

DeBary Public Safety Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 8, 2007
11:00 AM
Florence K. Little Town Hall
12 Colomba Road

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chair Bob Garcia called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Josephine Opisso, Gene Leighton, Chair Bob Garcia, Daniel McMahon, and Vice Chair Marion Lane

Others Present: Safety Coordinator Alan Williamson, Captain Alan Osowski and Lieutenant Cliff Williams

III. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting held March 13, 2007

Ms. Opisso made a motion to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Opisso read a statement apologizing for her absence at the April 10th meeting. She also read a statement regarding the recent addition of an alternate to the Public Safety Advisory Committee. She stated that she thought that a change in the by-laws should have come before the Committee prior to the Council appointing an alternate. She asked Mr. Williamson to check on it. There was a brief discussion of the by-laws by the Committee. Mr. Leighton made a motion that Chair Garcia discuss the issue with the City Council at their next meeting. Mr. McMahon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business

- Update on West Volusia Community Traffic Safety Team

Chair Garcia listed some of the highlights of the Team's meeting stating that the Team spoke about possibly widening Dirksen Drive; that they discussed the proposed train station on Fort Florida Road and the impact that would have on Dirksen Drive as a main thoroughfare; that the sidewalk on Dirksen from Gemini Springs should be installed by the end of the year; that the Committee should get a report back within the next couple of months regarding various available options for Dirksen Drive, such as widening the shoulders, adding lights, and possible sidewalks; and that the Team also stated the accident numbers have declined in the area.

Chair Garcia spoke about possibly conducting a seatbelt survey in the City. Mr. Williamson briefly discussed what the seatbelt survey would entail. Captain Osowski explained the "Click It or Ticket" campaign that usually runs during Memorial Day and Labor Day.

- **Parking Ordinance – Overnight Parking**

Captain Osowski stated that he had previously distributed the ordinance to the Committee to solicit input on if the ordinance should be revised.

Mr. Leighton spoke about residents parking on sidewalks, which forces people to walk in the grass to get around the cars. He added that the officers knock on doors to ask people to move their cars off the sidewalk, but do not issue citations. Captain Osowski stated that the fine is \$15 for parking on sidewalks, and he would ask his officers to start issuing tickets instead of requesting that the owners move the vehicles.

Mr. Leighton discussed the possibility of the COPs issuing parking tickets. Captain Osowski responded that it is a department policy decision not to allow it. Mr. Leighton asked Chair Garcia to write a letter to the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Opisso said there is a COP meeting on Friday, she would mention it at that meeting, but that the Sheriff must allow it before it can happen.

Lieutenant Williams stated that the prior Sheriff had given the COPs the power to write warning citations for parking; that it had become a safety issue; and that he had been called out on several occasions to assist a COP attempting to issue such a citation.

Mr. Leighton made a motion to leave the parking ordinance as is. Ms. Opisso seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business

- **Discussion by Rani Merens Regarding Pedestrian Accessibility**

Rani Merens, 213 Alta Vista Street, informed the members that she represents DeBary on the Volusia County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). She explained her difficulty in reaching Gemini Springs on her scooter and stated that there is not a safe way to reach the bike path except by car. She added that she does not want to wait for the developer to put in the sidewalk because it might take years. She said that BPAC's focus is accessibility for bicyclists, pedestrians, and disabled persons.

Chair Garcia asked Ms. Merens to provide him with her concerns in writing so that he might attach it to the survey report and present it to the West Volusia Community Traffic Safety Team. Ms. Opisso made a motion to recommend to Council that they look for alternatives for all citizens to safely cross Dirksen Drive, to make it a priority, and to include it in the upcoming budget. Mr. Leighton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Warning Sirens**

Lenny Marks, 32 Wisteria Drive, stressed the importance of having warning sirens included in the budget for the next fiscal year. The Committee discussed that the County was giving away a certain number of weather alert radios to needy County residents.

Chair Garcia stated that he had gathered preliminary information on the sirens, and that they cost about \$20,000 each, with a total estimate of \$500,000 for the whole City. He added that it would cost approximately \$215,900 to purchase the weather radios for 8,063 households in the City of

DeBary. He said that 168 families would qualify as low-income households to receive free radios.

The Committee discussed how weather radios might be distributed to the residents. Mr. Williamson said he would call the County to find out the logistics of their program. Ms. Opisso made a motion that they recommend to Council that they set aside \$5,000 in the next budget for weather radios to be distributed to the citizens of DeBary. Vice Chair Lane seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Fire Hydrants in the Old Areas of DeBary

John Likakis, 38 Seminole Drive, advocated the City installing fire hydrants on Shell Road, 17-92, Plantation Boulevard and Mansion Boulevard.

Chair Garcia said he received a map from the County of the existing fire hydrants in DeBary. He added that the cost of a hydrant without the water line being installed is between \$4500 and \$5500.

Mr. Marks noted that it would be important to find out where the larger main lines are located, as some of the lines are small and inadequate for pumping water.

Ms. Opisso made a motion to recommend to Council that they perform a cost estimate for installing fire hydrants on existing lines in the City. Vice Chair Lane seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McMahon voiced his concern regarding the crematorium near City Hall, and stated that the pipe coming out of the top seems to be too low, and there is a substance oozing over the side of the pipe. Chair Garcia noted that the matter should be referred to code enforcement. Mr. McMahon made a motion that code enforcement and the health department check the license and operation for a possible violation of the smokestack. Mr. Leighton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

John Likakis, 38 Seminole Drive, stated that crematoriums are usually only allowed to operate at night, and there should be a screen above the chimney.

VI. Public Participation

None.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Opisso moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Leighton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

APPROVED July 10, 2007

CITY OF DeBARY
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Bob Garcia, Chair

DeBary Public Safety Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 8, 2007
11:00 AM
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AMENDED MINUTES

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**ORIGINAL APPROVED DATE:
JULY 10, 2007
AMENDED DATE:**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

**CITY OF DeBARY
Public Safety Advisory Committee**

Bob Garcia, Chair