and mailer will be done throughout campus from the University. The City does have the information listed on our webpage and will have printed postcards that could be brought to neighborhood meetings. She stated that there could be different info for each neighborhood.

There was a discussion about developing flyers that would pertain to the needs of the individual neighborhoods.

d. Crisis Intervention Team Statistics

Lt. Joel Sanders reported that the City currently has 29 CIT officers trained with 21 of those working the street. Every officer goes through an eight-hour Mental Health First Aid training on how to recognize mental health signs. The officers are not looking to diagnose, they are looking at behaviors that

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might lead them to believe that the individual might need further evaluation. The officer making contact would complete a form that would give a baseline of what is going on with the situation. ARMS allows the officers to collect information from five other agencies that would show if anyone else has had police contact with the individual and what kind it was. The process is that if it is determined that there have been three or more incidents with the same individual, then a CIT officer would be assigned who could contact Rosecrance to see if the person can be contacted regarding mental health services.

Lt. Sanders reported that through Mental Health First Aid a lot of work is done in destigmatizing mental health and teaches them to slow their process down, since that can tend to escalate a situation. The CIT offers go through 40 hours of training.

Esther Patt asked about how to get people to call the Police who are afraid of being identified. They are afraid that the person they are calling about will find out they are the ones who called the Police.

Lt. Sanders reported that if a call is made to 911, they will be identified. If a call is made to METCAD or the non-emergency number at the front desk, they can ask to remain anonymous.

#### **V. Reports from Neighborhood Groups**

Maryanne Downey reported that HUENA will be having a meeting tonight.

Megan McGinty commends the City for the cleanup in the King Park Neighborhood. She also reported that there is a garage at Goodwin and Hill that presents a safety issue and is an eyesore.

John Schneider responded that the City is currently working to have that property condemned so that it can be demolished.

Norma Linton had a neighbor express concern for cars parked on Oregon.

Ms. McGinty, who works at Leal School, reported that there is a lack of parking around the Leal School area for teachers and staff, however all teachers and staff do have decals for their cars. She indicated that during school drop off and pick up times there are an extra amount of cars in the neighborhood.

Ms. Linton also had someone ask if officers could be assigned to specific neighborhoods. The response was that officers are assigned to specific beats.

Ms. Linton reported that she has had several comments about what is going on with the Landmark Hotel.

Esther Patt reported that she has always had an excellent response when contacting the Police Department.

#### **VI. Next Meeting Date**

Mayor Prussing reported that the next meeting will be a tour of some of the problem properties.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor's Neighborhood Safety Task Force

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**Jolinda Ross**

**Recording Secretary**