

COBB NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting, February 18, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 8:30

Members in attendance: Johnny Brown, Chair; Karen Hallacy, Vice-Chair; Joe O'Laughlin, Secretary, Joe Gavalis, Larry Green; Lance LaRusso, Vickie Plunkett, Meryl Sharpe, Trish Steiner, Arlene Williams, PSD Sam Heaton (ex-officio member)

Members not attending: Joel Cope, Pearle Roberts, Jeff Wood

Guests: Capt. Stuart VanHoozer, CCPD

A quorum was declared with ten of thirteen present (seats formerly belonging to Dan Motley and Joe O'Connor are not yet filled).

Minutes from meeting of January 21, 2014 were approved.

Public Safety Report

Public Safety Director ("PSD") Heaton made the following comments:

- Recent storms – public safety staff performed well, the county received over 10,000 calls and the staff stayed at respective posts until "job was done."
- Thirty-seven new vehicles have been ordered (they were initially cancelled by Chevrolet and county reordered) and should be received in March; once received the vehicles will need to be fitted with proper equipment. Another 30 vehicles are on order for next fiscal year.
- County has approved a pay study to be performed and is expected to take 8 – 12 months to complete.
- Other compensation issues for public safety officers to be addressed with County Manager and BOC Chairman.
- County is exploring options for reimbursement from other jurisdictions if police officers leave within a certain time frame after completion of training. NSC member LoRusso mentioned a required time limit may result in morale issue if an officer is required to serve out the complete time requirement.
- Police department is attending recruiting events and visiting military bases for potential recruits. PSD Heaton mentioned more police candidates leave during training process than are recruited by other jurisdictions, both voluntarily and involuntarily. The county trains an average of 51 new police officers per year.
- Randy Crider is to be approved as Fire Chief and the department should be fully staffed with next recruiting class.

The NSC members were asked to discuss with their appointive county commissioner for direction regarding the NSC meeting with the Fraternal Order of Police to discuss police department compensation. Following is the response of each commissioner:

Birrell – in favor only if PSD Heaton and Chief Houser also attend

Cupid – in favor

Goreham – initially not in favor, later allowed for some information to be collected by NSC

Lee – not in favor

Ott – not in favor

NSC Chairman Brown proposed having Heaton and Houser attend the meeting between NSC and FOP (to be held during NSC monthly meeting on April 15). Mr. Brown stated the purpose of the meeting is to gather information and provide such to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Brown also stipulated that the NSC cannot speak for the county nor can the NSC provide any information or opinion to the community.

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Committee Reports

Elder Abuse Task Force:

- Members of EATF met at the Georgia state capitol to introduce a bill (Rep. Sharon Cooper) making it a felony to operate an unlicensed care facility. The bill was passed by the State House of Representatives and must “cross over” to the State Senate by March 3rd to be considered for passage in this legislative session.
- The first draft of the public service announcement (PSA) is complete and is being edited.

Community Awareness:

- The panel discussion scheduled for January 30 (topic – Stalking/Teen dating) was postponed due to inclement weather; the rescheduled date should be announced shortly (possibly March 6 or March 13).
- Following are future panel discussion dates and topics –
 - February 27, Internet/Electronic Theft
 - March 27, Missing Children/Seniors
 - April 24, Personal Safety in Home & Community
 - May 14, Mental Health

Active Shooter:

- Corporate (pro)action to shooter situations was discussed.
- K. Hallacy offered to assist with promotion of program.

Old Business

Renaming the Cobb NSC:

- Commissioners Goreham and Birrell were noted to be against a name change. No other opinions presented.
- The NSC Facebook page is www.facebook.com/cobbcountynsc.

New Business

- The March NSC meeting will be held on March 18th
- The March 18 NSC meeting will be devoted to election of officers for the next 12 months and determining the format/purpose of the April 15th meeting between the NSC and FOP.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.