



**MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE
MINUTES
February 8, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Michelson
Jeremiah Sullivan
Norma Linton
Chris Stohr
Esther Patt
Maryanne Downey
Barbara Lewis
Chief Connolly
Libby Tyler
Diane Marlin
Sam Johnson
Barry Weiner
Mayor Prussing

OTHERS PRESENT: Rich Coyne, John Collins, Bart Hagston, Mike Robards, Mike Munson

I. Call to Order

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

To accommodate those attending on the Sidewalk Snow Removal discussion, that item will be moved to the top of the agenda.

II. Sidewalk Snow Removal

Mayor Prussing stated that at previous meetings of this task force, the issue of sidewalk snow removal was discussed and it was the consensus of the group that residents would be encouraged to clear their sidewalks voluntarily. It has become evident that while some people do keep their sidewalks clear, there are still a number of residents that do not clear the snow.

Mayor Prussing provided a copy of the City of Champaign's ordinance that is used to require that sidewalks be cleared in certain areas of the city. She would like to see Urbana establish an ordinance that would require a commercial route in the downtown and on all of the Safe Routes to Schools. The Mayor reported that there are some cities that clear the sidewalks with little plows.

There was a discussion on having businesses clear their sidewalks and having the City clear the Safe Routes to Schools. The Mayor commented that there are already areas that are currently cleared by either the School District or Park District.

Rich Coyne stated that it would take a specific type of equipment to move the hardened snow from the sidewalks. He reported that there are currently 35 miles that are part of the Safe Routes to Schools.

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There was a consensus of the group that the commercial areas should be done and should include apartment building sidewalks being cleared when the parking lots are being done.

Norma Linton added that the handicapped parking areas should be salted as well as the ramps of the sidewalks being cleared.

Theresa Michaelson expressed concern that the City will not have the fiscal ability to provide sidewalk clearing.

Public Works expressed concern that if they are in charge of clearing sidewalks, there could be damage to lawns and shrubs.

Mayor Prussing stated that she would like to see the definition of commercial areas made broader and would like to have further discussions about what areas this would cover.

Maryanne Downey added that if there is a contractor hired to plow sidewalks, perhaps neighbors might opt to pay to get their walks cleared.

Mayor Prussing asked each of the representatives to discuss this issue with their associations.

Public Works will research the cost of providing the service and the cost of the equipment that would be needed to do so.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of April 20, 2010 were reviewed. A motion was made by Esther Patt to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion seconded by Sam Johnson. All voted aye. The minutes of the meeting of April 20, 2010 were approved.

IV. Hotel/Motel License Discussion

Libby Tyler reported that staff recently addressed a number of safety issues with the Hanford Inn and was forced to close the hotel for safety violations.

Staff has studied what other communities are doing and would like to institute a Hotel Motel License Fee. This license would be used as an enforcement tool and allow Building Safety and Fire to do semi-annual inspections of each hotel and motel.

Ms. Tyler reported that there are concerns if hotels are being used for long term stays or used as a permanent residence; they are probably not equipped with proper cooking areas.

She reported that the current zoning ordinance does not allow for inspection of each room only for inspection of the commons areas and the ordinance also does not allow for rooms to be rented for more than 30 days.

The next step will be to discuss this proposed license with the Hotel/Motel Association.

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V. Future Goals

Theresa Michaelson indicated that she would like to see statistics showing calls for service for the apartment buildings.

HUENA would like to see a discussion about litter blowing out of uncovered trash bins.

V. Announcements

There were no announcements made.

VI. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on March 30, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary

DRAFT