

**HARBISON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
Crime Prevention Committee Meeting  
August 6, 2020**

**Note: In view of the concerns expressed by some Residents at the June 30, 2020 HCA Board of Director's Meeting regarding crime occurring in areas surrounding the greater Columbia area, the Board established a "Crime Prevention Committee" to look into crime prevention processes that would pertain to the Harbison area.**

**Due to the COVID-19 Virus it was decided to hold the first meeting by way of a Zoom Video Conference Call on the above date at 1:30pm.**

Committee Members present were Mr. Hank West (President of HCA Board of Directors), Staff Employees Dave Grove, Betty Brooks and Danell Gunter, Amber Lawson (Avenue at Harbison), Tammy Pierce (Resident), Mackenzie Fontaine (Columbiana Centre) and Capt. Kellie Yates (Columbia Police Dept.). Committee Members unable to attend were as follows: Benjie Friday, Cheryl Deas Johnson and Joie Lemacks.

Following Introductions – Mr. West briefly reemphasized the purpose of the Committee with specific reference to summarize the status of issues brought up at the June HCA Board meeting – and to discuss where we go from here.

Mr. West stated that Harbison is a very diverse community – in that we do not have a single entrance to one community but we have multiple number of entrances (to the subdivisions) which from a security perspective - are hard to monitor. In addition, we have many trails (walking trails) that are hard to provide security – but there has been progress made already in providing better security on the trails.

A meeting has been held with SCE&G (Dominion Energy now) to install 7 lights on a portion of our trails where there are none at the present time. These would be LED lights which are much more efficient, and new fiberglass poles, instead of the old wood poles. Dave Grove is working with Dominion and we hope to have an Agreement where all the lights (approx. 1,000) in Harbison will be replaced over time. The LED lights have much better visibility (which should improve security on the walking trails). In addition, the new poles would have the capability of having cameras attached to them (wiring is there) if HCA desired to have this done at a later date.

Tammy Pierce indicated that she has a friend who works at Home Depot and he is very knowledgeable about security cameras. She thought he would be willing to come to Harbison and share his knowledge with us on adding cameras on the trails – if we requested. Cameras would allow us to go back and check (the footage) if something happened.

As noted in the June Meeting, Mr. West stated that brush cleaning along the trails needed to be done and while that has been ongoing – we have increased our efforts. Vines, tree branches are being cut and that will also improve safety by improving visibility.

We are still working on a sign system that will help a person on the trail to identify where they are - in case they need help. In fact, we hope to be able to design a pamphlet that will show the trails and police jurisdictions. Discussion revealed that if someone has Google on their cell phone, they can pull up the Harbison Trails and it will show their location. However, the police may not be able to tell where they are so that is where the signs come into place. Dave Grove explained that the best option at this time seems to be a sign (example) that would be located on the trail where a connecting trail goes to a street. Example: an individual calls the police for assistance and gives their location as – the end of Cape Flattery Court. We will have a follow-up report on trail signs at our next meeting.

Dave explained that Danell ("D") Gunter had done a lot of research on call boxes, to be located on the trails, and discovered that communities are getting away from Call Boxes due to vandalism and expense (\$4,500 - \$6,000 each plus monthly maintenance fees) and the fact that cell phones are mor in use. NOTE: The Committee seemed to agree that call boxes for the trails would not be a good idea at this time.

Ms. Betty ("Cookie") Brooks explained that in a recent meeting with Law enforcement – it was revealed that the areas surrounding Harbison Gardens, Beacon Hill, involve different law enforcement jurisdictional areas and while Law Enforcement understood their areas of operation, residents were not as clear. Ms. Brooks produced a map outlining the various police jurisdictions and she planned to have it updated with current phone numbers. The map would be placed on the HCA web site and distributed to residents. Ms. Mackenzie Fontaine said it would be good if people had something on their refrigerator – like a refrigerator magnet – that would tell them who to call in case of an emergency. The Harbison Newsletter and Facebook page could be other means to communicate to residents emergency numbers and police jurisdictions. NOTE: The Committee seemed to agree that many people are not willing to give out their phone numbers or email addresses. Capt. Kellie Yates indicated that she would use her resources in the City of Columbia to assist in producing a map – at least – indicating her areas of jurisdiction. Capt. Yates indicated that several law enforcement areas have their own dispatching teams which sometimes adds to the delay in responding.

Ms. Brooks explained the Mayor of Irmo (Barry Walker and HCA Resident) had established a task force specifically designed to address the youths (21 and under) at Harbison Gardens – to expose them to some activities and fill their idle time with challenging opportunities. In a recent meeting with the Mayor – he stated that 5 youths had already signed up for the program – tentatively identified as the Youth Zone Program – and his Task Force hoped that their concept would be adopted nationally. Ms. Pierce indicated she had talked to the owners of Harbison Gardens in Maine and they have a program called "Springboard Opportunity" which they hoped to enact here in Columbia. Ms. Pierce said she knows other residents who are willing to be Mentors to the kids at Harbison Gardens. There seemed to be a general feeling among the Committee Members that the lack of in-house facilities at Harbison Gardens needed to be supported by outside efforts from others – but it was believed that the Owners needed to do more. Ms. Brooks confirmed that HCA had indicated a willingness to help transport some of the kids to the HCA Community Center (when the Center reopens) to attend some programs. Ms. Amber Lawson indicated that it will take a community effort to assist Harbison Gardens in providing more and better opportunities for their tenants – but she echoed the feeling that the owners should increase their efforts also.

Mr. West suggested that the Crime Prevention Committee meet again next month – at which time we will update each other on what has been accomplished.

Hank West