

Neighborhood Safety Commission  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
August 18, 2017

Present:

Trish Steiner  
Carlton Stott  
Glenn Melton  
Joel Cope  
Bud Stumbaugh  
Jeff Wood  
Carol Massey

There was not quorum present but the meeting proceeded as a special meeting of the NSC

It was announced that Director Heaton was going to be arriving at around 9 am

Glenn talked of the precinct discussion groups. Glenn's will meet next week and the one for Precinct 2 met 2 days ago.

Captain Farrell shared that the Faith Forum was held and it kicked off. Will be county wide. Supposed to be regular. 100 RSVPd but that many not there. Churches are important to the community and can get out and help

Captain Farrell mentioned that Chief Register brought this precinct discussion along and it will be by precinct and it will be 7 to 10 in a precinct. Chief brought the idea from Clayton County.

Carlton asked as to frequency and Dan said it is going to vary by precinct

Joel shared that the ours has met and it had 9 or 10

Carlton asked as to an audience and Joel explained that there is no audience

Glenn mentioned that there was a marijuana bust in west Cobb based on a tag issue

Dan explained that there is an opioid issue in west Cobb despite the common perception that it is a quiet area

Glenn clarified that this is specific to the police and Dan concurred.

Jeff said we at NSC did this years ago as a group with no agenda going in. Jeff said he applauded this

Captain Farrell said Chief is a great guy and more ideas are coming. He never sleeps and is always on the go

Captain Farrell said that there are a lot of issues and depending on what it is you chose what group you work with

Captain Farrell said people often live in a bubble

Carol asked how the rank and file are responding to all of these changes and Dan said they are responding well. He joked that the police often complain as to how things are and how they complain when things change. Lots of younger officers and they like the more community oriented approach

Carlton asked about park rangers and he wondered what we can do for them. Asked if fully part of Cobb PD and Dan said that they were

Glenn said he talked with Major Adcock and he seems like he is happy to be there in that part of south Cobb

Joel asked about the plans to protect against protests in Kennesaw and Captain Farrell spoke of the errors made in Charlottesville and how Cobb would be prepared

Captain Farrell talked of how social media a good thing but can be bad as people get riled up by 8 am over an issue

Director Heaton came in at 907 am

Director Heaton talked of precinct discussion group and Faith Forum and some restructuring

Chief is hard to keep up with as he is doing so much - all good stuff

911 had an increase of fees

In January 2019 State begins to take some of the new fees to redistribute. Comes from the Governor

Director Heaton learned that the BOC was going to take from Fire Fund and General Fund. Sam fought to protect against that but will take from General Fund. No money for replacement vehicles

In 2019, we in Cobb will start \$20M in the hole

One Commissioner suggested eliminating some services

Director Heaton has given the BOC a list of non essentials like Animal Control, Code Enforcement and Safety Village

Director Heaton is concerned that Fire Funds may be in jeopardy

Fire Funds pay just for fire

The County has to either increase millage or cut services or some combo of the two

If things stay as is, there is no merit increase in pay.

Director Heaton explained that starting pay did increase

Director Heaton said may look to stair stepped pay

Trish said that taking money from fire to general is like robbing Peter to pay Paul

Director Heaton said that he has 2 animal control vehicles with 300 K in miles on them and a senior van where you can see the pavement through the floor board of the vehicle

Carlton asked how many officers in 2015 on the rolls - 590. Capt. Farrell said it is now 650 with 35 openings remaining

Carlton asked for the argument for adding for officers and Director Heaton said it is growth of businesses and residents and what it takes to continue the same level of service.

Director Heaton has said that crime is slowly ticking up

Joel asked of an objective organization for the police like one has for schools and ISO for fire. Director Heaton pointed to CLIA and IACP

Glenn asked how much the Braves will play in our budget situation

Director Heaton said that the stadium overtime will most 900 K to 1 M and we knew that going in

The amount owed to the Braves is .13 Mills

Carlton said that Braves profits are up and Director Heaton pointed out that there is some discussion as to Braves paying more.

It will take 4 to 5 years before we really see the benefits

Director Heaton said Sandy Springs publicly apologized for making such flack on the traffic

Carlton said he was a critic but he has been converted

Bud pointed out how Braves ought to pay more transportation costs and pointed out the examples of churches with hiring off duty police on Sundays to help with their congregations

Trish asked as to recruitment of officers and Sam said we have gone from 120 to 35 vacancies and reduced classes to 3 a year

Carlton asked as to body art and Captain Farrell said that it has been not decided. Is some subjective as some seen, as ok.

Director Heaton talked of how he allowed some tattoos on officers within Fire, within reason

Tower is going up in Smyrna on Camp Highland and will help Smyrna and Cobb

Animal control going well

Emergency mgmt - Kathy doing well. Working hard when there is disaster recovery and when federal paperwork.

Jeff asked as to Faith Outreach and Safety Village and where it is going with active shooting. Director Heaton said that they are still doing individual training and shifting to the mass casualties with a van running

Director Heaton said all of the fans on Braves represent a scary security situation and he talked to DOT as to putting up more bollards. Tough to protect against terrorism

Carlton said if we train 2/10ths of one percent of safety then we can save a lot of lives

Commissioner Burrell briefly entered the meeting and thanked all of us for our service

CERT - training. Teaches you skills if a disaster happens. State and federal funds grant help to pay for

Trish pointed out that with grants you create positions but if grant goes away then the County has to come up with the money if you are going to keep the position

Nicole introduced herself to the group and she takes the place of Beth in Director Heaton's office

Meeting adjourned at 955 am