

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday April 7, 2009

ATTENDEES:

Bill Pritchard, Chair
John Barnes
Catherine Cecere
Scott DeCain
Andy Freimuth
Michael Lebowitz
Sue Hill
Larry Lannom
Susan Milner Reynolds
Arthur Schatzkin
Don Sherk
Al Lang, Council Liaison
Warren Rizzi, Town Staff

Guests:

Daniel Button, 7109 Beechwood (member, Climate Protection Committee)
Janet Freimuth, 4009 Underwood

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

There were no public comments

The minutes of the March 10, 2009 meeting were approved.

The general purpose of the meeting was to review the status and planning of work by five subcommittees.

Traffic:

Scott DeCain reviewed the priority list and will be prepared for more in depth discussion at the next meeting. That will include identification of additional data needed and prioritization of efforts.

Security:

Arthur Schatzkin provided a summary of the meetings that led up to the March 12 Town Meeting on Security and Town police services. He reviewed the main issues, advantages and disadvantages of the five potential models. At the March 12 meeting, many residents spoke out strongly about their security concerns and support for enhancements and related in a direct manner how they or their adult family members had altered their routines in recent years. Although some Council members are skeptical of the need for enhanced security efforts and have stated concern about the costs, the Town Council nevertheless is in the process of eliminating the private security service and replacing the

coverage with Montgomery County Police officers. An alternative of hiring a consultant to meet the management needs has been suggested. Neighborhood Watch was also presented at the March 12 meeting for discussion.

For the next steps, a budget will be more formally developed for the June meeting. That analysis will include the impact on staffing by the County officers, potentially with a reduction in their hours. An effort will be made to identify a security consultant with appropriate expertise.

Power/Electricity:

John Barnes reports that the subcommittee will inform the Council at the April meeting on the status of our evaluation of Town purchase of the streetlights.

Parks:

Susan Reynolds reports that the Leland Center playground opening celebration will be on April 18. She will be the liaison between the PSC and Land Use Committee.

Other issues from outside the PSC:

- Petition is circulating for establishment of a dog park;
- Proposal to widen Zimmerman Park for more play area
- Proposal to turn Rosemary Circle into a flower park

The Parks group is focusing on Elm Street Park plans.

Water Run-off:

The proposal for water engineer consultant, similar to the arborist, will be discussed at the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12, 2009