

Public Safety Commission Meeting
May 21st, 2015

The Public Safety Commission's (PSC) monthly meeting was held on Thursday, January 21st, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the first floor conference room (former town library) of Town Hall.

PRESENT: Commission Chairperson Rick Byrd, Commission Members Terri Hollingshead, Marty Love, and Scott Stavrou. Also present PSC Council Liaison Sean Haardt of the Mayor and Council (M&C) and Officer Arron Taylor of the Boonsboro Police Department (PBD)

WELCOME:

Rick welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting at 7:00.

MINUTES:

Most of the evening involved citizen comments.

The first order of business was to elect a new chair as Cindy Collier stepped down last month. Rick Byrd was unanimously voted as Chairperson seeking a 4-year term. As per the new ordinance that calls for a Vice Chair, Terri Hollingshead was unanimously voted as Vice Chair seeking a two-year term. Marty Love also is willing to serve another two-year term. Scott Stavrou will step down as he is changing jobs. June will be his last meeting, but he is willing to help with National Night Out. Since Mr. Byrd was the secretary, a new secretary is still needed during this transition.

Discussions were held with Officer Taylor about laws regarding passing motorists on the side if the motorist in front is turning left. In particular, the light at 66 and Alt. 40 in front of the school where motorists who are heading south pass on the right quite a bit although the white line on the right makes that illegal. Comments were made from citizens that the stripe there makes no sense since there is no turn lane to the right as opposed to other areas in town that are dangerous.

Commission member Marty Love mentioned that he had spoken to Oley Griffith about hiring fire police for large events and would speak to Megan the following day, Friday, about the need to request from the sheriff's office. The only thing the fire police would appreciate is a donation, he said.

Discussions were held about the possibility of signs in the crosswalk that can be placed in the middle of the road alerting traffic to pedestrian crosswalks. Mr. Haardt mentioned the possibility of getting solar-powered flashing pedestrian signs installed. There was also mention of what Montgomery County has with the in ground LEDs.

Concerns about the lack of progress in terms of signage and sidewalk walkability were also raised by all of the members. Mr. Byrd and Mr. Haardt will be working together on grants this summer to address this.

Chairman Byrd asked about the feasibility of moving the crosswalk down a few yards away from the intersection of Park and Alt. 40 for safety reasons.

NNO: Nearly everyone has confirmed to be involved in this year's event again. The food is ready with the exception of the chips from Martin's. Mr. Haardt said he would speak with

Council Member Kauffman about the chips. The magician and DJ are confirmed. The big question now is Weis's involvement this year since the manager Dee from last year who was so involved with the balls and more is now at another store. Mr. Haardt will reach out to the managers at Weis again but expects positive results.

Citizen Comments:

Guests: Boonsboro area residents Jessica Renner and Jerica Miller

Jessica stated it is "not safe to walk in this town", and that they would like to see a crosswalk and pedestrian awareness campaign here. They are not asking for ticketing vehicles, but perhaps give warnings and hand out informational flyers on statistics and state laws. Miller is from Eugene and Bend Oregon and said those areas are very walkable, but she "loves Boonsboro" and would like to see this town make improvements in this area. Mrs. Renner said she would ask Chief Stanford for his opinion on the awareness campaign.

Mrs. Renner and Ms. Miller also asked if there was a way for officers to get phone messages about disturbances or concerns left at the station during shift hours, but after office hours, sent directly to the officer on duty's phone. These would be primarily for the hours 4pm-11pm on weekdays and 4pm -2am on weekends. Many members and the guests commented that the technology exists to do that and it is common today. Officer Taylor said he would talk to the Chief about that question.

Jessica stated that she has several friends who are interested in serving on the PSC, but they are outside town limits. She asked if area residents, like those from Keedysville, are allowed to serve on Boonsboro commissions.

Fire/Rescue Report:

None. Nobody from fire or rescue was present.

M&C Report

A brief update was given about the most recent M&C workshop and meeting by liaison Haardt. Haardt told those present that SHA has approved new and reflective striping on crosswalks and parking spaces soon.

BPD

No official report given. Officer Taylor described the accident that occurred on May 9th to the commission members as he was the officer that responded to the call.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Love, second by Hollingshead to adjourn at around 9:15. Motion Carried. The next Public Safety Commission meeting to be held Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Rick Byrd,
Public Safety Commission Chairperson