

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fogt at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Deb Groat, Tracy Richardson, Dan Fogt

Others Present: Terry Emery, Battalion Chief Ropp, Chief Golden

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the meeting on January 9, 2015 were approved.

Agenda:

Citizen Comments: None.

Update on Snow Removal from Public Sidewalks: Mr. Emery said that our public notification process for public sidewalks has been very successful. He thinks we could continue with this process and continue to make some progress.

Mr. Emery read an update from Mr. Hutchinson; Code Enforcement received 15 snow complaints this season for snow on sidewalks. (Mrs. Groat commented that was not bad.) One of the complaints was for multiple addresses or locations. Out of all those complaints only one commercial property received a complaint. That business was a commercial property on Grove Street between the school and Pizza Hut. All other complaints were for residential properties around the area. All locations we received complaints for received a door hanger notification, except for that commercial property, in which we sent a notice to that location. All residential properties complied within 24 hours. The commercial property on Grove Street did not comply, but the snow has since melted and was gone within a reasonable time period. Fifteen complaints are the most complaints we have every received and that was due to the notices and awareness of the importance to keep sidewalks clean. We did receive citizen compliments on our efforts to make the public aware of the importance of clearing the sidewalks from snow. We anticipate next year with the same approach we will see even better results.

Mr. Emery said from driving around he felt that people in residential areas were doing a much better job of clearing sidewalks. Mr. Emery said there is still room for improvement. He said if we make the same progress next year that we have made this year, we should be close to getting 90-95% compliance.

Mr. Emery said we do have a list of volunteers that we kept this year in case someone requested assistance on their sidewalks. Mr. Emery is going to check with Mrs. Krutowskis, but he is not sure that anyone called in requesting assistance. Mr. Emery said that we will continue to build on that, what we do not want to see is a senior citizen who is unable to shovel their sidewalks or who has been unable to secure someone. We would be able to send someone over from our volunteer list to help them.

Mr. Emery said as we wind down this year we will put together a synopsis for the year along with all this information. He said we may put something out to the public thanking them for helping keep the sidewalks clean during the winter season. Mr. Emery said before the next winter season we will start advertising this early.

Mrs. Richardson said there was a recent Marysville Journal Tribune article that thanked the public or recognized that the public has responded to the request of the City. She asked how many requested assistance. Mr. Emery said he does not know of anyone. He said Mrs. Krutowskis had the list of volunteers and was able to refer people out to help. Mrs. Richardson said the City has encouraged neighbors helping neighbors. Mr. Emery said that happened in his neighborhood, there are gentlemen that pretty much take their snow blowers up and down the sidewalk. Mr. Emery said that the schools did a nice job this year. There were a couple of incidents where we had to follow up with the schools on a couple stretches of sidewalk. Mr. Emery said they have been very good with following up with their responsibilities.

Mr. Fogt said during a recent council meeting, Ms. Fisher with Guardian Services, came and spoke. He requested Mr. Emery to contact her and let her know that this service is available from volunteers. Mrs. Richardson said she has noticed in the subdivisions some improvements. She said there were key properties around the schools that were a little slower to respond. Mr. Emery said that out of the 15 snow complaints, after the door hangers were delivered the residents complied. He said some people just need reminded because they are so busy with their day to day lives. Mrs. Richardson said even knowing there is assistance for someone who is really struggling or notifying someone that they are going out of town because if you have three or four days and the snow piles up and they are just out of town, it is important that it gets cleared so the kids aren't climbing over mountains. Mrs. Richardson also said some people complained about snow being piled up on the sidewalk from the driveway. You would literally have to climb over the snow in order to continue walking on the sidewalk. Mr. Emery said he did not hear much of those complaints, but he did hear that sometimes when we plow against the curb we are building up snow on the sidewalks. Mr. Emery said when we went away for a trip, he just contacted his neighbor and asked if there was any significant snow fall, to please clear his driveway. He said it is just something that you do.

Committee Member Comments: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Fogt adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.