



MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY MEETING

APPROVED

CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

DATE: Thursday, January 19, 2023

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Urbana City Council Chambers
Urbana City Building
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ricardo Diaz, Chair; Tony Allegretti; Peggy Patten; Tony Rice; Ashley Withers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Katrina Kindle

ALSO PRESENT: Carla Boyd, Human Rights and Equity Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Ricardo Diaz called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Roll was taken. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Diaz asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. There was none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 28, 2022

Mr. Diaz called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2022 meeting. Peggy Patten so moved. Ashley Withers seconded. The board approved the motion by a voice vote.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

5. OFFICER'S REPORT

Carla Boyd provided an update highlighting:

- Status of complaints; information may be viewed in the portal by the board members
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration events were held Sunday afternoon and Monday morning and she assisted with recognition events during each program
- Volunteer assistance from members of this board is requested for the "Jettie Rhodes Day" scheduled for Saturday, June 24, at Dr. King Park

Board Members' follow up:

- The recognition of students at the MLK events was very much appreciated
- Interactions with citizens at public events are ongoing and business cards would be useful
- The City's portal serves to standardize access to complaints

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Update on changes to be approved by Council

Mr. Diaz reported he attended the City Council meeting along with Tony Allegretti earlier this week. He described three categories, or "buckets", for change making:

1. CPRB can make some changes as a board.
2. Some changes require changes to an ordinance.
3. Sometimes changes would require altering the structure of CPRB.

Mr. Diaz recalled that discussions at previous meetings of CPRB determined the members did not currently wish to make any changes to its structure.

When they attended the City Council meeting, Mr. Diaz and Mr. Allegretti discussed seeking a more expansive role for the CPRB. Some examples of a larger role suggested for discussion included having easier access to police files for review, providing input on police hiring, and serving a consultation role when a new labor agreement comes up for discussion. The Council asked many questions and invited CPRB members back for a future meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on handling backlog of appeals

Ms. Patten relayed that she had reviewed pending appeals from 2020, and she recommends grouping them going forward for efficient processing. She categorized the backlog as follows:

- 11 Administrative
- 22 Unsafe Driving
- 4 Resulting from Covid
- 4 other Distinct appeals

Ms. Patten recommended the following:

- Referring the Administrative appeals to City Administrator Carol Mitten
- Hearing one of the Unsafe Driving appeals and applying the same outcome to each of the others
- Dismissing the Covid-Related appeals, which have all been resolved or can no longer be resolved
- Hearing the distinct appeals

Mr. Diaz summarized what he had learned from the City Attorney's office. The Board may hear grouped appeals, but then each appeal must receive a stand-alone vote. Additionally, when one person categorizes appeals on behalf of the Board, at least one other Board member must also review and concur with the categorization.

Further discussion clarified that the grouping of appeals could potentially occur not only because many complaints were similar, but also because one appellant filed the batch of complaints. Additionally, the Board addressed the need to establish processes involving administrative complaints.

B. 2023 Meeting schedule

Board members considered options for quarterly meetings in 2023. Mr. Allegretti moved and Ashley Withers seconded to set 5:30 p.m. for the Board meeting time this year. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Further discussion led to setting specific dates within each quarter of the year for meetings on Wednesdays. Mr. Allegretti moved and Tony Rice seconded to hold the meeting on the following dates:

- May 24
- September 27
- November 29

Motion carried on a voice vote.

C. Vote on Handling Backlog of Appeals

Ms. Patten moved to follow up on the 41 Appeal cases as outlined in her summary earlier in the meeting. Ms. Withers seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote.

8. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

9. BOARD INPUT AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Board member comments and announcements

Ms. Patten attended the Community Coalition meeting and heard about the collaboration for crisis response getting underway between the University of Illinois and the City of Urbana.

Mr. Diaz reported the City of Urbana begins a Community Safety Review soon and he encouraged the CPRB to contribute comments.

B. Applicants needed for Board vacancies

One position is open at this time. Applications are on the City of Urbana website. Ms. Boyd will verify the policy on residency regarding townships. Mr. Diaz encouraged applications even as a review of technicalities takes place. He also reported on a plan in the works to tour churches to promote applications.

C. TASER Review

Please plan on and prepare in advance for a review of cases from 2020, 2021, and 2022 at the CPRB meeting in May. In addition to various documents already in place, you may expect video uploads to the portal to occur in the coming weeks and months.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Allegretti moved and Ms. Withers seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Unzicker
Recording Secretary