

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 12 p.m. after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Wendy Dobyms, Chairman Anthony Harris, Daryl Murphy and Taylor Sutphen

Members Absent: Charlene Adams, Jennifer Washington and Dominic Wells

Ex-Officio members present: Chief John Orzech (Police Department) and Talon Flohr (Community Development Department)

Staff Present: Kelly Kresser (Clerk)

CURRENT BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Daryl Murphy and second of Taylor Sutphen, the members voted to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2017, meeting and suspend the formal reading. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

Staff Remarks

Chief Orzech said since the last CRC meeting, the Police Department has received only one complaint. This complaint involved a child custody issue where the father was trying to drop off a minor child but the mother did not show up. The Officer ended up stopping a vehicle in which the mother was a passenger and she claimed her private body parts were searched. After reviewing the cruiser and body camera footage, it was determined there was no merit for this complaint and a letter was sent indicating this; there has been no further word. Chief Orzech also noted he meets quarterly with members of both the Interdenominational Ministerial Association and the Sandusky Ministerial Association and they have not received any complaints against anyone on the department. Daryl Murphy asked about a complaint he received through his affiliation with the N.A.A.C.P. and Chief Orzech said this is an individual with mental health issues and he has been in contact with Judge McGookey to provide assistance as she is a client in the Probate Court. Anthony Harris said he recently observed a Police Officer assist an elderly lady pump gas at a local gas station and appreciated seeing this. Daryl Murphy asked if the new Police Officers hired in 2017 could come to a future CRC meeting for introduction and Chief Orzech said he will schedule this through the Clerk. Anthony Harris asked about the Police Officer who was recently investigated and Chief Orzech said this incident occurred outside of work and after an investigation by the Erie County Sheriff's Office, charges were not filed against the Officer; she did receive a verbal reprimand.

Presentation

Sondra Anderson, Director of Homeless Services for the Volunteers of America (VOA), said she has been with the VOA for over ten years and Erie County has a large homeless population and serves many needs in the community. Their mission is to reach and uplift persons and knowledge

of God is a mandatory component. Unfortunately, this year, their soup and food programs, mental health group homes and chemical dependency programs will all cease. The Crossroads shelter can service 87 individuals with their need for transient housing or individuals with long-term housing issues as well as providing emergency shelter. They normally exceed their occupancy in the wintertime as they will not turn anyone away who would be at risk for freezing. Homeless veterans also receive services which are provided through a grant program with the Supportive Services for Veterans Families and help to obtain employment, increase their self-determination and skills. The VOA also works with area churches and schools and other community caregivers to provide a continuum of care which best addresses needs of individuals. Sexual predators and convicted arsonists are the only groups of persons who are refused housing. There are challenges with some who come to the VOA for assistance as they offer a hand up, not a handout, and part of being accepted involves chores and seeking employment. The VOA also has overflow mats when occupancy has been reached and sometimes partners with other shelters. The average stay at the Sandusky VOA is 22 days and twenty percent of the clientele are those who have aged out of Foster care. Funding for the VOA comes from Erie County, HUD and the Ohio Department of Development, churches and private donors; the city also has provided assistance for the Help Against Homelessness program.

Talon Flohr, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, provided an update on the city's Neighborhood Initiative program. The property at 1321 Cleveland Road was forfeited to Erie County and turned over to the city and is being bid for demolition to become a parklet in the future. Environmental Design Group is preparing renderings for this space. The Cove District neighborhood will see public access improvements made during CY 2018 to make it more inviting, specifically at the end of Curran Street and Lockwood Avenue. In the South of Kilbourne neighborhood, Sandusky's Performing Arts Academy is assisting with improvements and the former tennis courts will be frozen for an ice skating area. Upgrades will be made to Central Park in CY 2018 which is in the Garden District. In the south side area, the city is exploring a "Walk of Legends" concept. Landscaping is being designed for the Venice connector curve in the west side neighborhood. Talon Flohr said the Youth Commission is being put together for the 2018 – 2019 school year to expose students to government and social services in the community. Anthony Harris said the new wayfinding signage looks great. Taylor Sutphen asked about the status of the former Esmond Dairy property on Campbell Street and Kelly Kresser said she will follow up with the city's Chief Development Officer and provide this information via email. Anthony Harris asked what will happen with the former American Crayon site once demolition is complete and Kelly Kresser said this is one of two sites identified for the future site of the new Justice Center. If it is not chosen for this purpose, the city will open it up for future development.

OLD BUSINESS


None.

NEW BUSINESS


Upon motion of Wendy Dobyms and second of Taylor Sutphen, the members voted to hold meetings in 2018 on the third Thursday of January, April, July and October. The Chairperson declared the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Daryl Murphy and second of Wendy Dobyms, the members voted to adjourn at 1:55 p.m. p.m. Chairperson Harris declared the motion passed.



Attest: Kelly Kresser, Clerk
Date: 12/15/18



Anthony Harris, Chairperson
Date: 12/15/18