



City of Ridgecrest
100 W. California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
499-5105

A.C.T.I.O.N. Task Force
Kerr McGee Community Center Meeting Rooms
May 14, 2007
6:00 pm

Minutes

Committee Members: City Councilman Ron Carter, City Councilman Dan Clark, Chief of Police Mike Avery

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by City Councilman Dan Clark.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Moved by Council Member Clark, second by Chief Avery, to APPROVE THE MINUTES for March 12, 2007. Carried with a voice vote of 3 ayes.

INTRODUCTIONS – Introductions were made by each participant at the committee meeting. Bryan Williams, Representative from Jean Fuller’s office was in attendance. All schools from Sierra Sands Unified School District were also in attendance.

UPDATES ON STRATEGY/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. School Reports –

a. Representatives from all the schools were in agreement that over the last two years new families are moving into our community and that some of the students act like a gang. The District has been working with parents and students who have displayed this behavior to let them know this sort of behavior is unacceptable within our community. At this time, the students who are moving in and acting like a gang, stand out and tend to be different. If there has been any type of recruitment, it is and has been unsuccessful. Officer Franco has been doing an excellent job of checking into anything suspicious with students who are displaying colors or talking about gangs.

b. Campus Cop – Officer Lisa Franco and Officer Aaron Miller – At the Middle schools, our youth see kids who are dressing or displaying colors, out of the norm and most of the kids aren’t interested in it. At the last Fair a group of young adults dressed like gang members and this made students feel uncomfortable. We need to keep the Youth of the community involved in our efforts and apprised of the situation. Officer Franco has seen the differences or division between the youth who have been in the community for a length of time and students coming into the area. It was also discussed if there needs to be an officer needs to be a Burroughs during the summer classes. No action was taken.

c. Pro-enforcement Team – Chief Avery informed the group that he will be activating the PET Team to help reduce any recruitment over the summer months. Also, this will help with the theory of idle hands and idle time can cause problems.

2. Neighborhood Watch –

a. A citizen asked if anyone could comment on parolees coming here from Los Angeles County. The citizen has heard that parolees were being told that they could come here because housing was cheaper. Council Member Clark stated that when we get monies for projects, sometimes the City of Ridgecrest has to offer lower

income housing. He couldn't confirm that parolees were given information about the housing as they were being released from jail.

b. PACT Coordinator – The Ridgecrest Police Department is accepting applications for the position of a PACT Coordinator. As soon as the position is filled, the coordinator will start working on a Neighborhood Watch program. This program takes a lot of effort on community members to go from house to house and notify neighbors that a program is being developed. We need to seek volunteers to be Block Captains. City organizations need to be involved. Louis Renner, President of the Retired Federal Employees will place information in the monthly newsletter that 600 community members receive. Some community members were concerned about the elderly and the possibility that all incidents were not being reported to the Police Department. Chief Avery stated that it was important that every community member use their eyes and ears and to be looking out for our neighbors.

3. **Youth Advisory** – The Youth Advisory Committee hosted a Town Hall meeting on May 8, 2007. They came up with their own strategies and recommendations. You can find this information in the ACTION Plan that will be distributed later this evening.

4. **Churches** – Jean Throckmorton was unable to attend.

5. STRATEGY SEGMENT

a. Implement Neighborhood Watch Block Captains

b. Youth Employment Incentive Program – Council Member Clark suggested that we invite the Chamber of Commerce and the business community to see if the committee can't encourage youth incentive programs.

c. Tracking Transient Students

e. Conduct Town Hall meeting – The committee along with the Youth Advisory Committee have conducted the Town Hall meetings and Christine Destry has produced a document for the ACTION PLAN.

f. Research Other Communities and Liberate Successful Programs -

e. Big Brother and Sister Program for at Risk Youth - Youth loved this idea

g. Encourage Church Mentors – Look at different programs and models

h. 50/50 Block Grant for 07/08 Budget – The City of Ridgecrest budget is in discussion right now and we will be speaking to the issue at the budget hearings. If you feel you can speak on this subject, Council Member Clark encouraged committee members to speak of the issues that the ACTION Committee

i. Explore Grant Opportunities – The Elks Lodge has a grant that could possibly be helpful to the committee.

7. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

a. Challenge Program – Viewed the DVD and lead a discussion. It was asked by several school members to show the DVD to the Youth Advisory Committee to see if the committee thought it would be helpful with the youth. The “walk across the line” exercise could be used within our community and we might be able to get an organization to help with this. One committee member felt that the DVD didn't address the issue of our young people. He felt that the heart of our young people needed to be addressed and that the DVD didn't do this.

8. Town Hall Meeting

1. Copies of the ACTION Plan were distributed to all committee members.

2. Council Member Clark asked each member to review that data to be discussed at the next meeting.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Discussion of summer meetings - the committee decided that we will meet on June 11, 2007.

10. **ADJOURNMENT** – The official meeting was adjourned by Council Member Dan Clark at 7:35 pm with a motion by Council Member Ron Carter, second by Chief Avery, all in favor.