

Agenda
Grand Rapids Police Community
Advisory Board
Meeting of November 14, 2019
City Hall Room 2B 3rd Floor
4:30 – 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes Sept. 12, 2019
4. Public Comment
5. Board Member Reports

6. Old Business
 - a. 29 Surveys were received out of 150 sent over a 3-month period.
 - b. Story about K-9 Officer Gary O'Brien and Radar.
 - c. Story with Reserve Officer – Investigator Brian Mattson

7. New Business

8. Other Business

9. Adjournment

Police Community Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2019
Grand Rapids City Hall – Conference Room
4:30 – 5:30 pm

Board Member Wendy Uzelac called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Present: Jackie Dowell, Pam Dowell, Wendy Uzelac, Megan Phillips, Tom Neustrom, Scott Johnson and Steve Schaar.

Absent with notice: John Nalan, Weldon Braxton, Laurie Turman

Absent: Gayle Adams

Motion made by Pam Dowell, seconded by Megan Phillips, for approval of the minutes for July 11, 2019.

Public Present: None

Board Member Reports:

Pam Dowell: Inquiry about GRPD Facebook page/social media/policy/public comments following a social media issue with Itasca County Attorney FB page.

Wendy Uzelac: Told PCAB about her close-call situation at the Super 8 motel while local Rotary club was selling peaches. A senior lady mistook her gas pedal for the brake and ran into the peach stand. Discussion about driver evaluations – when to report and recommend. Wendy reports she is still looking into food donation and/or funding for K9 Radar (Feed Store and Dan Nielsen, Hometown Heroes Program).

Megan Phillips: Megan attended a community program regarding “demystifying racism” sponsored by Circles of Support. The program called “Acting Black” was presented by Carlyle Brown. Megan discussed the presentation, participation, and encouraged members to watch for events like these being presented locally.

Jackie Dowell: No report

Tom Neustrom: Spoke about the bears coming out on the Airport Road and damage done at his own home property. Advised – don’t engage with roaming bears – they are out scouring for food prior to hibernation.

Scott Johnson: Handed out PSA – Release on citizen sightings of bears in the area

Old Business:

- 1) Surveys have been printed. First mail-out has gone out. A survey is mailed out for every 15-20 ICR’s. At current, response has been good with positive feedback.
- 2) Continued discussion about board member absenteeism, attendance (bylaws read 75% attendance required = 4 of 6 meetings per year) and how to address this issue. Members present discussed preference for board people to be present in person vs Skype. Pam

mentioned knowing people that would like to apply now that meeting time has been changed. Steve S. and Wendy will follow-up with Tom Pagel regarding full member board compliance.

New Business:

- 1) Samples of returned surveys presented to board
- 2) Riding-Along story with Gary, Radar and Wendy had been bumped for local seasonal events. Stories will be printed in Wednesday editions as space permits.
- 3) Riding Along future stories: Tom with GRPD Investigators – shared experiences, Jackie with Troy Scott, Pam will talk to Rick Moen – Police Reserves, Megan will spend a day (when her schedule allows) with Greg Lease Jr. – SRO – GR Senior High.

Other Business:

- 1) National Night Out/Tall Timber Days and County Fair all went well – no issues.
- 2) Swap Meet and Car Show – a group gathers at a residence on Ridgewood Road annually where drinking and loud behavior occurs to include driving issues such as burn-out's, excessive acceleration. GRPD has been asked to provide traffic assistance for a local car group. Due to their actions and lack of respect for the public – GRPD denied any assistance this year and group was warned about their behaviors/driving actions.
- 3) There was a small plane crash. Pilot was okay and response to incident went well.
- 4) ICC Homecoming is approaching on Friday. Megan mentioned ICC Orientation, that Scott attended, and the discussion on sexual assaults with college students. Scott and Steve said from their working knowledge, sexual assault reports/incidents from ICC were very low.
- 5) School has begun – keep a watch for buses and students. One school bus driver was overzealous with his reporting of stop-arm violations. Tom recommended with the new school being built off Golf Course Road – that the GRPD create a plan to go over recommended parent-student pick up and drop-off's – correlating with student orientation in the fall.
- 6) Kidnapping from St. Cloud to Grand Rapids – multi-agency involvement and another incident handled very well.
- 7) So far, the Hands-Free law seems to be working from visual officer accounts.
- 8) 2020 budget is looking good with new squad car cameras figured in.

Board Chair Wendy Uzelac adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm. Available members were invited to tour the remodeled police department after the meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 7, 2019, 4:30 – 5:30 pm City Hall Room 2B

Respectfully submitted: Pam Dowell, PCAB Secretary