

NOTES

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Ann E. Wall, City Manager
DATE: February 2, 2022
SUBJECT: Materials for Your Information

Please find attached the following materials for your information:

1. The February 8, 2022 Police Community Relations Committee agenda and minutes from the December 14, 2021 and January 11, 2022 meetings

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Attachments



POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Tuesday, February 8th, 2022, 6:00 pm
Virtual Zoom meeting

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Approval of the Agenda- February 8th, 2022
- Approval of Minutes- Amended- December 14th, 2021
January 11th, 2022
- State briefly the Mission of the Committee and purpose of the meeting
- Topic – Greenville Police Department Gang Unit Presentation
Det. Justin White
- Committee members Expression and Questions
- Adjourn

NOTE: To maintain order of the board and clarity of recording, please allow one person to speak at a time.

The Police Committee Relations Committee Mission Statement:

Serve as a liaison between the community and the police. To serve as an advocate for programs, ideas, and methods to improve relations between the community and the police. To disseminate information to the community and the City with regard to the state of relations between the community and the Greenville Police Department. To assist and promote the community education efforts concerning safety awareness and community and individual awareness.

SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

December 14th, 2021

All attendees were participating virtually.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Betsy Ray called the meeting to order. Donald called roll call of the committee members.

Committee members present:

Kevon Gainer
Betsy Ray
Diane Kulik
Sonny Bass

Absent

Robert Cherry
Gary Davis

City Staff Members present:

Sgt. Michael Staffelbach
Billie Jo Viverette
Donald K. Phillips
Camillia Smith, City Clerk's office

Donald called the roll call for attendance. There was discussion about whether or not Carol Ann Naipaul was officially a member again. Donald stated that her name is not on the committee list on the City of Greenville web page. Betsy stated that she was reappointed by Council member Rose Glover. The committee agreed to let Carol Ann Naipaul be recognized as a committee member, even though she was not officially listed as a member on the city web page.

Betsy Ray informed everyone that she spoke with Robert Cherry about his appointment. He informed Betsy that his term expired in October; and that he had not heard from anyone about being re-appointed. Betsy stated that she spoke with Council member Rick Smiley about her concern of Robert Cherry not being contacted. She stated that she asked why he was not reappointed. Council member Smiley stated that it was an oversight on his part and that he would be taking care of reappointing Robert Cherry. Betsy stated that she moves that the elections be postponed, because she felt that it would be unfair to Robert since he was absent. There was much discussion on delaying the elections until January. Donald explained what the by-laws state about holding elections in December. Donald stated that he recommended holding the elections tonight, but that the decision is up to the committee.

At this point, Betsy Ray asked if she had called the meeting to order. Sonny made a motion to call the meeting to order; Donald stated to Betsy that a motion is not needed. He stated you just need to call the meeting to order. Betsy stated, okay, I call the meeting to order.

Diane Kulik made a motion to postpone the elections; Carol Ann Naipaul seconded the motion. Betsy asked for any discussion. Sonny Bass stated he has a question. He asked how many members are on the PCRC committee at the moment. Donald stated that there are 7 members. Betsy stated that since Robert Cherry is technically not a member right now, there are 6 members. Betsy stated that since Gary Davis is not present, that there are 5 members present right now. Sonny stated that he has some concerns in delaying the elections, as well as not knowing if Robert Cherry will even be reappointed. Diane Kulik stated that she talked to Mayor P.J. Connelly, Council member Rick Smiley, and Donald this afternoon, one on one. She said that Council member Rick Smiley said he thought it had been done; and he said to tell everyone that it will be done. Betsy stated that she had communicated with Robert Cherry through emails this afternoon. Betsy stated that he said he was disappointed that he had not heard from anyone. Sonny asked Donald if he is saying that we can postpone the elections. Diane Kulik said yes. Donald stated, "I am not saying that; you are saying that. There's a motion and a second." Betsy stated we're discussing, and then we vote. Sgt. Staffelbach stated that he understands what you're trying to accomplish, but he said it looks like you're trying to change the by-laws to fit whatever you're doing. He stated that he thinks it will just create problems trying to change the rules from month to month. Betsy stated that we're not trying to change the rules to fit the narrative. She stated I'm just trying to be fair to Robert Cherry. She stated I've been on this committee three years and we have never changed the rules. Sonny stated that rules are put in place for a reason, and that he agreed with Sgt. Staffelbach in not changing the rules. Diane stated that this was no fault of the member, that it was a glitch within the city. She stated that we're not trying to change the rules; that we're trying not to discriminate against someone, when it wasn't his fault. Betsy stated that this is a unique situation at no fault of Robert Cherry and that she just wants to be fair to him. Betsy asked if there was more discussion, and then did roll call vote for the motion. Kevon Gainer, Diane Kulik, Carol Ann Naipaul, and Betsy Ray voted yes, and Sonny Bass voted no. The motion carried.

The agenda for tonight's meeting and the September 2021 minutes were approved by the committee, by roll call votes.

Betsy read the mission statement.

Betsy welcomed new members, Sonny Bass and Diane Kulik. She asked that they tell a little about themselves.

Betsy stated that planning needs to be made for 2022 meetings. She asked if Sgt. Staffelbach had any input. He stated that we are still under restrictions concerning meeting in person. He said that everyone needs to prepare to still meet through Zoom, until he hears otherwise. Betsy asked if he thought that masks or vaccinations had a play in the decision, or is it strictly the decision of the city. Sgt. Staffelbach said that it solely the decision of the city. He said that he is ready to meet in person though. He stated to please keep spreading the word that the Greenville Police Department is hiring. He said to continue to encourage people to visit the City of Greenville website.

Betsy stated that she does have a few thoughts about future meetings. She asked Sgt. Staffelbach about the podcasts that the police department has just started. He stated that it is a new recruiting tool that has just started, and that it absolutely could be a topic at a meeting. He stated that we will prepare to give a presentation for a future meeting.

Betsy discussed her concerns about school shootings. She stated that she would like to do this topic in front of a live audience. She said that she still wants to do women's safety but also for a live audience.

Sonny stated it sounds like we need to get back to in person meetings. Sonny asked Donald how to go about getting meetings back in person. Donald stated that is a city council matter. He stated that the resolution that the city council developed is still in place. Sonny asked if we need to contact city council and talk to them. Donald stated that yes, you can contact your representative and speak with them. Sonny stated that he agrees with Sgt. Staffelbach concerning the fact that not much is going to get accomplished until we meet in person.

Diane discussed a PCRC meeting held years ago where there were numerous city officials and citizens there. She talked about how that was very effective in sharing information with people.

Betsy Ray asked if there are other topics that anyone would like to plan for. She stated per the advice of Sgt. Staffelbach, we need to plan 4 to 6 months out for the meetings. Sonny asked if each member are assigned a month to plan for. Betsy stated that yes, each member should plan a meeting. She stated that the police department is excellent in assisting with the planning.

Betsy stated that she would like to do the podcast for January. Sgt. Staffelbach stated that would be fine; that he could plan that. He stated just remember that we have to hold elections next month, so it may make it a long meeting.

Sonny asked when the next city council meetings were. Donald stated that the council will be meeting on January the 10th, January the 13th, January the 24th, and on February the 7th.

There was discussion on topics for the February meeting. Sgt. Staffelbach stated January will be the podcast meeting, and that February would be a good meeting for gang awareness. Sonny asked if we could wait to plan further meetings until he talks to city council. Sgt. Staffelbach stated that would be a good idea to wait and see what will happen. He stated that everyone still needs to come up with ideas. There was discussion on the topic of police training.

AMENDMENT

Diane stated that she would be glad to do the gang meeting in February. Diane volunteered for either the May or June meeting also. She stated that she would like for the K9 Unit to put on a meeting outdoors, maybe at the church. She stated that she talked to Mayor Connelly to check to see if we could do the K9s outdoors, in May or June, and he said he thought it would be fine.

Carol Ann Naipaul asked Sgt. Staffelbach have we done any meetings on domestic violence. She said that there are a number of problems in District 2. She stated that the problems are:

gangs, gun violence, domestic violence, and a lot of other problems. She stated that she is glad the topic of shootings at schools; she stated that would be a good topic as well.

Sgt. Staffelbach stated that these are great ideas. He stated that he can speak with the gang unit, the gun violence unit and the domestic violence unit. He stressed to everyone to encourage others not to leave guns unsecured in vehicles. He stated that is a big problem that contributes to gun violence. He stated that he has done a program in the past in reference to school shootings, called Run, Hide, or Fight. He stated that he would gather some information in reference to that and that he would have Billie Jo send out that information to everyone. Carol Ann Naipaul stated that would be a great idea. She stated that she would also like for information about alarm systems to be shared with everyone. Sgt. Staffelbach stated he would be happy to share that information as well.

Carol Ann Naipaul stated that she wants to work with the HOA in her neighborhood and encourage other HOA's to join the meetings to share information with one another.

Diane asked if the roster with everyone's information could be shared with everyone. Sgt. Staffelbach asked if she would share the information with everyone. Billie Jo stated that once the roster is updated she would share it with everyone.

Betsy asked for a motion to adjourn. Diane made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Sonny. No further discussion. Betsy called roll call to vote on the motion. The motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned.

SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

January 11th, 2022

All attendees were participating virtually.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Due to not enough members being present for a quorum at the start of the meeting, Sgt. Staffelbach introduced the guest speaker, Kristen Hunter, Police Public Information Officer. It was decided to let her give her presentation first, with hopes that the other board meetings would soon join in the meeting.

Committee members present:

Betsy Ray, Mayoral
Diane Kulik, At-Large
Carol Ann Naipaul, District #2
Sonny Bass, District #5 (joined a few minutes late)
Gary Davis, District #3 (joined a few minutes late)

Absent

Kevon Gainer, District #1

City Staff Members present:

Police Chief Mark Holtzman, Staff Liaison
Sgt. Michael Staffelbach, Staff Liaison
Billie Jo Viverette, Board Secretary
Assistant City Attorney Donald K. Phillips
Camillia Smith, City Clerk's office
Kristen Hunter, Public Information Officer

Sgt. Staffelbach introduced Kristen Hunter, Public Information Officer for the Greenville Police Department. Kristen briefly discussed the new podcasts project that the Police Department has started. She explained that they have just recently started the podcasts. She discussed topics that they hope to discuss in the future in the podcasts. She stated that she posts new podcasts links every Wednesday. The link is accessible through any social media or podcasts apps; she stated just search for the Greenville Police Department. Sgt. Staffelbach explained to everyone the amount of time and work that Kristen spends working on the podcasts. Betsy Ray made a suggestion to discuss certain closed cases on the podcasts. Kristen said yes, it would be a good idea to discuss impactful cases. She stated that they welcome input and ideas of topics.

Sgt. Staffelbach stated that he would get a cheat sheet of the links to the podcasts and have Billie Jo Viverette, board secretary to send it out to everyone. Everyone thanked Kristin for sharing this information.

Sgt. Staffelbach stated that now the official roll call needs to be called. Betsy Ray called the roll again. All members present except Kevon Gainer, District #1.

Betsy stated before we approve the agenda, she asked if someone would make a motion to amend the agenda to include elections of officers. Diane Kulik made the motion to amend the agenda to include elections of officers. There was discussion on where to place the elections of officers on the agenda. After the discussion, Donald clarified that the motion is to add the elections of officers after the approval of the agenda but before the approval of the minutes. Motion was seconded by Gary Davis. Donald asked Billie Jo to call the roll call for the vote. The vote was passed by unanimous vote.

Diane Kulik made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Sonny Bass seconded the motion. Billie Jo called the roll regarding the motion. The vote was unanimous in approving the motion.

Donald read the by-laws concerning the elections of officers. Donald explained the process of elections. Donald asked for nominations for chair of the committee. Sonny nominated Diane Kulik; however Diane declined. Diane nominated Carol Ann Naipaul for chair. Carol Ann Naipaul nominated Sonny Bass for chair. Donald asked for any other nominations. Donald closed the nominations because of no other nominations. Donald stated that we have to vote on the nominations in the order that they were nominated. Donald asked Billie Jo to call roll call vote for the office of chair for Carol Naipaul. The vote was unanimous. Carol Naipaul nominated Sonny Bass for vice chair. Donald asked for further nominations. Because there were no further nominations, Donald closed the nominations. Donald asked Billie Jo to call roll call vote for the office of vice chair for Sonny Bass. The vote was unanimous.

Carol Naipaul asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes. Diane Kulik stated that she has a correction to be made. She said to change it to an addition to the minutes. Diane stated she volunteered to have gangs in February; but that her original pick is to have the K9 unit put on a meeting outside in either May or June. She stated that she discussed this with Mayor P.J. Connelly and that he stated that would be fine; he would be attending. Donald asked Diane if she was asking for a clarification of the minutes. Diane stated yes. Donald asked her to point out in the minutes where the clarification should be. Diane stated that it wasn't in there at all, but that it took place in the meeting. Donald proposed for Diane restate what she wants to be included in the meeting and then Billie Jo go listen to the recording to determine where to add this statement. Diane stated that she volunteered first for the May or June meeting, to have the K9 unit put on a meeting outdoors, maybe at the church. She stated that then no one volunteered for the February meeting, so she volunteered to do the gangs meeting in February. She stated that she also wanted to say that she talked to PJ to check to see if we could do the K9s outdoors, in May or June, and he thought it would be fine.

Sonny stated that at the last meeting he said he was going to talk to PJ about doing the meetings in person. He said he did and he did confirm that either in late February or early March they would start letting meetings be in person. Sonny stated that I think that's what Diane is talking about. Donald stated I think that Diane wants to make sure her addition to the minutes is accurately reflected. Diane stated correct. Donald stated that I think it needs to go to the bottom of page 3 of last month's minutes. Donald stated that I propose that Billie Jo listen to the recording of last month's meeting, and tonight's meeting. He stated to make sure

that it is accurately reflected in the minutes, and then the minutes back for consideration at the next meeting. Donald asked if there was a motion to direct Billie Jo to listen to the minutes from the last meeting and tonight's meeting and to accurately reflect the requested amendments as proposed by Diane Kulik for inclusion in last month's minutes for consideration at the February meeting of the PCRC. Diane made the motion. Carol Naipaul seconded the motion. There was some discussion. Then Carol Naipaul asked Donald if she heard right that it might be possible to hold meetings in person with social distancing. Donald stated that her question does not pertain to this motion. He stated let's vote on this motion first, and then we can discuss your question. Billie Jo called roll call on the vote. The vote was unanimous.

Carol Naipaul asked if someone would read the mission statement. Betsy Ray read the statement.

Carol Naipaul asked if there were any questions or comments at this time. Diane asked if Chief Holtzman was still with us. Diane asked Chief if he would explain seeking changes to the firearm rule. Chief Holtzman explained in the past criminal charges on city ordinances were mostly civil offenses with no jail time. He stated that discharging a firearm was included in those offenses. He stated that this past December the legislature made a rule that basically took away the ability to charge with a criminal offense, any of the city code violations. He stated that was unless the city codes were updated to a misdemeanor. He stated so we had to go back and review city codes. He said that discharging a firearm was one code that they want to keep as a criminal offense. He stated that it has to be brought before council for a first and second reading; and that he wanted this information shared with the public. He stated that the council will get a chance at the end of January and the beginning of February to listen to it and make a decision.

Diane asked does that include bb guns; does that include rifles and hand guns. She asked if this was all guns. Chief Holtzman stated its all firearms and weapons. He stated that he doesn't have the statue but that he needs to review in regarding to air pistols. Donald stated right now as it stands it is a misdemeanor. Donald said that with this proposal it could be a misdemeanor, as well as a civil penalty as an enforcement option. Donald read the statue and he stated that it does include all weapons. He also said that the statue states that anyone who permits their minor child under the age of 18 would be guilty of the misdemeanor. Donald stated that the language did not change but just that the penalties are in conformance with this new statue that the Chief is referring to.

Betsy asked if the civil penalties are equal to a fine. Donald stated that's right. He said that keep in mind when someone is charged criminally, there are criminal costs to be paid. He said that this is a civil fine, so the charge and cost is noncriminal. Betsy asked could they be coupled together. Donald said yes, that they can be.

Sgt. Staffelbach asked Gary Davis, who is new if he had any questions for the group. He stated he did not. Sgt. Staffelbach stated that he would work with one of the gang officers to prepare for next month's meeting. Diane stated that she wants to talk with Sgt. White about some things she wants to have covered, because she has some questions. Sgt. Staffelbach said okay, I'll follow up also.

Sgt. Staffelbach advised Gary that he encourages the board members to make contact with their communities to see if there are any questions. Sgt. Staffelbach asked Sonny if he had questions or concerns. Sonny stated that his biggest concern is when we can go back and meeting in person. He said again that he spoke with Major Connelly, who stated that the goal is for committees to go back to in person meetings by the end of January or the first of February.

Sgt. Staffelbach asked Betsy Ray for any last comments. Betsy said no, that she just appreciates people willing to step up and be the officers.

Sonny asked Donald and Sgt. Staffelbach if anyone has heard anything from District #4. Donald stated that he has not. He stated that's a question for the city clerk's office. Diane stated that she has spoken with Valerie with the city clerk's office, who stated that Mr. Cherry moved to Winterville and no longer in that district. Sonny said thank you. He said I have two applicants and asked if he should give those to the city clerk's office. Donald stated that yes, they can help them with the applications. Sonny stated that he'll give them a call tomorrow.

Sgt. Staffelbach encouraged everyone to go to their communities and recruit people to get involved.

Sgt. Staffelbach congratulated Carol Naipaul and asked if she was ready to move forward. Carol Naipaul said thank you; and thanked each member for their assistance and contribution. She also asked Sgt. Staffelbach to make contact with her concerning next month's meeting. She thanked everyone for giving her a chance to lead this committee.

Chief Holtzman thanked everyone for their hard work and participation.

Carol Naipaul thanked Chief Holtzman and Miss Hunter for their contribution. She asked if anyone had any more questions. She stated if not, we're ready for a motion to adjourn the meeting tonight. Betsy Ray made a motion to adjourn; Diane seconded the motion. Billie Jo called the roll call for the vote on the motion. The vote was unanimous.