POLICE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 29, 2012
MILLHOPPER BRANCH LIBRARY
6:00 – 7:30 P.M.
MINUTES

Attendees
Bob Cohen
Bruce Delaney
Norb Dunkel
Juanita Miles-Hamilton
Jaquie Resnick
Albert White

Absent
Rosa Williams

1) Call to Order – Chair Albert White
The meeting was called to order at 6:10.

2) Approval of Minutes
The minutes from the September 27, 2012 PAC meeting were approved as submitted.

3) Update on GPD Issues from Chief Jones
a. Two of the PAC members (Resnick and Cohen) attended a Disparity Minority Over Representation Meeting with the representative from Washington, D.C. on the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction Project. The Gainesville Police Department won the grant (only one other city in the US received this grant) to study and train on ways to keep minor youth out of the Justice System.

b. The Reichert House Youth Academy received a Department of Education grant to add two additional portable classrooms to accommodate elementary school age youth. At the present time the Reichert House is mixing elementary and middle school age groups. The high school level has its own wing. The two new classrooms will be “smart rooms.”

c. Last year the Chief started a new BOLD Program for 18-24 year old young men who already have police records. The Program helps them learn life skills, take online classes, learn a trade, and get help finding jobs. There are currently twenty-four members in the Program. Five of the members have already been employed. In the near future the Unit will move in to the old Seminary Lane office. They are doing all of the cleanup and restoration themselves.

d. Due to the deconstruction and construction of the GPD 721 Building, staff will have to move the Forensics Unit’s two portable offices and lab from the eastside parking lot at the Administration Building to the old Banks dentist office, which the City owns. This will be the location of the Unit until the new building is complete.

e. GPD found out after the bids for the new building were complete that this did not include furniture for the new building, and this has caused some concerns. Thanks to former City Commissioner Scherwin Henry, an extra $300,000 was put aside for the building project, which will help.
f. GPD received a $20,000 grant from Fire House Subs this month. With the grant, GPD will be able to purchase one dog for the Canine Unit and some portable AED’s for some of our supervisor’s vehicles; officers often get to accident scenes before EMS.

g. GPD is hosting the Regional Explorers Conference in January. The Explorers will be taken on a tour of UF, attend training classes, and receive demonstrations.

h. GPD’s theme for 2013 is “Back Out In The Community.” We reduced crime 3% last year from the previous year and he wants to do that again. He wants GPD to become tactically driven and would like more input from the PAC.

i. The Staffing Study has been delayed with some questions regarding operating procedures. He has asked PERF (doing the study) to come to Gainesville in January to present their findings to the officers at shift briefings and to the PAC.

j. Reichert House received a grant from the Plum Creek Corporation. This grant will be used for academics.

4) Public Comment

a. Crime Prevention Officer Nicole Tierney discussed GPD’s upcoming “Heroes and Helpers” Christmas gift shopping for area elementary school students. This project used to be called “Shop With A Cop” but the title has recently been patented by a marketing corporation. Area schools choose one child based on merit and circumstances and they are paired with a GPD officer. The Target Store in Gainesville has been wonderful to partner with GPD and open their doors for the event, plus they give each child a gift bag. The children are given $100 each, donated by businesses, citizens, and employees. Beef O’Grady’s is providing lunch for the officers and children. The Department plans to do more fundraising in 2013 for this annual event in hopes of being able to help more children next year. The Starke Police Department shops with 150 children each year and gives them all $150 each to spend; GPD would like to grow their program to that level. Last year was GPD’s first time to participate in this program and half of the money came from the community and the other half from a grant. This year the Department has started a new holiday program called “Silver Santa” to provide gifts to senior citizens who are in need and may not have family to help them out. Chair White stated he thinks Plum Creek would be interested in donating to these programs next year. Member Resnick asked how the community can find out about these programs. Officer Tierney stated that the Crime Prevention Officers send out requests for help to crime watch group and they send the information out to the media.

b. Citizen Donald Shepherd, potential Mayoral candidate, spoke on issues in the Lamplighter Mobile Home Park. Chair White, along with Chief Jones, gave Mr. Shepherd information on agencies that could help the neighborhood. Chief Jones will have the Crime Prevention Officer for that area to contact Mr. Shepherd to discuss starting a crime watch group in the neighborhood as well.

5) Member Comment

a. Member Dunkel asked if there was a contingency fund for the police building construction. If that is not needed for the building it could be used for other things the Department needs. Chief Jones says yes, the City did build in the contingency.

b. Member Cohen stated he went on the Chief’s Walk in the Pleasant Street area. It was very informative. He commented that when he and Member Resnick met with the DMC group, they saw some needs that they face as a committee (PAC); these were real issues. He asked about the Department of Juvenile Justice’s Roadmap to Success town hall meeting.
Chief Jones explained that the new DJJ Secretary was once on the staff of the Miami-Dade Police Department and has a lot of law enforcement experience. During her town hall meeting around the State she is getting buy-in for prevention and rethinking how to keep kids out of jail.

c. Member Resnick said the DMC stakeholders were a very engaged group.

d. Member Delaney said he was recently in the Pleasant Street area and saw some homes that were kept up very well, while others were very run down and in poor condition. He asked how does Codes Enforcement let bad house stay. Chief Jones commented that Codes personnel go along on his monthly walks in neighborhoods and during the Pleasant Street Walk they flagged several houses in that area.

e. Member Cohen stated that the Police Department needs an administrative position or director of development to coordinate fundraising for the Department’s programs.

f. Chair White stated he was glad the BOLD Program had been created. He wants to see the Program succeed. Chief Jones said he had not been the originator of the idea for this program; Retired Ocala PD Chief Sam Williams created Project Phoenix in Ocala for this same age group.

9) Next Meeting Date
The next schedule meeting will be on January 24, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the GPD Headquarters.

10) Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.