

**DRAFT Minutes - Safe Takoma, Inc. Board Meeting
February 10, 2009, 2:15 pm
City of Takoma Park, Maryland Community Center**

Present

Seth Grimes, President
Faith Wheeler, Vice President
Andy Kelemen, Treasurer
Sara Green, Secretary
Ronnie Miller, Operations Manager

Actions

1. Following a motion from Mr. Kelemen, the minutes for the December 23, 2008 Board meeting were approved in a unanimous show-of-hands vote.

Discussions and Reports

1. Mr. Grimes discussed the upcoming February 17 meeting with Chief Ronald Ricucci, of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland Police Department and Commander Linda Brown, of the Metropolitan Police Department's 4th District in the District of Columbia. On the agenda is STI's Neighborhood Assessment Program and a possible public meeting on crime issues.

2. Mr. Grimes said that STI needs to assess the conditions on Carroll/Cedar Street near Eastern Avenue, NW (close to the Metro Station). He has done the rest of the area in DC and Maryland around the Metro Station.

3. The group reviewed the draft flyer for the Job Training Program and made some comments and changes. The program is set for March 23-April 30.

Remaining issues include finding a location for the program that is near the Takoma Metro Station, and securing transportation to the Carpenters' Union offices in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. It was noted that the City of Takoma Park has a van that is not being used, and that it might be possible for Safe Takoma to use the van if it pays for gas and a driver.

4. Ms. Miller noted that the Rites of Passage Program, held at the Takoma, D.C. Recreation Center, will end on March 11. A visit to a restaurant is planned as a final class so that students can practice their etiquette skills. A graduation ceremony with certificates and invitations to families is also planned. Ten students will graduate. Two others who had participated moved away from the area.

5. Ms. Miller reported on the Conflict Resolution Program. She estimates that 6-8 of the students from the Rites of Passage Program will likely participate. Those who received safety whistles and checked the box on the survey form stating

their interest in the Conflict Resolution Program were asked to sign up. So far, none have responded.

Outreach for the program was discussed. Mr. Grimes said he would contact the tenant associations in the City of Takoma Park and the city's Somali-American community organization. He said he would bring flyers to Council Member Terry Seamens.

Ms. Green said she would write a short piece for the City Newsletter and the Takoma Voice, along with other outlets.

Ms. Green said that a new name is needed. "Conflict Resolution" is not an appealing name for teenagers. She agreed to share other names with the group via email. Ms. Miller said she would poll her Rites of Passage students for ideas.

... Submitted by Sara Green, Secretary