



City of Greenville
Police Community Relations Committee
SPECIAL MEETING - SUMMARY
6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2023
City Hall Conference Room 337
200 West Fifth Street, Greenville, NC 27834

Committee Members Present:

Sonny Bass (Vice Chair)	District 5
Diane Kulik	At-Large
Mark Parker	District 1
Sterling Ruffin	District 4 – Arrived at 6:38 p.m.

Committee Members Absent:

Rev. Philip Lyon	Mayoral
Vacant	District 2
Vacant	District 3

City Staff Members Present:

Community Projects Coordinator, Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison
Lt. Keith Garner – Strategic Services

The meeting was officially called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Vice Chair Sonny Bass. He asked Staff Liaison Devinder Culver to call the roll call. A quorum was established.

Vice Chair Sonny Bass asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Diane Kulik made a motion to approve the agenda and Sterling Ruffin seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Sonny Bass then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for January 10, 2023. Sterling Ruffin made a motion to approve the minutes. Diane Kulik seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as read.

Mr. Sonny Bass took a moment to report to the committee members that Mrs. Naipaul had resigned due to personal reasons effective March 7, 2023. Mr. Bass said he was sad at her departure and wanted to say “Thank You” to her for her leadership, kindness and all her hard work associated with the planning for the upcoming year. She will be sorely missed.

Mr. Mark Parker said that he had reconsidered the topic of homelessness for the April PCRC meeting. He wanted to propose mental health and the police response to calls where mental health was an issue as an alternative topic. There was some lively discussion about the merits of the topic. Mark asked Devinder to reserve Council Chambers for the April meeting and to help locate a speaker or speakers.

Mrs. Diane Kulik said that she was scheduled for May 2023. Her topic was to be the “Judicial Process.” However, since the accident on Memorial Drive which took the life of a nine year old boy she wondered if PCRC wanted to consider a bike rodeo. The idea would be to teach children not to go out into the street. Mrs. Kulik felt that more children could be reached on a Saturday. Mrs. Kulik said that she had already spoken to the Greenville Police Department Traffic Unit. A long, emotive and poignant discussion took place. Some of the brainstorming ideas that were considered were: ways of reaching children, partnering with Pitt County Schools, location and timing.

The outcome of the discussion was that Mrs. Kulik wanted to go back to the Greenville Police Traffic Unit and revisit the topic.

Vice Chair Sonny Bass asked about planning for the June meeting. Mark and Carol were originally scheduled to co-facilitate the meeting. Mark said he was still fine with planning the June meeting.

Mr. Ruffin asked what the Committee could do to help the Greenville Police Department. He mentioned that the topics picked by the Committee members were subjects that were important to them. Lt. Garner said that the Committee needs to bridge the gap between law enforcement and citizens. He felt that the Committee was achieving this by encouraging dialogue. Mark added that the people need to feel that their voices are being heard. He felt that communication is key. Lt. Garner felt that transparency, communication and relationship building was crucial to developing trust. Devinder mentioned that it was important for the public to see police officers in a positive light and that could be done by creating opportunities to interact with the public in settings which are not always enforcement/suppression related.

Mr. Mark Parker suggested having the June listening session on a Saturday, in the hopes that more people would attend. He wants people to come and share with the PCRC what is on their mind. Juneteenth, June 17, 2023 was mentioned as a possible date. As the West Greenville Health Council is already having a Juneteenth celebration at Thomas Foreman Park from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. it is being considered as a possible location. Devinder said she would contact the West Greenville Health Council.

A discussion about the pros and cons of having PCRC meetings on Saturdays ensued. It was decided to refer this matter to Mr. Donald Phillips.

Mr. Bass reminded everyone of the next meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, 2023 in City Council Chambers and asked for a motion to adjourn. Diane Kulik made a motion to adjourn. Mark Parker seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Devinder Culver

Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison