

Pioneer Park Task Force
September 17, 2019

Attendees

- Jerry Kessler, Officer Ben Milam, Shauna Kerr, Linda and Perry Moler, Maggie Gordon, Brent Cromley, John Armstrong, Janice Kessler, Kathy Keepers, Jo Keepers, Karen Share, Maryann Moorhead, Anna O'Donnell, Kendra Shaw, Clayton Sorenson, MarCee Neary, Greg McManus, Mark Goldy, Gary Foss, Chantel Rochin, Mike Yakawich

Meeting called to order

- Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Minutes

- Brent moved to approve the minutes. Someone seconded. Minutes passed unanimously.

Introduction of Officer Ben Milam/BPD

- milamb@billingsmt.gov
- Crime analyst is on vacation so August stats are not up to date yet
- In July crime was up
- 156 calls for service
- 10-12 traffic stops- let Ben know if there are problem areas where people are driving too fast
- Crime
 - Below most other task force areas
 - Google Search monthly task force reports for Billings and the documents will be updated for monthly crime reports
 - Ben has been here a lot in the last month, crime feels like its gone up
 - More break-ins, domestic assault, transient related
 - Many crimes of opportunity
- The neighborhood has a ton of speeding after football games in the neighborhood
- The crime stats are not adjusted per capita so this neighborhood could have more crime than it appears
- The Mountain Lions in town will be taken care of if they are in people's neighborhoods
- There are people sitting at the park every night, and Officer Milam encouraged calling the police so they have reason to address that issue
- Important numbers:
 - **657-8200**- Non-emergency dispatch line
 - **247-8590**- Crime Prevention Center
 - **237-6146**- Code Enforcement

City Council Report

- Mike Yakawich reported that city Council is discussing considering making downtown streets 2-way to slow down traffic

- Aquatic Center is moving forward in Amend Park. There is TIF money to build it, but not yet money to manage it. They are considering building it step-by-step so some amenities can be available sooner. There will be more athletic activities than just swimming there.
- Dehler Park may get improvements soon, potentially build a playground with the owners of the Mustangs
- Please call Mr. Cromley and Yakawich if you have problems that aren't being resolved after you call the numbers above
- October 2, Northern Hotel, 8am Community-Wide event on "Crime in our Community"
- September 24th, Metra, Chamber is putting on a Public Safety Meeting
- Mr. Yakawich encouraged getting in touch with the owners of houses that are abandoned, call code enforcement, or come to quarterly city council meetings and submit public comment

City Council Candidates

- John Armstrong
- Kendra Shaw
- Issues that are important to our neighborhood
 - Better lights
 - Communication with neighbors- neighborhood watch
- Neighborhood Social Media
 - Take pictures of suspicious activity, vehicles
 - NextDoor is what we use in this neighborhood
- Community Innovations is a group that's been working to address the transient population in Billings for 4 years. They will be meeting on September 18 at the Library at 3 pm

New Business

- Crisis Center- MarCee Neary- 259-8800
 - Substance Abuse Connect is a group of non-profits in Billings working to address the transient population in Billings to figure out how to reduce the jail population so that the ones who are making the community unsafe are the ones in jail, rather than lesser offenders
 - There are a group of "untouchables" in Billings who are not here for any of the services being provided, they are mostly partying and participating in crime
 - Open 24-7
 - Would be willing to open a tour for the TF to go through the Crisis Center
- November 12 will be the next TF meeting
- Jerry Kessler will be retiring as the chairman, we need a new one
- Jerry had info on how to form a Neighborhood Watch Committee

Adjourn

- Linda moved to adjourn, Perry seconded.

-Respectfully submitted, Maggie Gordon, Secretary