

MINUTES
SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCE BOARD
Wednesday, July 13, 2016
City Hall, Room 310
2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Gerondale, Ben Heiman, Kathy De Cremer, Heidi Michel

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Renee Keehan

The meeting was called to order by Dean Gerondale.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the June 8, 2016 Minutes of the Sex Offender Residency Board meeting

Motion made by K. De Cremer to approved the June 8, 2016 Minutes, seconded by B. Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

To accommodate those in attendance, a motion to move item (e) to the top of the agenda was made by K. De Cremer, seconded by B. Heiman. All if favor. Motion carried.

2. APPEALS

(e) Appeal of Steven Gittens requesting to move to 3569 Satellite Lane

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

Steven appeared before the board in June and was approved to live at this location for 30 days. It was suggested he get to know his neighbors.

Steven stated he waves or tries to make eye contact with people as they walk by. However, Steven's parole agent did not feel Steven should go door-to-door. Steven has not spoken with any of his neighbors.

Steven is not employed because he is legally disabled. Before moving in with Julie the first time, he tried to find another place to live.

Steven completed a six month sex offender treatment course and provided the board with a copy of the certificate at the June meeting.

Steven keeps busy working in the yard and doing home projects.

K. De Cremer asked Steven why he didn't speak to any neighbors within the past 30 days. Steven stated his deafness causes issues. He's been deaf for 12 years and is not comfortable going up to people to say "hello."

Comments from the Public:

Burke Griffin, 1416 Inspiration Avenue. Burke pointed out inconsistencies in Steven's statements. There are more than 16 homes in the neighborhood, including two large subdivisions filled with all aged kids. He is here to represent the neighborhood because most of the people work. They are against allowing him to move into the neighborhood.

Jenny Nichol, 3667 Collegiate Way, New Franken, WI 54229. Jenny is representing many parents who could not be present today. This is not a neighborhood Steven should be allowed to live in. Condos are being built nearby and there is an influx of people moving in and out of the area. The Red Smith School District is the highest sought after school district in the Green Bay School District.

Amy Joski, 3575 Satellite Lane, Green Bay, WI 54311. Amy bought her house in December. Had she known a sex offender was living next door, she would not have purchased her home. He was not registered as the home owner. She has two teenaged sons. As a single mother with two teenaged children, she feels very unsafe. D. Gerondale asked Amy if she's had a chance to meet Steven or has seen him outside at all. Amy has seen him outside. Her step-dad tried to talk to him. Amy wants her children to stay away from Steven. H. Michel asked Amy if she's spoken to Steven's girlfriend. Amy stated she has not. Steven is outside all the time, but Amy never sees Julie. Since moving here in December, Amy has seen Julie only three times.

Alison Winiecki, 3581 Satellite Lane, Green Bay, WI 54311. Alison is a direct neighbor of Mr. Gittens. This is a developing area. Steven has lied about being homeless. The neighbors had a good connection with each other. Steven always shied away and they wondered why. He has not attempted to get to know anyone. If Steven (and Julie) had been more open about what he did instead of lying, it would have been better. Steven recently had several citations issued by the police department, and before he moved into the neighborhood, there were never police cars here. Alison feels Steven purposely goes outside when other neighbors are out, not to talk or get to know them, but just to see what they are doing for his own enjoyment.

Laura De Pagter, 1008 Aldine Court. Laura has four children. They play outside with friends from sun up to sun down. Now they are not allowed to go around the corner. She's told them a bad man lives there. She will not let them play in the back yards by themselves. Before moving into this subdivision, they lived in the country. She liked living in this quiet subdivision until Steven moved in.

John Hosper, 3563 Satellite Lane. John is the parent of a five year old. They live next door to Steven and Julie. The five year old has been told not to talk to the person living next door. There is a daycare center nearby. John does not feel this is the neighborhood Steven should live in.

Juan Hernandez, 918 Barronwood Drive. Juan stated he was one of the first ones to move into the neighborhood. He didn't expect this to happen.

Officer Matheny is present on behalf of the Alderperson of this district. He has had dealings with Mr. Gittens since February 2015 and stated it's been a lot of manipulation of the parts of both Julie Rentmeester and Mr. Gittens. Mr. Gittens stated he wasn't staying there on a permanent basis, but when Officer Matheny spoke to neighbors, they said his vehicle was there all the time. Citations were issued through the City Attorney's office. Mr. Gittens also lived with Julie at her previous residence without registering with the DOC. Julie sold that house and bought this one and now the same thing is happening.

D. Gerondale asked Officer Matheny if he has been called to this residence for any reason other than Mr. Gittens' violation of the ordinance. Officer Matheny said, "no." D. Gerondale asked Officer Matheny if he's had any dealings with Mr. Gittens that would cause him concern that he could reoffend. Officer Matheny stated, "no. This offense was his first and only sexual offense. The other offenses were domestic incidences."

Steven stated he is considered low risk. The letter from his therapist states this and also he is not a threat to the community.

Officer Matheny commented that Mr. Gittens would not attempt to meet his neighbors, but he had no problem communicating with a 15 year old girl.

Officer Matheny discovered that Julie and Steven moved his vehicle away from the residence so the neighbors would not know he was there. Officer Matheny also commented on the fact that Steven has no family or friends here to support him today.

Steven stated his family and friends are working. He does have letters from his family.

D. Gerondale indicated the Board received a letter from the alderperson in this district. She asked for his denial at this time.

H. Michel acknowledged she was the person who pointed out at the last meeting that Steven had no one present to support him or speak on his behalf. She understands that his family and friends work, but all of these neighbors took time out of their day to come here and speak against him. H. Michel would have liked Steven's family or friends present to support him today.

Steven stated his parents are 75 years old. His mother is at the hospital for a heart test today. She is also a diabetic. He would not ask them to put themselves out to be in this

situation with him. This is his responsibility to take care of and handle. His girlfriend, Julie, has supported him from the very beginning. Her kids are starting to come around and her oldest son has been very supportive. His closest friend works second shift. His sister has started a new job and is on the road a lot. The letters he has from his family are very supportive. Steven said he's a good person and Julie is a good person. He made a mistake. He shouldn't have done what he did. Also, his parole agent told him this residence was on the outer circle of the city limits. The daycare is over 800 feet away and the school is two miles away.

D. Gerondale read from 27.622, sexual offender residency restrictions:

The Board shall base its decision on whether the offender has shown remorse, has rehabilitated, could re-offend, and any other factor related to the City's interest in promoting, protecting, and improving the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

D. Gerondale said this is the board's primary responsibility. All these things have to be taken into account as to whether an appeal should be granted.

A motion to DENY the appeal of Steven Gittens was made by D. Gerondale, seconded by K. De Cremer.

Discussion: D. Gerondale feels Mr. Gittens has shown remorse and has gone through a rehabilitation process. Whether or not he would reoffend, he does not know. People have shown up today relating to the City's interest. Mr. Gittens is the minority and they are the majority. D. Gerondale feels the minority should have his case heard. That's what this appeal is about. Just because the majority thinks one way does not preclude his rights based upon this ordinance. Mr. Gittens has gone a long way in trying to rehabilitate his life.

The reason D. Gerondale made a motion to deny is because this is the second time Mr. Gittens did not follow the process. The process specifically states that before moving to a particular location within the city, approval is required from the board. To protect the welfare of the community, D. Gerondale is basing his motion on Mr. Gittens' dishonesty and failure to abide by the ordinance.

Motion seconded by K. De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

- (a) Appeal of Daniel Konshak requesting to move to 1176 Harvey Street (back)

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

Daniel appeared before the board in April and was approved at this location for a period of 90 days.

Daniel stated things are going well. He's met a few of his neighbors but he pretty much stays to himself. The apartment is working out. Daniel works full time for American Foods. He still participates at Circles for Support.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Daniel Konshak, address specific, was made by H. Michel, seconded by B. Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

(b) Appeal of Brigette Thaxton requesting to move to 1491 Morrow Street

Brigette appeared in person. D. Gerondale advised Brigette of her right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed her not to use the names of the victims.

Brigette appeared before the board in May and was approved at this location for a period of 60 days. She was asked to provide a more detailed letter from Mr. Drake regarding her treatment. Mr. Drake states Brigette has attended all her appointments and is doing well.

Brigette states things are going pretty well except for some personal issues with her daughter. Right now things are stressful but she is discussing these and other issues with Mr. Drake. She still has the support group from the Salvation Army and church if she needs them.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Brigette Thaxton, address specific, was made by K. De Cremer, seconded by H. Michel. All in favor. Motion carried.

(c) Appeal of Jeremy Lanqlay requesting to move to 1740 Western Avenue, Apt. 6

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

Jeremy appeared before the board in May and was approved at this location for 60 days. He was asked to bring his sister and Rachel Harrison (Lutheran Social Services) to this meeting. Jeremy stated his sister could not come today but Rachel is here.

Jeremy stated things have been going "real good." He's working steady at Bay Valley Foods, six days a week. He is consistently taking his medications and sees the doctor once a month. Jeremy has had no stressful situations within the past 60 days. He works and sleeps. He sees his sister once a week or once every two weeks.

H. Michel asked Jeremy if this facility is monitored. Jeremy stated, "no." H. Michel asked if staff comes in. Rachel Harrison clarified that someone does come in to check to make sure he takes his meds.

Rachel Harrison (Lutheran Social Services) sees Jeremy once a week. She feels he doing very well. She monitors his medications and makes sure he takes them. She also helps keep track of his appointments at Brown County. Rachel clarified that Jeremy sees his psychiatrist every three months and a therapist every month. Jeremy works six days a week, second shift. He gets home about 3:00 a.m. and the medications pretty much knock him out for a good portion of the day when he sleeps. He has missed one appointment with his therapist. He has a case manager with Brown County, as well.

D. Gerondale asked Rachel if Jeremy's schedule of working six days a week is a good thing or a bad thing for him long term. Rachel said they talked about that today. He may have to work five days a week instead of six in order to make it to his appointments. His job with Bay Valley Foods is a seasonal job and they have discussed what the next steps should be.

D. Gerondale asked Rachel if she feels Jeremy should come before the board again to see how he's doing or if giving him permanent residence is best at this point. Rachel feels permanent status is best for him. He will be in her program until April 2018. D. Gerondale feels Jeremy is doing very well but believes monitoring his medication is very important.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Jeremy Langlay, address specific, was made by K. De Cremer, seconded by H. Michel. All in favor. Motion carried.

(d) Appeal of Nicholas J. Meyer requesting to move to 2601 Appian Way

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

Nicholas appeared before the board in June and was approved at this location for 30 days. He was asked to provide updated treatment information and presented a letter from Jim Drake.

D. Gerondale asked Nicholas what he's learned regarding empathy for his victims. Nicholas now realizes videos hurt people. He feels badly about what he did. He's learned that relationships are not only based on sex. There are emotional steps to take.

Nicholas is currently in an in-patient drug treatment program. He now shares more with his family.

Nicholas is currently in a rehab house. He would like the Appian Way address as a backup, but he may try to get into a sober living house (such as the Oxford House). He wasn't sure if he would need to come before the board again. D. Gerondale believes he does. Nicholas has 21 days left at the rehab house. Then he will either move to Appian Way or take the necessary steps to get into a facility such as the Oxford House.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Nichols Meyer, address specific, for a period of 60 days, was made by D. Gerondale, seconded by K. De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

- (f) Appeal of Summer Callahan requesting to move to 617 N. Broadway, Apt. 2

Summer appeared in person. D. Gerondale advised Summer of her right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed her not to use the names of the victims.

Summer was convicted of 2nd degree sexual assault of a 16 year old in 2001. Summer stated she met the victim when he was 13. They lived together. He was on probation and wore an ankle bracelet. Summer was 16 at the time. A few years later, his mother called the police. The charges took place when the victim was 16 and Summer was 19.

Summer pled no contest and spent six months in jail with four years' probation. She is now off probation. Summer has three children, ages 13, 14 and 15.

Summer wants to move to Green Bay because she needs surgery and rehab. Traveling to Kewaunee would be too difficult. She also has two cousins in the area that could help her out if she needs it.

Summer provided a letter from Bellin Health confirming she will have rehabilitation after her surgery.

D. Gerondale asked Summer to explain her drug conviction. She stated her boyfriend at the time was selling out of her house but she wasn't aware of it at the time. Summer asked for her probation to be revoked.

Summer's treatment documentation has been destroyed and provided a letter from the Department of Corrections confirming this. Summer has anxiety issues, ADHD and post-traumatic stress disorder. K. De Cremer asked Summer is she is currently under the influence. Summer stated "No, I just feel like crap." Summer plans on having her surgery this winter.

D. Gerondale is not comfortable granting Summer permanent residency status. However, he understands her current needs from a medical standpoint.

A motion to approve the appeal of Summer Callahan, address specific, until March 2017, was made by D. Gerondale, seconded by K. De Cremer. Two in favor, two opposed (H. Michel, B. Heiman). Motion failed.

Discussion: H. Michel stated she is not comfortable going that far out. Summer has a pretty lengthy history and seems very anxious today. The doctor's letter she provided is

dated in March and H. Michel cannot understand why Summer would wait until December to have her surgery. H. Michel would like Summer to come back sooner to see how things are going. B. Heiman agrees.

Summer stated she is on SSI and has been since she was 16 years old. She wants to work a little bit before she schedules her surgery. Summer stated she can't schedule the surgery until she is approved to live here. D. Gerondale stated he finds it hard to believe she cannot have her surgery because of her physical location. Summer stated her family members want nothing to do with her, so she will need her friends to help out if she needs it.

A motion to approve the appeal of Summer Callahan, address specific, until the January 2017 meeting, was made by D. Gerondale. No second. Motion failed.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Summer Callahan, address specific, until the October 2016 meeting, was made by H. Michel, seconded by K. De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

D. Gerondale would like Summer to provide documentation that she's had her surgery or her surgery is scheduled.

(g) Appeal of Alex Beard requesting to move to 1904 Lilac Lane

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

Alex is employed through a temp agency at Heartland in Little Chute. He's been there two months.

Alex was convicted of first degree sexual assault of an 8 year old in 2007. The offense dates were 1994 and 2001. Alex explained this was one court date and one victim. Alex and the victim were both 8 years old. He was convicted as an adult in 2007.

Alex has completed two sex offender treatment programs.

Alex was told the victim reported the crime at school after listening to an advocacy speaker. It must have triggered memories. Alex spent one year in jail with seven years on probation and 10 years state imposed.

H. Michel asked what he did to the victim at that age. Alex said they played house and doctor. Alex was also being assaulted during this time by the victim's older sister.

Alex would be living at this location with his father, his son, his girlfriend and her daughter.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Alex Beard, address specific, was made by H. Michel, seconded by B. Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

(h) Appeal of Philip Nemick requesting to move to 1444 Elm Street

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

Philip appeared before the board in June and was approved to live on Stuart Street. However, it didn't work out because the person living there hasn't been evicted.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Philip Nemick, address specific, was made by K. De Cremer, seconded by H. Michel. All in favor. Motion carried.

Other Business:

H. Michel would like clarification from the legal department whether or not the board has to approve moving into a treatment facility.

3. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date of August 10, 2016 was confirmed.

A motion to adjourn was made by K. De Cremer, seconded by B. Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.