

# SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>, January the 13<sup>th</sup>, January the 24<sup>th</sup>, and on February the 7<sup>th</sup>.

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.

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.