



N2N COMMITTEE MINUTES

Time and Place: Friday, July 19, 2019 @ 7:45 a.m. City Hall Boardroom
Members Present: Mayor Robert Mielke, Carlos Etcherpareborda, Doug Diny, Richard Holster, John Prey
Members Absent: Joe Dina
Others Present: Sheila Mabry, David DeSantis, Ben Bliven

1) Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Prey and seconded by Diny to approve the Minutes from May 17, 2019. Motion passed.

2) Police Presence at Neighborhood Meetings - Chief Ben Bliven

It was a goal of the WPD to provide police presence at the various neighborhood group meetings. This would allow good public relationships with the groups and provide them with a resource. Instead of a Patrol Officer, as was done in the past, they assigned this to the Community Resource Officers, which in turn allows less overtime on the Patrol Officers part. The flow of information between the Community Resource Officers and the Patrol Officers is very good so the Chief has no concern with that. Officer Pauls has indicated that in her experience, attendance in some neighborhood groups is low. He would welcome the N2N's questions.

Mayor indicated the importance of police presence. He also mentioned that leaders and residents of these groups are all volunteer individuals and they oftentimes struggle with getting attendance within their neighborhood.

A member asked what the typical time neighborhood meetings last? Do some groups put a limit on presentations and long-winded residents? Is that something each group needs to manage individually? The Chief asked what the typical time the groups would like an officer to speak. This would depend on whether there is more than one guest speaker. The SE Side limits discussion to 10 minutes. They keep things very professional. The Mayor pointed out that the Officer's time is valuable and to be respectful, they shouldn't have to listen to a drawn-out discussion about something that may have been on a social media post, etc. Chief Bliven asked if it is necessary that they be at every single meeting or perhaps change to every other meeting. He believes strongly in their presence and they will always compile a report for the group and talk about issues that have arisen since the last meeting.

Carlos E. from the Riverview Neighborhood group agrees that police presence every other month would be perfectly acceptable.

Chief Bliven spoke about the new web portal "Police to Citizen" which is replacing the current Crime Reports. This will be rolled out in August and a Police Officer will explain how it works at the next neighborhood meetings. Residents can check that and see what is going on in their neighborhood.

The East Towne neighborhood struggles with attendance and N2N member Holster said it would be acceptable if the PD came quarterly. Their neighborhood is comprised of many rental tenants. Structured meetings are important. He welcomes their valuable input to the committee and is appreciative that they are willing to attend any event they are asked to attend.

3) Clean It Up, Wausau Large Item Drop-off - DPW Representative

The summer events are going well. It still is very cost effective and attendance in June was 746 cars through the gate for both days. The only negative is that resident's still think they can drop off appliances and electronics in June, July and August even though we continue to advertise that we only take those items in the spring (April) and the fall (September). Holster suggested we try to find out if other salvage facilities may be open during this drop off time. Then we could direct them to their facility, so they don't have to haul it home and wait until the fall.

4) Neighborhood Association Update

East Towne Neighborhood - Block Party planning is taking place for their event in September. At Athletic Park, Staff City Planner, Lenz came and provided an update on the Riverlife project.

Riverview Neighborhood - Police presence is always welcome.

5) Old/New Business

Michelle Van Krey was instrumental in assisting Neighborhood groups when a request for DPW equipment was asked for a neighborhood Block Party and Michelle has moved on to another Department within the City. These requests can continue to be phoned in to DPW and it would be appreciated that ample time is given to make these arrangements ahead of time.

A motion to adjourn was made by Prey and seconded by Etchepareborda. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 a.m.