

MINUTES

Citizens Police Review Board

July 13, 2011
7:00 p.m.
City Hall Building – New Addition
City Council Chamber
701 East Broadway
Columbia, Missouri

Board members present: Ms. LoCurto-Martinez, Mr. Highbarger, Ms. Smith, Mr. Dean, Ms. Wilson, Dr. Alexander, Mr. Sheltmire, Mr. McClure and Mr. Martin.

Staff Present: Fred Boeckmann, Rose Wibbenmeyer, and Anthony Brown.

Members of the public were present.

The regular monthly meeting of the Citizens Police Review Board was held on Wednesday, June 13, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. Ms. LoCurto-Martinez, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. The draft minutes of the June 8, 2011 meeting were distributed in advance of the meeting and were approved.

Ms. LoCurto-Martinez informed the public that the Chief of Police and the Columbia Police Officers Association (CPOA) representative would not be present to present reports on the recommendations those organizations planned on submitting to the City Manager and the City Council.

Ms. Wibbenmeyer informed the Board that the Marlon Jordan appeal does not involve the CPD. The Board unanimously agreed to send a letter to Mr. Jordan informing him that his allegation did not allege misconduct of a City of Columbia police officer.

Mr. Highbarger briefed the board on Positive Connections. Positive Connections grows out of the desire for police officers to receive positive feedback from the community. Mr. Highbarger also wanted an ongoing open invitation for officers to present and speak with the Board.

Ms. LoCurto-Martinez discussed an option to implement Positive Connections at the beginning of the monthly meetings.

Ms. LoCurto-Martinez discussed how the Columbia Police Department (CPD) wanted misconduct to be defined. Chief Burton would like to adopt the definition of misconduct detailed in Missouri statute. Ms. LoCurto-Martinez discussed Mr. Boeckmann's definition of misconduct: any violation of federal law, state law, city or police policy.

Mr. Highbarger proposed a work session on the definition of misconduct. Ms. Smith inquired as to whether the Board voted on a definition of misconduct. Ms. Wibbenmeyer informed that the Board did not vote on the definition of misconduct, but came to an agreement that the Code of Conduct proposed by the Police Chief would be used as a guide. Mr. Boeckmann confirmed that was his memory as well. He further added that he based his definition of misconduct upon the police chief's code of conduct document.

Ms. LoCurto-Martinez and the members of the Board discussed the report requested by the Mayor. Ms. LoCurto-Martinez discussed what the report should entail. Ms. LoCurto-Martinez suggested that the report should include the progress of the Board, powers of CPRB per ordinance, and desired City Council action. Ms. Wilson discussed Mayor McDavid's request that the Board file an annual report required by the ordinance and whether Mayor McDavid wanted the Board to beyond the ordinance and generate a second annual report.

Mr. McClure discussed eliciting feedback from the community on proposed changes to the ordinance. Mr. McClure discussed receiving feedback from members of the community before the Board went into a work session. Mr. McClure stated that potential conflicts between the Board, CPD, and the CPOA could be clarified by presenting community feedback.

Mayor McDavid appeared before the Board to provide information on the type of report he wanted. He said that the police chief is to provide a report to council on what can be done differently and has suggested that the chief's report include information from the CPOA. Mayor McDavid said that he would like the Board to submit a report from the Board's perspective to show where we have been and where the Board believes it should go, and what if anything should be changed or strengthened. Mayor McDavid stated that the reports will be public. Mayor McDavid discussed the relationship between the Board, CPD, and CPOA and how that relationship should improve once expectations are defined.

Mr. McClure asked Mayor McDavid how the report the Mayor is requesting differs from the annual report required by statute. Mayor McDavid responded that the report he has asked the Board to generate will be responsive to Chief Burton's report or it could be a supplement to the annual report required by statute.

Mr. Highbarger discussed a plan to invite the public to come out and have public comment on the proposed changes by the CPD and CPOA. Ms. Smith recommended that the Board have the public hearing at the next meeting. Ms. Smith also recommended that the public at the next meeting could offer their input and afterwards the Board could submit the feedback to the City Council. Ms. LoCurto-Martinez asked about the report's due date. Mr. Boeckmann stated that the Mayor did not give a specific date.

Ms. Wilson discussed how the report and public meeting are two different things. Ms. Wilson recommended that the Board meet with the public at the September meeting and generate the report prior to that meeting. Mr. Boeckmann stated that the entire Board needed to look at the final report and approve it before it was submitted to the Mayor and the City Council.

Ms. LoCurto-Martinez appointed Mr. Martin, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Wibbenmeyer to generate a draft of the report on July 19, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at City Hall. Ms. LoCurto-Martinez narrowed down the dates for the Board to review the draft to July 21 and July 27.

Ms. Smith stated that there is a draft of the mediation proposal. Ms. Wibbenmeyer agreed to provide it to the Board.

Mr. Sheltmire discussed the Outreach Subcommittee. Mr. Sheltmire stated that before the Board could pursue outreach to the community, the Board needed to hammer out the ordinance changes with CPD and CPOA.

The Board discussed their research into other cities' practices regarding closed sessions. The Board passed on making a decision on whether to have closed or open sessions until a later meeting.

Ms. LoCurto-Martinez discussed the incompleteness of the data provided in CPD's annual report. Ms. Smith stated that the Board should include the incomplete data in the Board's annual report.

Ms. Smith discussed a *New York Times* article concerning doctors and police officers undergoing public communication training. Dr. Alexander stated that the number of complaints could be reduced if there was not a communication barrier between the police officer and the citizen. Dr. Alexander stated that a police officer explaining to the citizen the reason for the stop could reduce the number of complaints.

Ms. LoCurto-Martinez moved to appoint Dr. Alexander as interim vice-chair for a three month term. Mr. Highberger seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to pass the motion.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment. Members of the public commented.

Mr. Dean stated that he met with the North Central Neighborhood Association and provided the group with information on the Human Rights Commission and on the Citizens Police Review Board.

Ms. LoCurto-Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Highbarger seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.