

Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC) Minutes

Collinwood Recreation Center

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

6:00 pm

Attendees: *Commissioners:* Gail Maxwell, Dr. V. Yvonne Conner; Richard Knoth; Mario Clopton-Zymler; Richard Jackson; Jeffrey Follmer; Dr. Kathleen Clegg, Gordon Friedman; LaToya Logan; Anthony Body; Chris Brown, Tiffany Artis.

Staff: Jason Goodrick, Executive Director; Ryan Walker, Policy Analyst; Shelenah Williams, Community Engagement Coordinator; Junita Thomas, Administrative Assistant.

Absences: *Commissioner Lee Fisher.*

Commissioner Knoth called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Welcome & Recognition of Community Organizations:

Commissioner Yvonne Conner Introduced 2 New Commissioner, Comm. Brown & Comm. Artis

And New Staff Member's Ryan Walker, Policy Analyst; Shelenah Williams, Community Engagement Coordinator; Junita Thomas, Administrative Assistant.

Groups present:

DOJ

City of Cleveland

SURJ

Monitor Team

Representatives of the City Division of Police

Cleveland Job Corps Center

ADHAMS

Presentation: Mr. Grady Stevenson, Executive Director - Community Relations Board

· What are DPCs, what is the role of DPCs, how many are there in Cleveland?

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When and where do DPCs meet? Who leads a DPC meeting?

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How can community members get involved?

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Introduction of District Police Committee Leaders.

Commissioner Comments in response to presentation:

Commissioner Conner want more information on the district police committees, can you tell us a little bit more about how they are structured and if you have any representatives here this evening? If we could meet them and know who they are and what districts they represent as well as about community engagement officers. If any of those, foundational for the work that we will be doing through CPOP with the district police committees. And how can the community get involved with the district committee meetings.

Commissioner Clopton commented that going to the community relations board meetings and being able to see the expansiveness of the work of the board and its staff is notable.

Commissioner Clopton asked is the district policing committee plan and along with the cpop plan details, very specifically, attendance goals, improving the processes within the DPCs and goals with the net asset mapping. Basically the process of building consistent community, committees and the DPCs in all five districts so that they service the people of Cleveland in a similar way, providing an opportunity for more people to be on those committees who, in community relations is responsible for making sure that those changes are being followed.

Commissioner Brown commented that he's been working closely with the first district, going to the first district community meetings on a regular basis for about three years and have had the privilege to work with Tammy Hannah, community outreach person for District 1. And it's very important that the community attends these meetings. It's a great way to meet your officers and just build a relationship with your officers in your community and it's very beneficial.

Commissioner Body asked, what is the average demographic amount of people that attended these DPC meeting?
Also we have a few young folks in the audience and one of the things that we struggle with on the commission that's having that younger population participating in hearing their voices in the room, what initiatives we can work together on a possibly implemented our piggyback on with you guys to help bolster that, that population.

Mental Health Advocate asked what does the DPCs actually do involving the homeless and crisis intervention?

Mental Health Advocate asked is Captain Purcell crisis intervention coordinator for the city of Cleveland. Has he come to these meetings and introduced himself and given out his contact information? Because we're supposed to be doing problem solving and meeting with stakeholders and I cannot, for the life of me understand why we're not partnering with Your Board.

SURJ member requests the DPCs to consider renaming the monthly safety meetings to some other concept liking the CPOP plan is presented as problem solving instead of safety or the word wellness instead of safety. Because he feels That the white community has issues with racism and the word safety and the way that safety comes so often to the white imagination.

SURJ member question, could there be changes to that municipal code that organized the community relations board that would perhaps give you more power in terms of the city negotiating something with CPPA, which does not allow for these travesties of justice to go forward under the arbitration clause of the CPPA agreement? Could there be changes to the municipal code that helped you all represent the community more forcefully?

Public Comment Period:

Brenda Bickerstaff resident of the City of Cleveland spoke on going to the Cleveland Police Review Board meeting recently and found out they're dismissing complaints.

A community member asked about the police officer who shot Tamir Rice, how is it possible for him to get his job back?

Commissioner Knoth responded that we're going to address that issue following the public comment period through a resolution by the CPC.

A community member asked stated 2 questions, she was looking at the monitoring plan that the city just posted. The first draft of their district awareness training was due March 1st, have any members of the commission seen the curriculum for those district awareness trainings? Do you know if any community members provided input if the community didn't participate in developing the plans? That indicates a real lack of commitment to transparency and community participation.

Commissioner Knoth responded that we received the first draft of their district awareness training document that you referenced and that we have not received the document you reference from the City.

A community member has a suggestion wants to have the Quarterly meeting Monthly.

Commissioner Knoth responded we will specifically address that in our annual report that we are in the process of drafting right now. The decision was made in the last three and a half years. We've met monthly and in all candor, the number of attendees drop significantly even though we moved it out. And what we found was that we were having more community engagement in the subcommittee meetings and the work group meetings. So what we've done is kind of transition kind of a test is the whole larger public meetings throughout the city changing the location. So that we're reporting that information on, But continuing on with work groups and other meetings, sometimes as many as three times a month and monthly at the least. There are several committees that meet very regularly and we post our schedule on the website. So we're going to work more through the work groups and see how that goes. If we find there's a pushback from the community then, then we'll revisit that issue.

A member of the City of Cleveland Division of Police, but he was not here representing them. Comment was officers have approached him and ask if they really should open up to the community police commission and the monitors when asked questions about what they really feel and what they're really going through. And the ones that I know of that came to him said they talk to members of the community police commission, they talked to monitors and they've received no follow up.

A member of the monitoring team responded I've met several times with police officers and each time they've gotten follow up from me, we conducted a listening group with officers from across the department. We probably had some 70 to 100 officers that we met with. We detailed the information we got back from those meeting with those officers and then that information got back to the department. I'm meeting again this month with another group of officers. Every meeting as a monitor that I have been involved in. Those offices have gotten follow up and feedback and they will continue to do so as long as I am a monitor involved in any police meetings.

A community member has a suggestion for the CPC he wants acknowledgement or actually I'm consideration on some of the things that we suggest. We've suggested things like having an independent body that would be the holders of the Dash Cam or body cam footage. That way that independent body is not going to feel a bias towards the city or that officer and worry about who, you know, how it's going to affect them and their job and so forth. Wants the commission to acknowledge them and when they are good suggestions, we hope that you would actually give them a shot.

Commissioner Knoth responded, let me say I appreciate the time you spend coming to these meetings and being so involved in the process. That said, not everything that we propose on this end from the CPC is adopted. In fact, as monitor representative and the Justice Department representative will acknowledge in many of the meetings where we have negotiation sessions, there's give and take on some issues. And in one of the sessions we talked about equipment and the city's budget proposal on equipment and the notion of turning materials over to a third party, there was pushback.

Commissioner Logan responds, what you're asking for is if you make a suggestion, you want to see it in our recommendations that we've put forth to the monitoring team, the city and the CDP. So regardless of if it's accepted, if we have to fight, they don't take it, you want to see that we at least included it and then respond to you as to why he didn't go forward. Okay. So I think we can do that.

A youth community member one comment one question, do you feel that there should be a higher certification or qualification for these police officers going through the police academy, should the bar be raised. Comment She feels she we constantly have these meetings and honestly, she has yet to hear actual answer or conclusion to some of the questions that we've heard from previous meetings already.

Commissioner Knoth responded on August 12th this group after voting and discussing the recruitment and training module as part of the CPOP program actually made specific and detailed recommendations and reported on the details in writing of what we thought should be included in the background of an individual applying for a job, including asking that the city consider, utilizing train social workers as part of the core of the patrol officer gathering. And there were at least five meetings with the city negotiation sessions and that was rejected and that was reported in our October meeting. I'm with the acceptance of the monitoring and the Justice Department, we raised our objections. Um, and so we did respond on that very front and that was, that was as a result of six months of work.

A youth community member response so since the plan was rejected what is the next step in the process.

Commissioner Knoth responded the next step is we continue on to attempt to refine and improve the process.

Commissioner Body responded we're not going to change police force overnight. We're not going to make the racial issues change overnight. But it's all about the small victories. The small victories is, is lifting up your voice. Small victories is seeing the recommendations, getting that feedback that you want on a small victory.

Commissioner Body posed a question, how can we help assist you all to be more engaged and more involved to get educated on the process. Let's hear solutions that we can bring back to you.

Brenda Bickerstaff resident of the City of Cleveland informed all parties to tell starter coming to the subcommittees.

Commissioner Body responded with Engagement Activities to

Commissioner Knoth closed public comment at 7:28

Call for New CPC Business made by Commissioner

Commissioner Conner Highlighted the CPC statement and moving forward in 2019 you will see different projects The CPC is working on.

Commissioner Knoth read into the record a resolution:

Resolution 20 1901 drafted by the commission and asked for a statement or a claim of others that joined in on it.

Motion to support this resolution to be moved forward.

All in favor 9

Against 3

Motion Passed

Absent, Lee Fisher

Michael D. Polensek, Ward 8 Councilman give his comments.

Passing of January 2019 minutes

Commissioner Knoth Motion to approve

Commissioner Clegg 2nd

All present approved

Organizational Update - ED Jason Goodrick, New Staff and being involved in the work groups.

Budget Update - Commissioner Gail Maxwell

Call for New CPC Business made by Commissioner Knoth @ 7:48

Commissioner Clopton potential new work group that's focused on the future of the commission & with both infrastructure focused as it relates to how the commission is structured, what the group looks like.

Motion to Adjourn made by Commissioner Knoth, 2nd by multiple commissioners.

Motion passed unopposed, ADJOURNED at 7:50

60 attendees by headcount not including staff, commissioners, MT members or City Personnel