

WILSON/ DEERFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(WDAC)
VIRTUAL MEETING
September 23, 2021
Regular Meeting

APPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alvin Bingham called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Present were committee members, Tyler Cote, Lakisha Hyatt, Kathleen Woodward, and Charles Jackson. Absent: Karen Zak and Kim McCloud.

Staff: Jim Burke, Economic Development Director; Lauri Volkert, Fire Inspector and Flavia Rey de Castro, Community Development Specialist;

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Community Risk Reduction

Volkert presented on Community Risk Reduction, focusing on the Wilson and Deerfield neighborhoods. In her presentation, she introduced the Building and Fire Safety Department's efforts to reduce risks in the community highlighting the ways in which data drives their strategies. She explained that risk is evaluated through key social, economic, demographic, geographic, etc. statistical indicators. Volkert then presented some of these key indicators showcasing the level of risk at the Wilson and Deerfield neighborhoods. While the data pointed to neighborhood improvements over the past few years (such as an increased median income per household and lower unit vacancy rates), a relatively high level of risk remains in both these neighborhoods (such as the age of the home and median household income). She then compared these statistics with data from emergency responses over the past 5 years. Volkert pointed out ways in which emergency call data supported findings from statistical analysis (i.e. calls for furnace malfunction vs. concentration of homes built before 1940). Jackson noted that he recently replaced his 40/50 year old furnace and believes many homes in the neighborhood have outdated heating units. To finish the discussion, Volkert asked for feedback from committee members. Bingham noted that the analysis presented was helpful and asked how WDAC could help to reduce risk. Volkert highlighted the importance of making fire prevention a grassroots effort. She noted that the committee could provide feedback on their experiences of where risks and hazards lie. She also indicated that assistance with outreach would be of help as well. Bingham suggested to provide realtors with new homeowner packets and for these to include information on home maintenance and risk management. Jackson noted that neighborhood watch groups could be

of assistance in delivering these packets to new homeowners. Bingham recommended to rely on senior services to share some of this information and to do outreach at the Wilson library. Volkert indicated that currently the Fire Marshall's Office is utilizing social media to disseminate information on fire safety but is also exploring other ways to share this information.

b) Updates Neighborhood Cleanup Subcommittee

Rey de Castro reminded everyone that the cleanup event will take place on October 2nd from 10A.M -12P.M. She indicated yard signs and fliers had been placed throughout the Wilson neighborhood and that the town was posting about the event on social media. She also noted that the sub-committee had secured a sponsorship from the New Kebab House. Rey de Castro indicated there were three people signed up for the event thus far and encouraged committee members to send their contacts to the event's webpage so that volunteers have the choice to sign up to a WDAC listserv. She also noted that the sub-committee will have one final meeting on September 28 before the event takes place.

4. ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jackson noted that the Police Department has a newly created task force. He asked if the committee was interested in talking with the Police Chief to see how WDAC can either assist these efforts or to get an update from him. He highlighted recent car thefts in the area and noted he was hoping for a coordinated effort to address the issue. Hyatt suggested it would be beneficial to invite the police department for regular updates. Jackson indicated he would like to have the Police Chief join WDAC meetings at least once a year. Hyatt mentioned that she recently became aware of resources to tackle speeding issues and that she was interested in advocating for some of those to be utilized in Wilson.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Rey de Castro updated committee members on town-wide COVID-19 vaccination rates for the total population and for eligible population. She also provided information on upcoming Youth Services and Wilson Library Program.

6. APPROVAL OF 7/22/21 MINUTES

Jackson moved to accept the 7/22/21 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Hyatt.

Motion passed 5-0-0

7. ADJOURNMENT

Jackson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12PM.

