

Neighborhood Safety Patrol Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2007

2-202 Center for Science and Technology

Present: Donna Adams, Tony Callisto, Paul Dillon, Harry Lewis, Laura Madelone, John Sardino, Karen Ventrone and Bill Wicks

Absent: Joe Cecile, Cheryl Stanley and Norm Traino

Welcome: Karen Ventrone welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She asked Bill Wicks to introduce himself as he stood in for Joe Cecile, who was unable to attend due to a media conflict. Wicks is a member of SPD who works the NSP, generally on Saturday evenings.

Statistics: Laura Madelone reviewed the NSP statistics from the fall 2006-07 semester. It should be noted that some dates are missing and therefore the data may be skewed. She will share with the group statistics for the spring semester at its conclusion. Overall for the fall, Laura stated that the total calls for fall 06-07 have decreased compared to last year, but the number of cases through SU's Department of Public Safety has increased. Laura reported that most of the violations are from open containers. Laura and John Sardino are going to get together and go over any discrepancies on these statistics. Bill reminded NSP Advisory Committee members that SPD can make a referral to Judicial Affairs without making an arrest, and that most times, when the patrol breaks up a party, they only ticket one person.

Account Balances: Karen stated that Shawn Smith from SPD called her that morning and provided the account balances for each patrol through January 31, 2007. The weekday patrol funded by SPOA and Syracuse University has billed \$17,455.80 in services. The weekend patrol funded by UNSAAC as administered by SEUNA has billed \$28,675.95 in services. The weekend patrol was allotted \$57,000 in funding through UNSAAC this year, which would leave \$28,324.05 for February 1 – May 12, 2007. According to Karen's calculations, the weekend patrol account is scheduled to spend an additional \$19,888 through the end of the semester, if the SPD does not have a rate of pay increase. This would leave \$8436.05 remaining in the account. Harry Lewis, on behalf of SEUNA, stated that he would approve the request to the City's Department of Community Development to apply the remaining UNSAAC funds to the cost of the weekday patrol. The weekday patrol is scheduled to bill approximately \$12,496 in services through May 12, 2007. John has asked that the NSP Advisory Committee keep in regular contact with Shawn Smith to monitor the accounts through the end of the semester in the event extra coverage will be needed when the weather is improving.

Karen stated that she would put together some summaries of expenditures and projected spending and share with the Advisory Committee. She will also provide a scenario, based on the recommendation of Captain Paul Dillon, of what expenses will look like if SPD receives a rate of pay increase of 5%.

2006-07 Patrol Calendar: The NSP Advisory Committee reviewed the patrol calendar as it stands and made recommendations for changes.

- Laura asked about Spring Break and reducing the officer coverage to one officer. John and Paul discussed the idea of using two officers and patrolling for crime prevention and burglary details, like what was done over winter break. John plans to follow up with Joe Cecile and

schedule accordingly. Karen asked John to make certain that Joe stays within the budget that has been set aside for that time because the accounts cannot go over. Karen will send a copy of the budget to Joe for his knowledge in scheduling.

- Easter Weekend, April 6-7, could be reduced. John and Joe can explore this.
- Laura suggested changing coverage on Sunday, April 29th from one officer for 4 hours to two officers for 7 hours, like a Friday or Saturday evening because it is the last weekend before the end of classes. The weekend account would accommodate this. Karen will ask Joe to bill 4/29 to the UNSAAC account.
- It was also decided to turn May 10th into 2 officers at 7 hour shifts, similar to a Friday/Saturday patrol.
- Laura asked if there will be enough money remaining to cover May 13-17 or longer, when off-campus students are moving out. Karen will do some calculating and will keep in communication with Shawn Smith to see if this is possible.

Karen asked if there was any special event planned with students that would require extra coverage, such as Block Party Weekend (4/27-4/28), which the NSP has already planned for. John said that there was not.

Karen asked Bill and John if there are any behavior trends to report in the neighborhood. Both said that it has been quiet, most likely due to the weather, and that it should pick up in April. Bill confirmed that most of the tickets have been for open container and there haven't been many. They've been issuing more parking tickets.

Laura and John reported that the Adopt-A-Street students and DPS officers will be handing out safety information to students living off campus the weekend and early week prior to spring break.

New Business: Karen provided an update on the UNSAAC grant process. She stated that the committee recommended \$75,000 in funding for the NSP for 2007-08. She asked all members to please note that this amount has been recommended to the Common Council for approval. The Councilors have the opportunity to either approve the recommendation as is or make changes. Karen explained that some organizations that requested funding and were not awarded a recommendation by UNSAAC have been vocal about their disappointment to the Council, and Karen would not be surprised if the Common Council does not accept the recommendations as they stand. It was asked what will happen if the Council decides to change the grant recommendations and Karen said that anything can happen. The Council may wish to take from an organization that received funding to provide funding to the two groups who did not; therefore, it IS possible that the \$75,000 may be reduced. The Council also has the ability to wipe the entire recommendation clean and use the funds for various quality of life issues in the neighborhood. The fate remains to be seen, but the final approval will be given in conjunction with the City's Budget announcement. Last year, the Mayor's budget was released in mid-April for the July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 fiscal year. It is anticipated to know the NSP fate by the end of May.

Karen stated that she and Harry will monitor the situation carefully, and will reconvene the NSP Advisory Committee after the decision has been made to make recommendations to SPD and DPS on

how best to schedule details. She also mentioned that SPOA may or may not be on board next year with this program and she will have a conversation with Norm Traino to gauge the probability. She anticipates that it will depend on the status of the ongoing legal conflict they're involved in.

MISC: Paul Dillon stated he appreciated the assistance of the University, specifically, DPS, in alerting the students, faculty and staff of aggressive parking enforcement during the Valentine's Day storm. Paul said that it saved several cars from being towed.

Harry will be contacting John Sardino to schedule a ride-along.

Next meeting: Karen will call a meeting in June, after the completion of the academic year and after the City's budget has been established.