

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, 5/10/11, 4:15 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Gene Barner, Barbara Buchanan, Cathy Niiro, Bonnie LaForest, Lauren Nelson, Jo Balda, Beth Connors, Ethelinda Larcena

Not Present: Dave Thomason

Dept. Staff Present: Chief Rick Wallace, Martha Folsom

The meeting was called to order by Balda at 4:12 p.m. in the Police Department Conference Room.

**AGENDA TOPICS**

1. **March Minutes:** There was no discussion, the March minutes were approved as presented.
2. **Pertinent Updates:** Chief Wallace invited new Board member Gene Barner to introduce himself. Barner is originally from Virginia, was a flight officer in the Navy, and moved to Oak Harbor in 1998 with an EA6B squadron. He got out in 2003 and went immediately to Edward Jones Investments in Oak Harbor. He moved to Arizona for a time a few years back, and came back to Oak Harbor in 2009, and put his Edward Jones team back together. They are now located in the Real Estate office building in front of the Elks Lodge. He saw the advertising for the CAB vacancy through the Chamber electronic newsletter and, after reading about it, found that it was something he was interested in. He is happy to be here, and to meet everyone, and he is planning to just get a feel for things and grow into this. The CAB members then introduced themselves to Barner.

Chief Wallace advised that the promotional exam for Sergeant was conducted last month, and Detective Mike Bailey has been promoted to Sergeant effective May 16<sup>th</sup>. We are now fully staffed at the Sergeant level and are short one in the police officer ranks, due to the promotion. As part of the negotiations during the budget process for 2011, we are holding off until June or so for filling the vacancy, and will review the budget at that time.

Chief Wallace also discussed the recent rash of cases where person or persons shot out many vehicle windows with BB guns. He said there were probably 70 cases or more, and \$30,000 in damages. We have leads in the cases, and we think we know who it is – now we just have to prove it. Officers have been working hard on these cases.

Balda asked how Holland Happening went (with the construction downtown), and Chief Wallace said the feedback overall was positive. LaForest said she felt it was pretty well done, and that crews did a good job preparing the downtown area for the activities.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

1. **Panhandler at Safeway:** Balda wanted to correct her statements at the last meeting - the panhandler she was asking questions about was at the entrance to Safeway. She still thinks the he was “in the way” however. Chief Wallace said that we have had some complaints about him/them, and that the “triangle” area there is public property, an extension of the sidewalk, and they can legally be there. They cannot block pedestrian traffic. They also, obviously, cannot stand in the roadway.
2. **Pioneer Way Construction:** Barner asked what, if any, impact we have seen from the Pioneer Way construction, if there has been any negative fallout with the businesses down there, especially at night with anything going on. Chief Wallace said that we have not seen an increase in problems. We have not had any uptick in calls for service as a result of the construction.

3. **Bright Headlights**: Nelson said that her grandmother told her about a car she had seen with really bright – almost blinding – headlights, which also appeared to have some sort of pink “shade” pulled over the headlights, and wondered if this was illegal. Chief Wallace said that it is, you cannot obscure or modify headlights in any way.
4. **“Grandparent” Scam**: Buchanan said she was at her elderly parents’ home recently, when a person called and pretended to be their grandson, by asking for “Grandma”. She said she ended up taking the phone and played along for a bit with the caller, who ended up asking for money. She then told the caller not to call again. Buchanan said that her husband’s parents also received a similar call, and Chief Wallace said his mother did also. It seems to be a fairly common telephone scam.
5. **Vandalism - Graffiti**: Barner asked if we had seen an uptick in vandalism incidents, in the form of graffiti, as he had seen some in an unusual place recently. Chief Wallace said there’s been no uptick, and that we don’t have much of a graffiti problem. He said one of the functions of our *Citizens On Patrol* is to contact the property owner when they find graffiti, so the owner can eliminate the graffiti as soon as possible. Barner said that, in Arizona, the stores have the spray paint locked up. Chief Wallace said that our store personnel are pretty proactive about spray paint sales and youth.
6. **Purchase of BB’s**: LaForest asked if it was illegal to purchase BB’s, and if they were kept locked up. Chief Wallace said it is not illegal. Balda asked if someone keeps track of who buys BB’s, and Chief Wallace said it is not required. He said one of the first things we did after the rash of vehicle window BB shootings was to check with local stores, and ask them to keep an eye out.
7. **Public Feedback to the Board**: Barner asked what, over the years, have been the best sources of getting feedback from the public (to the Board). Chief Wallace said that he didn’t think there was one single source, but many. He said that when we do have something of community concern, the Board has been very helpful to citizens. He said that most citizens do not hesitate to come in (to the department) and file a complaint, or to recognize good work done by one of the officers. He said that, “when something happens”, the Board’s role is critical.
8. **National Night Out**: LaForest asked if we had any increased activity, contacts, or surveys returned from the CAB’s activities at National Night Out last year. Chief Wallace said he did not believe there was. He said that outreach is important, and that he feels that people know of the CAB’s existence. Connors asked when National Night Out is this year. It is on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and is always the first Tuesday in August.
9. **Drug Take Back Day**: Buchanan said that she (and Balda) worked the Drug Take Back Day activities in the OHPD Lobby on April 30th. She said that people who came in seemed very appreciative, and Balda agreed. Chief Wallace said it was successful, and that we took in about 220 lbs.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m. on 5/10/11.

The next CAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7/12/2011 at the CST office.

Prepared by M. Folsom