

MINUTES AS TAKEN BY NORMA CASON AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW  
LENOX SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA COALITION

MEETING 16-05  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

**Call to Order**

Dan Martin called the meeting of the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition to order at 10:30 am.

**In Attendance**

Dan Martin / NLPD, Tom Donegan / Metra, Gary Cheney / ShareFest, Richard Hazel / American Red Cross, Allison Anderson / Will County Emergency Management Agency, Marisa Schrieber / New Lenox Fire Protection District, Stephen Kehoe / Silver Cross Hospital, Patty Cunningham / New Lenox Chamber of Commerce, Jan Dombrowski / H.E.R.O., Brian Kirk / H.E.R.O., Liz Wetmore / New Lenox Public Library, and Marta Keane / Will County Green.

**Also in attendance:**

Norma Cason / NLSCAC Secretary and Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group Member  
Laura Regis / Chair, Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group  
Patricia Edgett / Chair, Emergency Preparedness Task Group  
Janice Pomp / Older Adults Falls Prevention Task Group Member  
Larry Green / Metra  
Jeremiah LaPlante / American Red Cross  
Tim King / New Lenox Rotary Club  
Patrick Galligan / New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team  
Sharon Seliga / Moms Demand Action – “Be SMART” Program  
Marie Kirk / H.E.R.O.  
John Schuld / New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team

**Approval of the July 27, 2016 Minutes**

The minutes of the July 27, 2016 meeting were sent to the members via email prior to the meeting. Marissa Schrieber made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Laura Regis and Tom Donegan. After no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

A combined motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2016 Citizen Corps Council meeting and after no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

**Recognition of Tom Donegan / Metra – 2009 to 2016 New Lenox Safe Communities America and Citizen Corps Council Member**

Dan Martin presented Tom Donegan of Metra with a plaque to commemorate his time and dedication to the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition along with the Citizen Corps Council of New Lenox. Dan noted that Tom had been an integral member since the coalition's inception in 2009 and had provided insight and training to the many facets of safe community-based operations including CERT, SAR, etc. Tom will be retiring in November 2016 from his position with Metra after a 30-year career. His expertise will be missed by the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition but we look forward to working closely with new Metra coalition members.

### **Guest Speaker / Presentation – Moms Demand Action / “Be SMART” Program – Sharon Seliga**

Sharon Seliga of the Moms Demand Action Organization presented the “Be SMART” Program which has been designed to educate the American public regarding gun safety. Sharon noted that she is a volunteer for the organization and as such she is available to present a 20-minute presentation entitled “Be SMART: A conversation about kids, guns and safety” to local groups and organizations. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America launched the “Be SMART” campaign to take action to promote responsible gun ownership and reduce child gun deaths. The campaign focuses on education and awareness about child gun deaths and responsible gun storage. Moms encourage parents and caretakers to “Be SMART” and take five simple steps to help prevent shootings. SMART is an acronym: **S**ecure all guns in your home and vehicles; **M**odel responsible behavior around guns; **A**sk about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes; **R**ecognize the risks of teen suicide; **T**ell your peers to be SMART. Additional information regarding this campaign can be found at <http://besmartforkids.org/>. Sharon provided handouts and literature with additional information available for the group.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Safe Communities America Day – October 5, 2016**

Dan Martin announced that Wednesday, October 5, 2016 has been designated as the first Safe Communities America Day with anticipation that this will become a yearly event. Additional information is available at <http://www.nsc.org/learn/NSC-Initiatives/Pages/SCA-Day.aspx>. Dan also advised that community event kit, media kit and social media kit guidelines were also available to promote Safe Communities America Day.

### **Old Business**

#### **Task Group Reports**

##### **Suicide Prevention and Awareness**

Stephen Kehoe reported September 5-11, 2016 had been designated as National Suicide Prevention Week with 2016 World Suicide Prevention Day scheduled for September 10, 2016. In support of World Suicide Prevention Day, the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition hosted “**A Pathway to Hope and Healing**” event on September 7, 2016 where community organizations involved with suicide prevention and awareness provided information and literature to approximately 30-40 attendees. In addition, presentations and panel discussions were held. Although a Remembrance and Awareness Walk had been planned outside in the Village Commons, inclement weather kept the attendees indoors.

Dan Martin advised that Gia Washington from Sertoma Centre, Inc., was scheduled to conduct a Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) Class on Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the New Lenox Village Hall with additional QPR classes planned as needed for the balance of 2016. In addition, Dan advised that a free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) event has been scheduled for December 7, 2016 at the New Lenox Village Hall.

The Healing Hearts Group continues to meet the third Monday of each month with the next scheduled meeting noted to be October 17, 2016 at the New Lenox Police Department.

##### **Older Adults Fall Prevention**

Laura Regis reported that the New Lenox National Older Adults Falls Prevention Day Event held on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at the new Lenox VFW Post 9545 facility was deemed to be a resounding success. The event included a senior health fair and a free pancake breakfast (sponsored by

VFW Post 9545 Men's Auxiliary). In addition, approximately 15 vendors were on hand to provide senior resource and program information availability, hearing and balance screenings as well as flu shot availability by professionals in attendance. Door prizes were awarded throughout the event. Approximately ninety (100) New Lenox seniors attended this event.

Fit & Strong Class #3 graduated an enthusiastic class of twenty-three (23) seniors on August 5, 2016 and two more Matter of Balance Classes (class #23 and #24) are now in progress. Fall prevention classes with resume again in the Spring of 2017.

#### Emergency Preparedness

Dan Martin and Patty Edgett provided the Emergency Preparedness Group update. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Class #12 began on Thursday, September 15, 2016. This is a free course for New Lenox residents which is comprised of twenty (20) hours of emergency preparedness training. The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Dan noted that CERT volunteers provide invaluable services while attending various activities throughout New Lenox including Special Needs Day held during the Proud America Days Event, various ShareFest events, 5K and 10 K races held in the village, etc. To date, approximately 375 New Lenox residents have graduated from the CERT Program.

As required by requirements of the Village's Storm Ready Community designation, Dan Martin will be visiting the National Weather Service Office during October.

#### Poisoning by Prescription Drug Overdose

A formal report from this task force was not given at this meeting.

#### Announcements / Organization Updates

Some attendees shared current news and events relevant to their organizations:

Allison Anderson of the Will County Emergency Management Agency shared a long list of exciting EMA news throughout all of Will County which included the upcoming Will County Emergency Management Agency open house which is scheduled for October 4, 2016 in Joliet, IL. In addition, Allison spoke of the earthquake preparedness event called "The Great American Shakeout" on October 20, 2016 which will include Will County. Additional information regarding the shakeout event can be found at [www.shakeout.org/central](http://www.shakeout.org/central). Detailed information on all Will County Emergency Management Agency activities can be found at their website, [www.willcountyyema.org](http://www.willcountyyema.org).

Richard Hazel of American Red Cross briefly discussed their emergency preparedness education initiative.

Jan Dobrowski and Brian Kirk of the HERO Organization discussed ongoing plans to purchase a trailer that would be used as part of an educational program regarding warning signs of drug use that could be found in plain sight in a teenager's bedroom. In addition, Jan discussed the fact that the drug Narcan is getting more difficult to obtain yet the need for more-and-more Narcan is increasing in order to revive people who are mixing heroin with drugs such as Flakka or Carfentanil/Carfentanyl (large animal tranquilizer).

Gary Cheney of ShareFest provided a document entitled 'ShareFest 2016 Thank You and Totals' which

detailed the results of this year's events. Gary noted that 170 partner organizations, hundreds of volunteers and scores of others supported the initiative which included the Book Drive/Exchange, Clothing Drive, Home Goods Collection, Operation Care Package Collection, Food Drives, June Foodie 5K, Job Fairs, Health Expo, Health Fair, Service Projects, Environmental Impact Projects, Volunteers with H.O.M.E., Recyclepalooza, Patriot Day Ceremony and additional fundraisers for service projects.

Marissa Schrieber announced that the New Lenox Fire Protection District will be collecting donations for the Wreaths Across America Project with the goal of purchasing and placing holiday wreaths on the graves of 1800 veterans (one designated section) at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. The cost of each wreath is \$15.00 amounting to \$27,000 in total needed to achieve this goal.

Marissa Schrieber also announced that the T.R.I.A.D. initiative which provides monthly informative sessions for seniors in both New Lenox and Manhattan is looking for presentations that would be of concern or interest to seniors.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The next bi-monthly meeting of the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition will be on **Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at 10:30 am.** The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45am.