

## Subcommittee Minutes

### Management of Physical Environment

3 p.m., Jan. 5, 2010

Chamber of Commerce Board Room

Attending: Subcommittee members Mike Van Milligen, Molly Grover, John Gronen, Sue Stork, Wendy Lyons, Mary Rae Bragg; and Dubuque Police Department officers Russ Stecklein and Jeremy Jenkins.

The officers gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the department's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design program as a way to be pro-active in limiting criminal activity. CPTED strategies were then rolled into some of the proposals the subcommittee is recommending for the city council's consideration.

Recommendations being put forth by the subcommittee are:

- Create ways to encourage people to light up their property and surrounding property;
- Review school and park designs to create safer environments, such as separating the children's play area from the basketball court at Comisky Park and moving bathrooms to a higher visibility area;
- Create a safety audit check list for property owners that provides standards for safer landscape design, including fencing and shrubbery;
- Train volunteers to do property safety audits as requested by property owners;
- Install surveillance cameras in high crime areas;
- Create standards for property exterior maintenance, including replacement of broken windows;
- Install 911 emergency kiosks;
- Eliminate vacant buildings, including city-owned property along the Bee Branch;
- Reduce the time allotted for correcting property violations from the current two years;
- Professionalize the property hearing process by hiring an administrative judge;
- Continue to encourage home ownership in targeted neighborhoods;
- Support Four Mound's HEART home rehabilitation program, the Washington Neighborhood Reinvestment Strategy, Washington Development Corporation, Historic Millwork Area development and development of the former Dubuque Packing Plant;
- Mandate the landlords conduct renter background checks, using the city's free service;
- Support landlords in evicting problem tenants;
- Encourage development of planned communities through mixed-use zoning;
- Maintain crosswalks and enforce use of them.