

Agenda
Grand Rapids Police Community
Advisory Board
Meeting of September 24, 2020
Grand Rapids Fire Hall Board Room
4:30 – 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call - Introductions
3. Approval of the Minutes March 12th, 2020
4. Public Comment
5. Board Member Reports

6. Old Business
None

7. New Business
 - a. Complaints regarding Liaison Officer wearing “Blue Lives Matter”.
 - b. Police Community Interaction

8. Other Business

9. Adjournment

Police Community Advisory Board Meeting

March 12, 2020

Grand Rapids City Hall

4:30 PM Room 2B

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Uzelac at 4:31 PM in Room 2B of the City Hall

Roll Call - Introductions

Present: Wendy Uzelac, Jackie Dowell, Laurie Turman, John Nalan, Tom Neustrom, Megan Phillips, Scott Johnson, Steve Schaar,

New Member Liz Branum was introduced as the newest member and welcomed to the Board.

Absent: Gail Adams

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2019. Moved by Dowell, Seconded by Phillips. Motioned carried.

Election of Officers

Motion by Turman, Seconded by Branum, to nominate Uzelac for the position of Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dowell, Seconded by Nalan, to nominate Phillips for the position of Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Uzelac, Seconded by Turman, to nominate Dowell for Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

Therefore, 2020 Officers are:

Chair -	Wendy Uzelac
Vice Chair –	Megan Phillips
Secretary –	Jackie Dowell

Public Comment

There were no members of the public present

City Attorney

Johnson explained that City Attorney Sterle had planned to attend the meeting but could not as he was in court.

Board Member Updates

Dowell asked if Board Members would be receiving City e-mail addresses. Schaar said he would check and respond back to the Board.

Phillips said she was contacted by a citizen who told her that his daughter had been sexually assaulted and that it was reported to police. The man stated that he later stopped by the police station to check on the status of the case and a police officer with red hair and a beard said he could not tell him that and said he would not get involved in another officer's case. Schaar explained that the only employee fitting that description may be CSO Fischer and that he is not a sworn officer. Schaar asked Phillips to have the man call him.

Uzelac shared a conversation she had with a man about activity at the Fairgrounds

Old Business

A discussion took place regarding the citizen satisfaction surveys. The consensus of the Board was that the surveys were valuable. The Board expressed a desire for the surveys to be brought to the next Board meeting.

Motion by Turman, Seconded by Nalan, to direct the police department to continue the surveys during the months of August, September and October, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed ride-a-longs with officers, interviews of investigators and reserve officers, and subsequent newspaper articles. The consensus was that these were valuable and should continue. Pam Dowell received praise for writing the articles that appeared in the Grand Rapids Herald Review and that the Board wanted Pam Dowell to continue to write these articles. Jackie Dowell said she would like to perform a ride-a-long with Sergeant Carlson. Phillips said she would like to shadow SRO Lease at the High School.

New Business

Phillips brought up Warrant Wednesday and said her objection was to the comments citizens placed on Facebook regarding this. Johnson stated Warrant Wednesday lasted for five hours and that at this time the department has no plans to reinstitute it.

The Board discussed meeting dates and times. It was agreed that the second Thursday in odd number months at 4:30 PM was acceptable.

The Board then set the 2020 meeting dates as follows:

May 7, 2020 @ 4:30 PM (Note: A change from the above as Neustrom had a work conflict)
July 9, 2020 @ 4:30 PM
September 10, 2020 @ 4:30 PM
November 12, 2020 @ 4:30 PM

The Board discussed development of future agendas. They expressed their desire that Police Administrative Assistant Jackie Heinrich continue to send an e-mail out to each board member asking for agenda items and would like this done a minimum of ten days in advance of the meeting. The Board felt that this worked well and expressed their appreciation for Jackie Heinrich doing so.

Johnson explained that Itasca County owns the Fairgrounds and that the County Fair Board (Agricultural Society) runs the Fair. Both deputies and police officers can enforce ordinances on the Fair grounds.

The Board asked for a list of public events that Board Members could assist the police department with. Schaar said he would compile a list and e-mail it to members.

Dowell pointed out that the City web site states that there are seven members of the Board. In fact, there are nine. She asked that the web site be changed to reflect the accurate number. Schaar stated he would speak with the City Clerk.

Dowell again reminded the Board that there is one Board Member that has not attended any meetings. She expressed concern that this violates the By-Laws and impacts the ability of the Board to form a quorum should members be unable to attend meetings. Schaar stated he would look into this.

Neustrom stated that there are times that traffic backs up badly in the area of the IRA Civic Center and High School when there are dual events taking place i.e. Civic Center, High School, Reif Center. He said vehicles are also parked on NW 14th Street, which exasperates the problem. He suggested that when these dual events take place that officers direct traffic at the intersection with Hwy 38. The police department will obtain a list of dual events.

The next meeting date was set for May 7, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

Chair Uzelac adjourned the meeting at 5:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted by S. A. Johnson