

MEETING OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 15, 2011

ROLL CALL: The meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05p.m. Present were Dr. Laura Kressler, Cindy Comproni and James Johnson. Also present were City Liaison Mary Johnson and James Sterling, Assistant Director of Community Development.

MINUTES: Minutes from the March 1, 2011 meeting could not be approved because there was not a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS: Jim Sterling, Assistant Director of Community Development, attended the meeting to address safety issues concerning Franklin Park, GHI, Greenbriar and other complexes within the City.

Greenbelt Homes Incorporated: Mr. Sterling stated that there have been two electrical fires in GHI during the last year, other than that he can not remember any other fires. Mr. Sterling stated that the City does not do a lot of inspections in GHI however he is not aware of any serious problems.

Mr. Sterling stated that in the 1980's GHI performed an electrical rehab and installed circuit breakers in the homes. Mr. Sterling stated that when you add something to a circuit then you may have a problem because it can overload a circuit.

Mr. Sterling suggested that perhaps Community Development can meet with GHI when the homes are sold to make sure there are smoke detectors in every bedroom, and GFCI outlets near sinks.

Mr. Sterling went on to say that if someone suspects a problem or just wants to test an outlet the City has electrical testers for use. There is also infrared technology that is available for complexes to purchase. This technology will detect if there is a hot wire in the home.

Dr. Kressler also suggested that a check list be developed on what should be in the homes, such as smoke detectors in the bedrooms, etc. This list could be used when the house goes up for sale.

Franklin Park: Mr. Sterling stated there have been no fires in Franklin Park for two years. Dr. Kressler asked if code issues with Franklin Park have been resolved. Mr. Sterling stated that violations have not been updated and Franklin Park has not done a good job of fixing things. Presently Franklin Park has had 80 units renovated in the buildings that were condemned due to the previous fire.

Dr. Kressler asked if Franklin Park has a maintenance center at the old Giant Training Center. Mr. Sterling replied that they do have someone at the center where the resident can come and speak to a person.

Dr. Kressler asked about the other apartment/condominium complexes and if there were any issues. Mr. Sterling stated that Greenbriar has done an excellent job. He went on to say there is a design problem on the third floor units where the drywall separates from the walls. This is up to the owner to maintain and it needs to be monitored. Also there is no natural ventilation in the attic and occasionally there is mold in the utility room.

Mr. Sterling went on to say that Hunting Ridge, Lakes at Greenbelt Village and other complexes have done a good job.

Dr. Kressler asked if the trades people have the proper qualifications. Mr. Sterling stated that there should be a master electrician who signs off on the work as well as a master plumber.

PEPCO: Dr. Kressler asked if there was anything that can be done with the power outages that are caused by falling trees and tree limbs during storms. Mr. Sterling suggested that PSAC contact the City of Bowie. Bowie partnered with BG&E several years ago to trim trees or remove existing trees. BG&E would give the resident coupons to purchase another tree.

NEXT MEETING: The next PSAC meeting will be held on April 5, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.