

MINUTES
SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCE BOARD
Wednesday, August 13, 2014
City Hall, Room 310
2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Gerondale, Ben Heiman, Renee Keehan

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Heidi Michel, Kathy De Cremer

The meeting was called to order by Dean Gerondale.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by Renee Keehan to approve the July 9, 2014 Minutes, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. APPEALS

Motion made by Renee Keehan to move appeal (a) to the end of the agenda, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

- (b) Appeal of Donald Peterson requesting to move to 1720 Western Avenue, Apt. 13

Donald appeared in person. Dean Gerondale advised Donald of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Regarding his first offense in 2006, Donald stated he left a note in a store bathroom with his name and telephone number on it. A police officer called him, pretending to be a 16 year old. Donald admits he exposed himself. The second offense occurred in 2007. This was a sting operation.

Donald stated he takes full responsibility for his actions. He received probation for the first offense and served 6-1/2 years in prison for the second offense.

While in prison in 2011, Donald lost his two legs. He is currently on social security.

Dean Gerondale reported he received a telephone call from the ATTIC regarding Mr. Peterson, giving him a positive reference from the time he was at the ATTIC (2-1/2 months). There were no issues or concerns with him.

Donald did not receive any sex offender treatment while in prison, but he did ask to be enrolled in the program. He attended treatment sessions once a week while at the

ATTIC these past 2-1/2 months and provided the board members with a letter from Katrina Nelson confirming this. Donald will continue to attend these classes if the board approves him to live on Western Avenue. When Donald appeared before the board by phone back in April, they told him they were concerned that he did not attend SOT while in prison.

Dean asked Donald what he thinks caused him to offend. Donald stated he had anger issues, had lost his job and didn't know which way to turn. Donald admitted that before the 2006 incident, someone exposed himself to Donald and Donald exposed himself back. He can't recall if this happened at Shoko or East Town Mall.

Donald presented the board members with a letter of support from his cousin, Gloria Putzke (sp?), Peshtigo, Wisconsin. She would like Donald to have a second chance so he and his wife can be together. She would trust her children with Donald.

Dean feels not much has changed since Donald spoke to the board in April; however, he has attended some treatment programs at the ATTIC. Because of his physical condition, Dean believes Donald would have a difficult time reoffending.

A motion to deny the appeal of Donald Peterson was made by Renee Keehan. She is concerned about the treatment letter stating he is "not quite grasping it" and could still be a risk. There are a lot of children at this apartment complex and Renee has concerns about Donald possibly exposing himself again. Renee would like Donald to continue treatment and if he so desires, to come back before the board in the future.

Motion seconded by Ben Heiman. He agrees with Renee's comments.

Dean stated he agrees with both Renee and Ben. However, Dean feels two things should be considered: (1) the TLP is not logistically set up for Donald because of his incapacitation; (2) Donald would be living with his wife and not able to go anywhere without her. Dean is in favor of allowing him to move in with this wife and come back in 90 days to see how he's doing.

Two in favor of DENYING Mr. Peterson, one opposed (Gerondale). Motion carried.

(c) Appeal of Russell Knaus requesting to move to 1248 Day Street

Russell Knaus did not appear.

A motion to DENY the appeal of Russell Knaus was made by Renee Keehan, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

(d) Appeal of Justin R. Phillips requesting to move to 415 Vroman Street

Justin appeared in person. Dean Gerondale advised Justin of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Justin stated he met the victim on line and they shared sexual photos. Justin was 27 years of age and he was aware the victim was 13.

Two detectives showed up at Justin's house and questioned him about what happened. Justin told them the truth. The victim's mother had alerted the West Bend Police Department. The offenses occurred over a one month period. He received three years probation.

Justin would like to move to Green Bay because his family is here and he would receive the support he needs. Justin has permission to transfer from Washington County to Brown County. He is not employed but was on SSI before going to jail. He has reapplied for SSI. He has cognitive and learning disabilities.

Justin stated he wants to do something with his life and not make the same mistakes. He's never had any alcohol or drug issues. He would be living with his dad, his dad's girlfriend and her 20 year old son.

A motion is made by Ben Heiman and seconded by Renee Keehan to move into closed session to discuss Justin's treatment, pursuant to Section 146.82(1), Wis. Stats. All in favor. Motion carried. A motion is made by Ben Heiman and seconded by Renee Keehan to return to open session. All in favor. Motion carried.

Randy Phillips, 415 Vroman Street, appeared on Justin's behalf. He is Justin's father. Randy stated that while Justin was incarcerated he "turned to God." He goes to church and reads the Bible. Randy believes while being in jail, Justin learned his lesson. If Justin is approved to live with him, he will not be allowed to use the Internet (locked) or drink alcohol. Randy's girlfriend will be there during the day and Randy will be home at night.

Renee stated that as part of his sentencing, Justin was ordered to obtain and maintain full employment or schooling and asked what he is looking for regarding employment. Justin replied that for now, he'd like a part time job stocking, cleaning or factory work. He has applied at different places.

Dean asked Justin why he served time in jail if he only received probation for the offense. Justin stated he sat in jail for six months and then received probation.

Cynthia Sanavol (sp?), 1702 Western Avenue, Apt. 31, spoke on Justin's behalf. Cynthia has legal guardianship of Justin's 8 year old daughter. If Justin is allowed to live in Green Bay with his father, she could help financially with his treatment. She currently has to drive to West Bend to see him.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Justin Phillips, address specific, was made by Renee Keehan for a period of 90 days, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

Note: Justin needs to come back for the November meeting to show employment and treatment documentation.

- (e) Appeal of Thomas Williams requesting to move to 2257 Imperial Lane, Apt. 5

Thomas appeared in person. Dean Gerondale advised Thomas of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Thomas stated the four offenses are for the same 1994 case. The victims were friends. Thomas was age 17 at the time.

Thomas moved to Green Bay from Louisville, Kentucky in 1994 to be with his mother and step-father. They lived near a park and he met the victims while playing basketball. Thomas had intercourse with two of the victims and was aware of their ages at the time.

Thomas served a total of 15 years, which included 5 years for a revocation.

Thomas attended treatment sessions with Jim Drake at Family Services between 2005 and 2006. He went through three different cycles. He didn't pass the first cycle because he was in denial. He went back and completed it but got revoked during his aftercare treatment. He is not currently in treatment, but stated the ATTIC is going to contact him for an assessment.

Upon being released, Thomas lived in De Pere for two years. He and his family have recently been staying with friends. He has an 18 month old daughter and another child on the way. Thomas is a stay-at-home father. His wife is employed at a nail salon.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Thomas Williams, address specific, was made by Dean Gerondale, seconded by Renee Keehan. Two in favor, one opposed (Ben Heiman). Motion carried.

- (a) Appeal of Perry De Grave requesting to move to 321 Jackson Street
Perry did not appear.

A motion to DENY the appeal of Perry De Grave was made by Dean Gerondale, seconded by Renee Keehan. All if favor. Motion carried.

Other Business

Renee Keehan reported that Brian Steffel may be living at 1237 N. Locust Street without approval. The law department will contact the police department to follow up.

3. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date of September 10, 2014 was confirmed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Renee Keehan, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.