

Meeting Summary

West Linn Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB)

March 25, 2019

Call to Order & Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chairman, Tom Freedland. Board members attending were Kris Duncan, Judy Wiechmann and Mike Megrath. Staff attending were Stefan Myers (TVFR), Capt. Peter Mahuna, and City Council member, Jules Walters. Also attending was guest, Carolyn Jones.

Approval of Agenda: The Board approved the agenda as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The written summary for the 2/25/19 PSAB meeting was approved by unanimous consent.

OLD BUSINESS

2019 PSAB Officer Elections: Tom F. stated that although he has not been contacted by the City of West Linn directly, he did receive a copy of an E-mail sent to Police Department personnel confirming the reappointment of himself and Kris Duncan to the PSAB. Council member Walters confirmed those reappointments, as well the appointment of Amy Zmick. She stated Ms. Zmick had made a commitment prior to her appointment that conflicted with attendance at this meeting.

In recognition of the reappointments and presence of a quorum, Tom F. announced that elections could finally proceed. Kris D. stated she would accept the Secretary position only with the understanding that as a volunteer, she may or may NOT be able to meet a City-imposed deadline to submit a written meeting record. The following officers were elected by unanimous consent: Chair, Tom Freedland; Vice-Chair, Mike Megrath; and (Recording) Secretary, Kris Duncan.

STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS

Disaster Preparedness: Judy W. reported she conducted a successful meeting on March 20th. She said this was the second time this host had organized a meeting, due to significant resident turnover. The meeting not only afforded neighbors a chance to get to know one another better, but also served as a valuable “refresher” for those who had attended before. She said that displaying a map that illustrates the parts of West Linn most likely to suffer damage has proven to be a real attention getter. Now that Boy Scouts are selling 72-hr survival kits like Girl Scouts sell cookies, she would like to promote them over commercial retailers at future preparedness fairs.

Teen Driver Safety: Tom F. reported that 2 students from West Linn completed the spring Street Survival course earlier this month. Focus will now turn to filling the three spots designated for the October session. Kris D. suggested the Old Time Fair in July might be a better venue to solicit

applications given the number of young people that attend. Council member Walters thought finding a way to get the word out to the parents of those teens might be more effective. Tom F. stated he would again reach out to the Youth Advisory Committee when his schedule permits.

NEW BUSINESS

Topics for the Coming Year: Tom F. encouraged members to submit ideas for focus discussions or presentations at future meetings.

STAFF UPDATES

WLPD Update: Capt. Mahuna reported the Department has hired 3 new officers who will be entering the Academy next month and ready for duty in August. The Department will also start interviewing 12 applicants for the Community Service/Code Enforcement position next week.

Kris D. asked whether there had been much discussion among officers regarding The Oregonian article that featured the results of a survey that reflected strong differences in perceptions between the Portland Police Department (PPD) and the citizenry. Capt. Mahuna responded that it did come up in conversation and that as a former member of PPD, he is happy to now be in West Linn. During his time in Portland, he saw PPD try many different approaches to improve community relations, but there does not seem to be a simple solution to such a complex and challenging issue. One thing he did observe was that tensions were eased when issues were handled with openness.

TVFR Update: Stefan Myers noted that the recent Mill City wildfire served as a strong reminder of the importance of removal of leaves and debris that may have gathered over the winter against the house. He also described his experiences participating in a joint exercise addressing a simulated infectious outbreak.

Stefan distributed some of the first materials developed to explain ballot measure 34-286. The measure would renew the existing levy portion of 45 cents per \$1,000 of (county) assessed valuation for another five years. The levy supports 92 staff positions and provides funds to acquire equipment and land for future fire stations.

Guest, Carolyn Jones, was invited to share her thoughts on the meeting. She said she was part of a group that would like to see a similar board established in Lake Oswego. PSAB members answered questions about their activities and their role in the civic life of West Linn.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Duncan (PSAB member)