Meeting was brought to order by Committee Chairperson Susie Weinacht at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council members Susie Weinacht, Ashley Vanorney, Dale Todd, Fire Chief Greg Smith, Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Building Services Director Kevin Ciabatti, Area Ambulance Services Executive Director Keith Rippy, and Amanda Grieder with SAFE-CR, Sgt. Laura Faircloth for Youth Services.

The March 18, 2019 Public Safety and Youth Services Committee minutes were approved.

Fire Department Report-Chief Greg Smith

Fire Chief Greg Smith highlighted a few key points from the reports that are attached.

Statistics reported for fires confined to the room or object of origin are valuable because fires that are contained are typically subject to less than 50% damage. Once the fire spreads beyond the room or object of origin, it affects several different factors. The level of damage, costs to repair and length of time the structure is out of service all increase. The more damage there is to a structure, the more it puts firefighters at risk.

Out of the 50 total structural fires, 34 were confined to the object/room of origin, which is about 68%. They strive for 75% as an average across the country.

Response times have increased slightly due to the weather conditions during the March and April timeframes. Winter conditions arrived a little late this season, which certainly had an impact on response times.

There were 80 total fires, which includes more than just the 50 structural fires. Of those 80, they still have 5 that are under investigation, and 8 that were intentional. Only 1 of the 8 deemed intentional was an actual structural fire. The others were grass, brush or dumpster fires. 9 were due to failure of heat source.
Building Services Report-Kevin Ciabatti

Kevin Ciabatti from Building Services and Amanda Grieder with SAFE-CR provided a joint communication regarding how their departments work in conjunction with one another.

SAFE-CR enforces Chapter 22A, which identifies nuisance properties and fines property owners for excessive calls for service. When a citizen complaint is received the police are called, and they refer to the Land Management System. If there is a violation of Chapter 22A, the information is entered into the Land Management System.

Building Services enforces Chapter 29 and 32. Chapter 29 contains the minimum standards for all properties including rental, owner occupied and commercial, otherwise considered a property maintenance code. Chapter 32 contains items on private property that are considered a zoning violation. Once a citizen complaint is received, they too refer to the Land Management System.

The codes work in conjunction with one another when Building Services activities result in Nuisance Properties within Chapter 22A. A few examples include properties where:

- An unpermitted or illegal use;
- Failing to secure or keep secure a structure in accordance with the Cedar Rapids Municipal Code and this code;
- The property is placarded;
- A second "no show" trip charge has been imposed;
- A violation of the Cedar Rapids Municipal Code(s) is prosecuted in Court and the Court rules in favor of the City.

SAFE-CR and Building Services work together, and their work is interrelated when many calls for service are initiated from other activities within the City. These calls for service can stem from Police calls for service, coordination meetings, neighborhood meeting attendance, land management reporting for PD and team efforts on specific properties.

They ensure that all of the processes, especially the municipal infraction processes, are exhausted. They have a right to a notification process set forth by our codes. There is an appeal process for anyone that is found to be in violation of one of our ordinances. Following that, there is a court municipal infraction process. In all cases, due process has to exist so that property owners can remedy their violations.

Area Ambulance Report-Keith Rippy

Keith Rippy provided a few key points on the Area Ambulance report, which is attached.

State law requires that every graduating senior receives some training in CPR. Area Ambulance provides an hour of training to all graduating seniors, so that they can meet that state requirement. So far they have trained over 9,000 students since the inception of the program, which is at no cost to the school.
This time of the year when students are approaching graduation, they are busy with the rush of students who are trying to complete their training in time for graduation.

They are currently in the process of formulating their FY20 budget, and community events are starting to pick up substantially. Special events include baseball, football, hockey, the Roughriders and Kernels. Other special events, such as the Freedom Festival, are also just around the corner.

In terms of transports over the last 5 years, between 2016 and what they have budgeted for this year, there is an increase of 2,800 transports. They have about 25% more calls for service than transports. In 2016, they had 14,197 transports, and their budget plan for 2020 calls for 16,973 transports. They continue to see an increase of about 500-600 transports per year. They are projecting about 21,580 calls for service, which is an increase of 300 calls for service from last year.

Area Ambulance Service is in the process of purchasing a ramp and a wench. Power load trucks are certified to 750 pounds, but that is no longer adequate. The ramp and wench will enable them to get an obese patient into the ambulance. They are seeing a steady increase in patients that are 300 plus pounds.

A council member asked about the status of the accreditation process. Keith Rippy stated that he has appointed someone to this task, and that they are about 25% along in getting the accreditation data collected. There will be continued progress on this matter.

A council member requested that any trainings that could potentially disrupt the public should be communicated about in advance. Keith Rippy apologized there wasn’t any communication regarding a helicopter training that occurred, but will ensure that this happens going forward.

Youth Services Update-Sgt. Laura Faircloth with CRPD

Sergeant Faircloth presented the attached reports for Youth Services.

They are approaching the end of the school year, so the Police Pals are finishing up with their program for the year. Going into the summer, they will be starting the following programs:

- **Jump Start:** Through Mount Mercy focuses on teaching leadership skills to children in 3rd-7th grade in the Mount Mercy area.
- **Kids on Course:** Educational programs through activity. For children in 1st-10th grade.
- **Pop Up Clubs:** Partnership with Boys and Girls Club, with different locations at Westdale Court Apartments, Redmond Park, Daniels Park, Wellington Heights House, Boys and Girls Club on 17th Street, and Houston Park. Programs taking place on Mondays and Fridays. Monday’s program will include crafts, art and cooking. On Fridays, they will focus on literacy. Children will receive snacks, and on Friday they’ll receive backpacks to take their snacks home.
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- Youth Academy from K-5th grade at the Police Department in June and July.

A council member asked Sergeant Faircloth to reach out to Scott Hock in Parks and Rec. They are in the process of doing an internal inventory of summer youth programs and running an analysis to help look for gaps/opportunities that may be overlooked.

A council member received a request from a citizen to re-release a video from last year about gun violence. It was requested that CRPD look into hosting a few movie nights in the park, specifically Redmond Park, in an effort to get the community together.

It was requested that a moment of silence be taken to honor the lives that were lost this month.

Sergeant Faircloth will ensure that the video is re-released and available to the public.

**SAFE-CR Update-Amanda Grieder**

Amanda presented the update on the SAFE-CR reports, which are attached.

SAFE-CR has billed $84,517 and collected $44,813.24.

There are currently 131 active nuisance properties, but they have brought 638 properties back into compliance.

**John School Update-Amanda Grieder**

Sergeant Collins was unable to attend, so Amanda Grieder provided the information on his behalf.

It was found that this program would be best completed pre-arrest as opposed to post-arrest, which makes it a City of Cedar Rapids run program. After speaking with several members of the Police Department, there were some questions raised about whether or not this program actually holds offenders accountable, since they would not be criminally charged or fined if they participated in this program. Staff reported to Council that they will take the idea of this program through the social equity impact assessment to make sure that if the City had a program like this, it would be equitable to all involved and what the best way to achieve that is. This will likely be a 6 month process.

A council member stated that there will be support from the victims, as this type of rehabilitation program is what they sought after.

**Police Department Report-Chief Wayne Jerman**

Police Chief Wayne Jerman confirmed that shortly after 1:20 AM on Saturday, May 18th Police responded to the Iowa Smoke Shop parking lot and found three victims that had sustained life-threatening gunshot wounds. Two of the victims were pronounced deceased at the scene, and the other
victim was transported to a local hospital where she remains in critical condition. A fourth victim later arrived by private transport at a local hospital also suffering from life-threatening gunshot wounds. This shooting, amongst many others, are being committed by the same core group of individuals. These individuals are a part of a hybrid gang. These hybrid gangs differ from other gangs as there isn’t a hierarchy with a leader, and there is not the presence of loyalty to their gang. It is not uncommon for members of these hybrid gangs to become aligned with their rivals for a short time, then they revert back to their original group. The one thing that remains consistent is their blatant disregard for the safety of others and their obvious lack of respect for human life.

Chief Jerman stressed that this gun violence must stop, and he appealed to the community for help. The Police Department is committed to do what they are expected to do, but they need assistance. They need people to come forward with what they know. There is continued resistance and lack of cooperation from people present when they arrive on scene, and even from the victims that are lying in the hospital. They need the public to come forward with information regarding who is carrying illegal weapons. They will remain anonymous as they have several programs where they don’t have to identify themselves or fear retaliation.

A council member spoke about potential gun buyback programs. It is the hope that individuals that are seeking that can reach out to us so that we can ensure that they are safe.

A council member stated that we can’t stop the violence, it has to be them. We can and will continue to rollout programs designed to stop gun violence, but there will be some children that will fall through the cracks, or some that do not want to participate. This is going to continue until the parties involved decide to stop. We have to be careful not to politicize this. The real work is after the marches and vigils. The real effort is to keep these kids engaged, and to give hope to these kids.

There were several public comments made. Some suggestions were to put high taxes on guns or install microchips to track firearms. Another public comment stressed that it does need to stop being about politics and get down to the core. Nothing is going to be solved by a textbook. The children that are out there believe that anyone in an authoritative position is the enemy. We need to get out there face to face and start talking to the kids and creating a presence.

One member of the public stressed that we need to start treating this as a public health problem.

Another public comment suggested that we recruit someone from perhaps Chicago that has experience dealing with communities affected by large amounts of gun violence to come talk to the kids. “Someone that looks like them and talks like them”.
JULY AGENDA ITEM FORECAST

- Building Services Report (Ciabatti)
- Cedar Rapids Fire Department Report (Smith)
- Area Ambulance Service Report (Rippy)
- Youth Services Report (Faircloth)
- Police SAFE-CR Report (Grieder)
- Cedar Rapids Police Department Report (Jerman)
- September Agenda Forecast Items

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Schillinger
Administrative Assistant II
Cedar Rapids Fire Department