

Public Safety Advisory Committee  
City of Greenbelt  
February 5, 2019

**ROLL CALL:**

- Committee Members Present: Dr. Laura Kressler, Stan Zirkin, Cindy Comproni, Mary Thomas, Silke Pope
- City Liaisons Present: Mary Johnson and Silke Pope

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Dr. Laura Kressler

Minutes from November 13, 2018 meeting – Stan Zirkin pointed out a typo; with that correction the minutes were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Vagrancy**

Dr. Kressler stated there was a lengthy conversation at the last PSAC meeting primarily about Roosevelt Center. PSAC needs to check into some items, 1) a more uniform policy across the City, i.e. Fitness Center has a policy; Buddy Attick Lake Park has a policy. PSAC needs to review policies. PSAC will need to also look at legal ramifications as mentioned by Mr. Zirkin and determine what they want to modify and/or add. The City Solicitor will have to review the draft policy. Mrs. Comproni said the City needs to have a set procedure and a policy on vagrancy. Mrs. Comproni went to the meeting sponsored by CARES on the homeless; there are a lot of resources and assistance out there when CARES is closed.

Mental Health is a serious problem all over the country but there is not enough help out there said Councilmember Silke Pope. Prince George's County talked to Tabitha (homeless person by the Community Center), and she had a case worker. Silke Pope said that GAFC and Buddy Attick Lake Park are governed by park rules, they are different rules. Roosevelt Center is considered a park. Maybe it is time to make new rules but you have to be very careful. The homeless are people too and you can't just have the person arrested, they have rights. It is a very hard situation.

Mrs. Comproni said in Florida they have dividers on the benches which are not as obnoxious as the ones on the city benches. We need a gentler approach other than the dividers on our benches.

Silke Pope said updating the park rules would be appropriate. Dr. Kressler wants a set of park rules for Buddy Attick and Schrom Hills. Per the minutes of November 2018 and Ms. Cummings letter, Silke Pope stated that Beltway Plaza and Greenway Center are private property.

Ms. Thomas asked how the homeless will know there are rules. How do they know where to go for help? Dr. Kressler stated that between the resources that the City has and actually talking to the homeless, the rules need to be posted. Mrs. Comproni said the Greenbelt Police Department will do a welfare check, CARES has information and the County will come out and talk to them. The County offers programs for mentally ill, there are a lot of resources.

**Greenbelt Station Trail Referral Status - Silke Pope will check**

**NEW BUSINESS – City Emergency Siren Referral** – PSAC didn't receive the referral. PSAC talked about this previously. Dr. Kressler stated that there are two parts; one would be a large siren that is set off when there is a need to notify everyone. Greenbelt is larger now so we would need multiple sirens. There would have to be an education piece too. This would be challenging. Dr. Kressler is not convinced that it is useful. Mrs. Comproni said we have the electronic alert system. We would have to worry about the coverage, test it monthly and educate people. Mr. Zirkin said it would have to be in conjunction with a loud speaker announcement. Dr. Kressler said we already have a mobile system in place with uniform coverage. Dr. Kressler will draft a report for Council.

**Cellular Reception Project** – Status – No date for work session as of yet. Silke Pope said the Council cannot make a decision about this, it is the federal government. Silke Pope said to look at MML website. Silke Pope said the City is worried about the tree canopy.

**OTHER PROJECTS** - PSAC wants a fresh copy of the CAR report. Budget time is coming up so we will have to do that quickly.

Dr. Kressler brought training sheets for Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Training – February 2019 and Maryland Emergency Management Agency Upcoming Trainings. Dr. Kressler said CERT is trying to get trainings on "Stop the Bleed Training", First Aid, Narcan, and AED.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:10 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center.