Hot Springs Village Public Safety Committee

Minutes for June 14, 2017

Meeting called to order by Chairman Dennis Brown at 10:00 am

Committee members present:

Dennis Brown, Bert Cueva, Andrew Jones Jr., Pete Petrosky, and Bill Etie

The following persons were also present:

Chief Ricky Middleton, Staff Liaison.; Bob Cunningham, POA Board Liaison; John Sowers, Public Works Committee; Sandy Johansen, Village Voice; Mr. Neil Rowe and Mrs. Janet Rowe, guest.

The first order of business was the approval of the March 2017 minutes.

Old business included:

Cart path crossings. Mr. Sowers and committee member Pete Petrosky reported that brush and shrubbery near the crossings have been cut for better visibility both to the golfers and the motoring public. They stated that the golf department has been very helpful in handling this problem. Mr. Sowers stated that he would keep in touch with Mr. Staggs and Mr. Heffer and report back to the committee next meeting.

The Smart 911 program is making headway. Chief Middleton has given 17 classes to date and will continue to do so whenever asked. The chief also asked the public safety committee members to help with Smart 911 classes.

Neighborhood Watch was again discussed, with concern on how to get the word out to residents in the hope of expanding the program in the Village. The upcoming October picnic is one possibility. Neighborhood watch or smart 911 programs given through the police department or the public safety committee will be rent free at POA buildings. Committee member Bert Cueva presented a neighborhood watch pass out used in some Los Angeles neighborhoods. It shows the type and amount of crime in the neighborhood on one side and a safety tip of the month on the reverse. Mr. Cueva stated that this could be a guide for the Village program. The concern of privacy in reporting crimes was discussed.

New Business:

The Culvert repairs on Desoto Blvd. drew favorable comments as to the safe handling of traffic with minimum disruption. Signage was also very good at the work site committee member Cueva stated.

Bob Cunningham reminded everyone about the upcoming POA board meeting. He also discussed the approval of the 2,000,000-gallon daily emergency water program. Mr. Cunningham reported on the changes initiated by the board concerning violations of POA
policy, especially related to motor vehicles and trailers. The board also addressed changes to contractor policy. Our downtown discovery center has had 248 visitors since opening this year. So far, the POA has sold 6 lots this year. The board is also wanting to move forward with the concept of building a ‘mini neighborhood’ in the Village.

Committee member Cueva presented the accident survey for May. There were 10 reported accidents for the month with only 2 injuries. This is the lowest number of accidents for quite a while.

The police officers golf event was successful, clearing about $9,000.

The Citizens Police Academy graduated 21 people in the last class. The next class will begin September 14th at 6 p.m. at the HSV police training center. Applications can be picked up at the police station. Establishing a reserve officers program in the village was also discussed. It was recommended getting with State Senator Samples to look at modifying the law.

Guest Mr. and Mrs. Rowe brought up several issues to the committee. They questioned the legality of parking on the trail near the Coronado boat ramp, also parking on the helicopter pad near the Coronado Center. A major concern was parking at garage and estate sales. In some cases, parked vehicles block the roadway preventing traffic from getting through. They asked if the police could monitor these locations and issue tickets if warranted. Mr. and Mrs. Rowe also committed on a problem at the POA camp ground with campers over staying their permit or not registering with the POA at all. They asked if the police had any authority in cases like this. Chief Middleton explained that village police officers can only enforce state and county laws, they cannot make arrest or issue tickets for violation of POA policies. Some of the POA policy violations mentioned should be directed to Stacy Hoover for assistance.

Sandy Johansen, staff writer for the Village Voice commented on the police not reporting the use of a gun on the Balboa beach. Chief Middleton explained that Garland county sheriffs made the arrest and the violator was a minor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

The next quarterly meeting will be held September 13th, 2017.