Safety committee meeting, March 30, 2021

1. Introductions
2. Update from the board meeting
3. Resident: new budget needed a little more thought put into. Other communities will be vulnerable. Need to have a phase-out process. Maybe not continue with this particular firm, but need to have a back up plan. Don’t want residents to be vulnerable.
4. Resident: Good to utilize Buck Squad. Still think security is necessary. Security watches things, but the other community initiatives don’t watch things. Security company had a record of incidents. Preferred Millennium because they were more person-oriented. Still think security is still needed.
5. Mr. Sales: issue a 30-day notice to current security firm to let them know that the contract will be terminated in 30 days. During that time, will meet with police to let them know about the contract being terminated and have the police pick up their patrols. Think about what community-based safety looks like. May be several organizations providing services
6. Resident: Security was in touch with the community.
7. Resident: what’s the last day of the security contract? Mr. Sales: April 30th? Resident: Then what’s next? Mr. Sales: let PD know what’s going on, but then need to have a community-based solution.
8. Resident: Is there already a plan? Mr. Sales: couldn’t plan around it until there is a plan. Want the Safety Committee meeting to have a plan.
9. Goldblatt: have people from community organizations present at next safety committee meeting
10. Resident: Want a resident security initiative (neighborhood watch?). Here’s who’s involved: Want Buck Squad, want Westhaven community, need mental health services (Region 10?), youth programs (City of Promise? Big Brothers, Big Sisters?), housing authority staff (asset manager and Melinda), School system, salvation army youth programming, towing company
11. Security cameras bid comes in tomorrow. 30 day review, then proposal to the Board sometime in May—by May Board meeting. If awarded at that time, will have security cameras by June or July.
12. Need an interim plan between when security services end and cameras go up. Need someone to report on activities during that period.
13. Strong call from residents that need something in place before security leaves.
14. Mr. Sales: are residents interested in a neighborhood watch?
15. Brandon: can we plan community events once it starts to get warmer and we can be outside? Mr. Sales agrees. More outreach.
16. Brandon: Did security report at the shooting? Mr. Sales: security drove by. Filed a report that was based on the police report in the news
17. Need to line up who gets deployed when incidents start brewing
18. Brandon: Does the eviction diversion person have a role to play in this? In terms of intervening? Mr. Sales: job itself might have a role but we need to talk to the person doing eviction-prevention to see if they’re willing to intervene when things start to heat up
19. Mr. Sales: desire to get rental and maintenance staff more integrated into communities and taking a preventative approach to problems rather than waiting for residents to report something
20. Resident: what’s next? Mr. Sales: reach out to groups mentioned and go through our priorities to decide what kinds of services will be provided and what kind of reporting is necessary.
21. Brandon: Need a super short term plan for when Sentry leaves and before cameras are put up. Figure out how to fill the gap and figure out what else needs to be in place before May 1 and July 1. Might be a scaled-back neighborhood watch or something else?
22. Mr. Sales: Could extend current firm. Resident: Doesn’t think that’s a good idea. Hasn’t even seen the security doing much of anything. Don’t want to create confusion in the community and so thinks Buck Squad shouldn’t just take everything over. Thinks neighborhood watch is a good idea. Need to do a lot of outreach to see who would be interested and who would file reports.
23. Ms. Hite: Likes idea of putting community in charge. Want to make sure that there’s some group to pick up so that community watch isn’t put into danger. Maybe have community watch work with police department and some sort of security system.
24. Resident: need a hierarchy. If one thing doesn’t work, do something else. So for instance, have reporters call housing authority, then call, Buck Squad and then call police as a last resort.
25. Resident: What’s the timing for community watch? Ms. Hite: After hours. Mr. Sales: Can have towing company patrol parking lots after hours to tow cars that shouldn’t be there. Right now CRHA and security company can call towing company, but CRHA can designate others.
26. Short term plan for next meeting, conversations with various potential community partners

Priorities:

1. community-oriented. Know residents. Part of community
2. Utilize groups that are already familiar with people in the community. Have more communication between anyone who’s providing services. Have security or other services work with community solutions.
3. Maybe use Section 3 as a way to have residents in an observe-and-report capacity
4. Need a paper trail
5. Take old security contract and distribute tasks to the community. Find out who can do that. And then need a memorandum of understanding with each group.
6. No neighborhood should be left out for security. Need every neighborhood included. All neighborhoods need security. All properties and any patrols need to be mobile since children and adults move between and among properties.
7. Need active communication simultaneously between sites so that if there’s a problem or a question at one site, the other sites are aware. Want the security to know people who come from different sites.
8. Need security on foot engaging with residents
9. Don’t want security in large groups. Want people to spread out and cover more territory
10. Observe and report doesn’t need to be negative. Can report positively.
11. Need some kind of reporting to the housing authority so can address the root cause of violence. But also need more than just reporting.
12. Need to check IDs and barment list at Crescent Hall
13. In Crescent Hall, want people to walk floors. Also think about safety in terms of resident health and wellness.
14. Empower residents to know their community, report when they see something, talk to each other, and look out for each other
15. Need trust
16. Security needs to remember that they’re people just like residents. Need to be family and people oriented. Need to treat residents as they want to be treated.
17. Need accounting of what security services are doing.
18. Need to be mindful of the seasons and summer coming
19. Resident-driven security. Pay residents using Section 3. Residents know what to report. Do research about other community security initiatives.
20. Develop scope of work through the Safety Committee
21. Need to work quickly—have a sense of urgency.
22. Need to monitor what neighborhood watch is doing and what their purview is. Have them report after each round.
23. Need accountability. Have to have a check in point.
24. Need broad resident feedback
25. Give residents a job so they feel responsibility for what’s happening in their communities.