

MEETING OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 7, 2013

ROLL CALL: The meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05p.m. Present were Dr. Laura Kressler, Cynthia Comproni, Stan Zirkin, Mary Thomas, William James and City Liaison Mary Johnson.

MINUTES: The minutes were approved for the March 5, 2013 meeting. There were no minutes for April 2, 2013 due to a lack of a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS – Dog Breed Bans – Prince Georges County is the only county in Maryland with a “Pit Bull” breed ban. If Greenbelt Animal Control picks up a Pitt Bull, they will hold them for 5 days to allow an owner to reclaim them after which they are vetted, spayed or neutered and re-homed outside of Prince George’s County. Mr. Zirkin asked if Greenbelt has a Vicious Dog Statute. Dr. Kressler stated if a pit bull is found in the City, Prince George’s County wants the City to turn over the pit bull to them. The pit bull is then euthanized. If someone owns a pit bull in P.G. County they can face up to a \$1,000 fine and a year in jail. Dr. Kressler stated the City needs a vicious dog law.

Due to Greenbelts stand on pit bulls, P.G. County will not let Greenbelt use their shelters to spay or neuter. Greenbelt does have pit bulls at the shelter.

NEW BUSINESS: REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL TO PSAC – Council referred the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Report #13-1 (attached) to the Advisory Planning Board, PSAC and the Planning Department for review and recommendations concerning signage for the Police Station. Dr. Kressler stated that there were no signs on Crescent Road and Ridge Road for the Police Station. There is a red sign in front of the Police Station which is inadequate. Dr. Kressler went on to say that you can’t see the sign at night due to lack of lighting. Mrs. Comproni stated that we need signs similar to Hospitals which have an “H” sign. Dr. Kressler stated signage should be located on Crescent Road in both directions and Kenilworth Avenue. There also needs to be signage on the building itself.

Dr. Kressler went onto say that the Fire Department also needs better signage. The present sign is faded and buried in brush and trees. Mrs. Comproni also stated that signage needs to be improved at the Fire House.

Dr. Kressler suggested that Greenbelt should have signage similar to the National Park Service signs. Mrs. Comproni also suggested the roadside signs similar to hospital signs because they are reflective and easy to see. Mrs. Comproni stated she will contact the Public Safety Director at Washington Adventist Hospital and speak with them concerning that type of signage. Mrs. Comproni will also contact Councilmember Putens about the Public Safety budget.

Discussion ensued about the new “Local Signs,” throughout the City.

A motion was made to research and find information on County Code concerning signage. Once a recommendation is agreed upon, Dr. Kressler will write the letter to Council.

NEW CONCERNS: Human Trafficking – Dr. Kressler said there was an incident in Greenbelt East concerning human trafficking. Dr. Kressler stated she wanted PSAC to be aware.

RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM – The Reserve Officer Program is when a retired officer “re-enters” the Police Department to serve as an extra body, i.e. works in the office. Mrs. Comproni asked if we ask the City to provide incentives for officer’s to stay. Dr. Kressler said PSAC needed to talk to Captain Kemp to for further information.

Dr. Kressler stated that Councilmember Putens said that the Police Department is in need of Crisis Counselors in case of large events.

BASKETBALL HOOPS IN DRIVEWAY – There is a concern about citizens installing basketball hoops in their driveway or street. The kids are running out into the street. Mr. James stated this was the case in his neighborhood and stated that many homeowners association have rules for this problem. Mr. James would like the hoops gone as it presents a noise issue and a safety issue with the kids. Dr. Kressler stated that the homeowners association should deal with this.

NEXT MEETING: The next PSAC meeting will be held on June 4, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.