



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 12, 2005

PSAC Attendees:

Mike Smulski
Sam O'Conner
Linda Smith
Mark Mew
Robin Birkedal
Chuck Springer (new member)
Precyous Council
Elsa Sargento
Anthony Piper

Also attending:

Heather Handyside
Terri Martin
Pamela Jennings
DC Audie Holloway
Craig Goodrich

6PM: Meeting was called to order by Mike Smulski.

New Commission Member: Chuck Springer was appointed to the commission to replace Tim Melican. Chuck is the chairman of the Anchorage Auxiliary Search Team and a founding member of the Alaska Project Lifesaver program.

Public Comment: Members of the Fairview Community Council Public Safety subcommittee attended the meeting to review rules of order and committee function.

Old Business: Youth Violence Project

Report from PSAC intern:

Terri Martin provide members with copies of the Families and Work Institute survey. Because of the length of the document, Terri offered to provide PSAC members with a summary at the next meeting on February 16, 2005.

Committee Review of Youth Violence Initiative events

Terri Martin and Heather Handyside provided an update on the status of the Youth Violence events planned for Spring. The events will occur the week of March 14th – 18th, prior to Spring break.

The anticipated costs of the events are \$6,500. The majority of those costs are associated with speaker's fees and travel. The Mayor's office has committed \$2,000 to the event. MLP has also committed \$2,000. It is anticipated that the remaining \$2,500 will be paid for by the U.S. Attorney's office or the Alaska National Guard Drug Prevention and Enforcement group.

Three specific types of events will be conducted: an agency event, an event for concerned parents and an event focused upon youth.

Agency Event

The main goal of the agency event will be to demonstrate progress in reducing youth violence in Anchorage; specifically by using recommendations of the PSAC initiative as a benchmark. This event will be held on March 16th at 6:30pm at the Wilda Marston Theatre.

PSAC members reviewed the project timeline and event overview and made the following comments:

- The UAA report may not be ready by this time
- Mike Korosky will be a good candidate to describe the standard assets for youth
- Pamela Jennings may need assistance in developing recommendations for proposed ordinances

- 24-hour teen club proposal may not be appropriate for this venue – perhaps Stop the Violence would be a better representative of a youth-based approach
- Tony Piper agreed to act as spokesperson for the Youth Development Coalition
- A video showing youth's reaction/perspective on violence issues would add value and interest to the event – Pamela Jennings, Robin Birkedal and Terri Martin agreed to take the lead on this potential program

Parent event

The main goal of the parent event will be to help parents and concerned community members develop healthy lifestyles for at-risk youth, especially those who may participate in gang activities. This event will be held from 7pm – 9pm at St. Anthony's Parish on Thursday, March 17th.

PSAC members reviewed the project timeline and event overview and made the following comments:

- The committee members support the idea of using Joseph Jennings as a feature speaker for the event.
- The committee suggested that the Mayor do an introduction.
- The committee believed the St. Anthony's venue would enable the PSAC to conduct outreach to a diverse community that might not otherwise be inclined to participate.

Youth Event

Due to scheduling issues, the committee was unable to develop a specific plan for youth forums in the schools. However, it was agreed that an in-school event would reach a larger audience and would be much easier to orchestrate than an out-of-school event. Mark Mew discussed the challenges of scheduling events during the school day and offered assistance with the administrative process. Terri Martin and Robin Birkedal agreed to attend administration meetings with Mark in order to select schools, confirm events, and persuade the administration to hold the Youth Violence school assemblies. Terri will report on progress at the next meeting.

Proposed Anchorage Helmet Law – Follow-up.

It was determined that the commission needed a strong recommendation to review before endorsing a helmet law for the municipality. Members discussed the possibility of presenting information directly to the Assembly rather than going through the Mayor's office. Follow-up on this issue may occur at the February meeting.

Community Concerns:

Members of the Fairview Community Council attended the meeting and shared community concerns with members of the commission. The area around 13th and Gambell was identified as particularly troublesome. The group requested "support from the Mayor" but did not specify the type of support required. The group requested additional police presence in the area. Deputy Chief Holloway, present at the meeting, agreed that the 13th and Gambell area regularly drained police resources and gave a brief history of law enforcement efforts in the area.

The group did not make a specific request of the commission but agreed to return at a future meeting to address their concerns in greater detail.

Commission adjourned at 7:15pm.