

Meeting Minutes: May 8, 2019

Location: Cecile Center, 174 W. Seneca Turnpike

Facilitator: Marilyn Madison

Meeting began at 7:03 pm and welcome and introductions commenced.

1. **Welcome:**

2. **Minutes:** April , 2019, draft meeting minutes were reviewed: Carl Sharak moved to approve the minutes with one change to add an o to the first reference of Joe Romano's name. Tina Giblin moved to 2nd and the minutes were approved by voice vote with no objections.

3. **Public Officials: Syracuse Police** Captain Steve Lynch provided a crime report for the area. Burglaries in vacant houses are becoming a problem with pipes stolen. Captain asked people to call if they see activity at vacant homes, better safe than sorry. A contractor van may be a theft. Shots fired calls have come in but no scene is located. Several on the list were examples of that. One shooting on West Colvin, one on Shirley Drive. Criminal mischief to vehicles is not in a pattern, 18 total since April 1. Two on West Mattson, different nights. Lt. Souva, Christopher Guy may be filling in at these meetings. If you hear something do call. City police have ticketed some trucks on Dorwin Avenue. Some question about whether the Dorwin Avenue speed reader is working. Shirley Avenue has had a problem with trucks taking out utility lines has ripped siding off a house there. Four wheelers and dirt bike near Van Duyn on the sports fields. Bikers are coming from a home on Evalene. Councilor Tim Rudd asked if the department has drones to track the four wheelers. The bollards used to block the path also prevent people from using the path as planned.

Police Chief Kenton Buckner: Good evening, pleasure to be here. Capt. Lynch opened up for us and talked about the zones. It's not often that we will be able to have face to questions so I'll take time. Carl Sharak asked if community police trailer would return to Valley Plaza. Chief said having officers in one spot is not efficient, but have too much going on to have an officer at a site. Carl we had a volunteer there. Carolyn they were not stationary in that office, but at school dismissals they were around, escorted librarians to their cars. It wasn't where they sat, it was where their cars sat. Chief said we don't have the resources to assure that there was someone assigned to any specific spot at any specific time. Two thirds of our community police retired. Sometimes there are people waiting hours for a response to a call for service. We are putting as many as possible into service on the street. My most precious resource is my personnel. We're trying to figure out how to be more efficient with our. Partnership, problem solving and prevention. There are a lot of different hats to wear, but it has to be an overall understanding of the department as a whole. Tina noted that there is still access to the police. If Capt. Lynch couldn't be here there would have been someone else here. Capt. Lynch said he may send other lieutenants to the meeting. Both are off tonight and two cars working this area are responding to a domestic dispute with weapons. Chief Buckner said I want to get the highest ranking person to attend meetings. They are able to get it responded. Marilyn officers who work overtime for SU or Destiny who pays for them. Chief Buckner said that the department is reimbursed for traffic control at SU, Destiny contracts with officers. Airport is another example that pays officers directly. Chief would like more groups to pay for extraordinary service, but still keep this as a destination city. Carl as city resources shrink, is the police department shrinking. Staffing in future. Chief I don't 463 officer authorized. Council approved funding for all those, but it takes a minimum of 36 weeks from starting an officer in the academy until they can respond to a call on their own. 6 month hiring process. Getting the classes up to fill attrition. A lot of young officers and a lot of retirement eligible. We're fully funded. Goal to get within one class of attrition. May 21 class of 37 starts 62-65 vacancies. Emad retention rate, Chief variables, including retirement calculation, it's not beneficial to stay at one level. Capt. Lynch hired in 1993 1-60 every year you stay after 20 years 50 percent of best max out at 70 percent. Stopped it in 1994 or 1995, different tier must contribute to pension. Chief across the country departments are getting out of the pension plans, going to 401k, 57b type programs. The only carrot I have is pension and benefits. Tim Rudd those changes make it hard to afford for a city like ours. Payments overtime counts toward the pension. Diversity recruitment obstacles? Poligraph use. Based on observation of this hiring process 400 applicants end up 37-39 that make it through vetting. We have a high threshold, and think it should remain high. Always opportunities to improve. To get more minority investigators need more in the pipeline. One minority sergeant to have one in the room. Times 10 when the 7 interviewing you don't look like you. We have to reach our kids sooner to talk about decision makng, social media, good credit. Building relationship with PSLA at Fowler. That takes time to do that. 20.5 a ear. Panel of questioners considered for state job, only one woman in the panel. If you are a part of the majority you're thinking what different does it make. Hazel Walker in Louisville said our deputy chief is black. I will have a chance to excell in that agency. Male dominated profession. Middle school police presence 7th 8th grade is where they start getting into trouble. DARE program in middle schools. 10 in high schools. Ropes course. We will do as much

as we can, but to tell you that we have resources to do that. We're being asked to do too much, lean on Boys and Girls clubs, ministry, parents. We can't do it all. We still have a DARE program that go to different schools. A lot of agencies went away from DARE numbers showed it was not effective. Tina quality of life, good area here, but loud music, four wheelers. Police are always where the fires are but for the smaller issues. That's been a challenge for a long time. We try to ID individuals and intervene to check the vehicle, check ownership, That won't solve the issue long-term. Many underage. Hard to engage individuals, won't pursue them because if hit in a chase the reward isn't worth the risk. That will remain a challenge until people are more responsible with their kids. Photos to hold parents responsible. Lts will try to address it as soon as possible.

4. **County Legislator** Miles Bottrill passed Cougars resolution Wild cat basketball, appropriated dollars for the Creek Walk? Deborah Lewis talked about lead issues compelling discussion about lead. Coming up with a plan for houses in community. Need to get landlord to follow up. Walk around Van Duyn and path bridge overgrowth, wonderful resource, but we want to make sure it's nice. Survey about lead, if someone I don't know, I'm not going to talk Syracuse Lead Coalition working with Van Duyn. It's not a county entity. Marilyn TNT will be involved with that to inform people.
5. **Common Council** – Tim Rudd we approved the budget, amended it to keep it under the 2 percent. You will still pay a bit more. Carl re staffing 463 or more than 500 people, an infusion of cash from Washington. In general the headcount hasn't changed recently. Effort to get officers residents. Tim Rudd is in negotiations with police, residency is an issue, but PBA fights it. There are a lot of labor limits. They can't strike, so we can't. There are a lot of interesting items, money to wear bodycameras, work schedule, Negotiations begin next week. Fire department got a five year residency requirement. Marilyn very concerned about safety..
6. **Committee Reports**
Beautification, We're out weeding, sign for the sculpture is here at Parks Department, but needs to go in. \
7. **Planning**: Ameus house to Glen Ave has been approved.
8. **Parks, and Planning committees had no updates from last month.**
9. **TNT Citywide Board update** – Dee Klees noted that the board had made the change to two voting delegates for each sector..TNT moved into the Neighborhood and Business Development.
10. **Tick and Deer Management Advisory Group**: Advisory group of residents and staff to come up with a plan for urban deer and tick concerns. Six or 7 residents on the committee involved in their own neighborhoods to address the issue. It has become a priority of the mayor's office to get it going in 2019. Eastern suburbs and Western suburbs are most active. I see deer in many other places. So want to reach out to other neighborhoods. The plan should be representative of all neighborhoods. Distributed survey to get information about this part of the city. Put contact info on if you May 21 information meeting at Corcoran HS wildlife biologist to talk about urban deer management and how to protect yourself against tick bites. Most of it will be a Q&A session. 6 p.m. at Corcoran. News release went out, cooperative extension will be involved. In Auditorium.
11. **Special Projects** There's a \$52 overrun and \$65 left over in projects budget. Carl moves to use funds to pay overage. Will be helping with helping painting the bridges. Volunteering to paint the bridges. Caroline second. Passed with no opposition. for it.
12. **Announcements & School Notices:**
Meet and Greet: George Matthews said there is a need to get councilors to the meet and greet before the 5 p.m. Wednesday **June 12 TNT meeting**. Mayor will be here.
MAPA meeting next Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
MAPA Tailgate sale: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 15 at Meachem Field parking area off West Seneca Turnpike
Barb Rowser with deer ended up in retention basin.
ELMS seventh grade night will be the first Thursday in June and TNT can set up a table with information on the TNT. Lisa from ELMS will send invitations by email. Volunteer service with each project. Planted trees.
.Webster Pond Fishing: Kids fishing program begins first Saturday in April 6. The program lasts until September. Junior fishing on Saturday mornings. June 4 veterans fishing day from VA hospital.
Library May 29 6 to 7 p.m. master gardeners on cacti
In June bulb planting info Movie series. ELM 1200 lbs of garbage picked up. E nights for 7th graders 5:30 to 7:30.
13. **Adjournment**: Dee moved to adjourn at 8:11 p.m., Marily 2nd, All in favor, no objections.

Next TNT Meeting: June 12th 2019