

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, 7/12/11, 4:15 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Dave Thomason, Gene Barner, Bonnie LaForest, Lauren Nelson, Jo Balda
Not Present: Ethelinda Larcena, Cathy Niiro, Beth Connors, Barbara Buchanan
Dept. Staff Present: Chief Rick Wallace, Martha Folsom
Also Present: Theresa Lazarraras, OHHS

The meeting was called to order by Thomason at 4:15 p.m. in the Police Department Conference Room.

Introductions: CAB members introduced themselves to Theresa Lazarraras. Thomason explained Theresa's attendance, saying that he had heard her speak at the High School and thought the CAB would be a good introduction for her because of her interest in law enforcement. Thomason was thinking of the High School student position, but that has been filled. He said that Theresa is welcome to attend CAB meetings if she so chooses.

AGENDA TOPICS

1. **May Minutes:** No discussion. LaForest moved to approve the May minutes, Balda seconded. Unanimous approval. The May minutes were approved as presented.

2. **Pertinent Updates:** Chief Wallace advised that there is not a lot to report. There have been a lot of calls, but no significant crimes, or real problems. The 4th of July is a busy time, and he doesn't have exact figures, but his take is that probably 50-60% of fireworks complaints were, in fact, about legal fireworks, which were probably mistaken for illegal. A change has occurred over the last five years or so from the old "Safe and Sane" fireworks, to "legal" fireworks, and the similarities to illegal fireworks are surprising, such as Roman Candles and Rockets, which are now legal. Citizens are frustrated with what they interpret to be a lack of response on our part, when we find that the fireworks they are complaining about are actually legal. In reply to a question from Thomason, Chief Wallace said that there is a list put out each year of legal and illegal fireworks, and you have to actually look at the description of the device and compare it to the list of illegal fireworks. The Fire Department does a good job researching and providing this list to us each year. Balda asked if it was legal to sell illegal fireworks, and Chief Wallace said it is legal to sell fireworks on the Reservations, which are illegal to possess off the reservation/s. Barner asked how one knows if they are purchasing legal fireworks (vs. illegal), and if it relates to where they are purchased, i.e., buy them here in town. Chief Wallace said yes, that fireworks sold here in town are legal and that the Fire Department inspects what is being sold. Nelson asked how many days after the 4th fireworks can be set off, and Chief Wallace thought that the time period was from noon on June 28th through midnight on either July 5th or 6th, and that it is a short time period.

Chief Wallace also advised that we are still down one authorized position. During the budget process, due to cuts, we agreed to hold off filling the vacancy until at least the end of June. We are watching the budget and going month-by-month now, as regards making a decision to fill the position if and when we have assurances that the budget is stabilizing, at least for the Police Department. In response to a question from Thomason, Chief Wallace advised that the vacancy was due to the retirement of a Sergeant last year, and then an officer was promoted to Sergeant, leaving a vacancy in the commissioned officer ranks. However, due to a personnel issue, and a reassignment, the vacancy will end up being in the Jail.

Thomason asked about the BB gun vandalism cases and the lead on suspects that we had. Chief Wallace said that we are fairly confident that we have identified the persons involved, and that all were in custody in California. They have since served their time there, and are now back in Oak Harbor, but we believe that they know that we suspect them. We have not had any more incidents, and don't know if it will start up again.

3. **National Night Out Sign-up's:** A sign-up sheet for National Night Out was passed around to CAB members.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. **Pioneer Way and Bones Found:** Nelson asked what was going on with this situation. Chief Wallace said that, once the bones were identified as Native American and quite old, the police involvement was reduced. State archeologists were brought in and they have notified eleven tribes in the area to see if they are interested in the process, and he believes five tribes have responded. There has been a public records request from one tribe. It is a matter of what direction the tribe/s want to take as to what happens next. It is too soon to tell, the situation is working its way through the legal mechanism. Nelson asked if construction had been halted, and Chief Wallace said yes.
2. **Bicycles on Sidewalks:** Balda asked if there were laws about bicyclists riding on sidewalks, and related some recent experiences she'd had, in the form of near accidents while she was driving. Chief Wallace said this is a gray area from the police point of view. Technically, bikes are not supposed to ride on the sidewalk, and they do have to yield the right of way to pedestrians. Bicyclists have the right to travel on the roadway. The gray area is that the law does not delineate between a child or an adult riding in the roadway, and we as a Police Department would not want to force a child off the sidewalk and into riding on the roadway. Clearly, if a bicyclist is riding in a manner which endangers a pedestrian, there is action that can be taken, but we would stay away from taking an action that would force a young person to ride in the road. In response to Balda's scenario, Chief Wallace said that the bicyclists should have yielded the right of way to her vehicle, and that bicyclists have to obey the rules of the road also. If an officer sees a bicyclist riding in a reckless manner, they can stop and issue a citation.
3. **National Night Out:** LaForest asked Chief Wallace if there was any specific information he wanted CAB members to pass along while talking with citizens at National Night Out, and Chief Wallace said he couldn't think of anything.
4. **CAB Minutes:** Barner asked if the CAB meeting minutes are made available in any other format (other than on paper), and if any information was on Channel 10. Discussion was held, and Folsom will get meeting information up on Channel 10, and will post Agendas and Minutes at the City's website. She will also find out about getting meeting notices put in the newspaper. LaForest mentioned a mother who used to attend CAB meetings frequently a few years back, and wondered how she learned of the meetings.
5. **High School Activity:** LaForest asked Nelson if there was anything going on at the High School, and Nelson said that school was out, so there was nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. on 7/12/11.

The next CAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9/13/2011 in the OHPD Conference Room.

Prepared by M. Folsom