

Cleveland Community Police Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 8, 2023 - 6:00pm - 8:30pm
Towards Employment - 3301 Saint Clair Avenue Cleveland, OH 44114

Roll Call order:

Adams
Benito
Chura
Donaldson
Earley
Garrett-Ferguson
Kennedy
Reaves
Van Lier
Rodriguez
Wang
Zayed
Ridgeway

Staff:

Goodrick
Anderson
Walker
Williams

Gavel in by Chair Pro-Temp Ridgeway

Attendance

Adams - present
Benito - present
Chura - present
Donaldson - present
Earley - present
Garrett-Ferguson present
Kennedy - present
Reaves - present
Ridgeway - present
Van Lier - present
Rodriguez - present
Wang - present
Zayed - present

All present

Chair Pro-Tem Ridgeway thanked the public for attendance, thanked staff, Jason, Shelly, Ryan Sara. Remind public and Commissioners that they can reach out through the staff to the commission.

Chair Pro-Temp Ridgeway: added an additional item to the agenda: a brief report from Interim Executive Director, according to the most recent agenda on city council. The Commission then voted to adopt the agenda.

Adams - Aye

Benito - moved, Aye

Chura - Aye

Donaldson - Aye

Earley - Aye

Garrett-Ferguson - Aye

Kennedy - Aye

Reaves - seconded - Aye

Van Lier - Aye

Rodriguez - Aye

Wang - Aye

Zayed - Aye

Ridgeway - Aye

The full agenda adopted.

Chair Pro-Temp Ridgeway: We want to keep the community abreast of what the agenda is. Please remember that the Commission is new to this, and despite some issues initially, We have turned a corner and improved our organization and personal relationships. This is still a rough draft. We ask the community for grace to figure out how to do this. I want to make sure that the commissioners and the public know what our charge is, and what our responsibilities are under the consent decree.

The Chair Pro-Temp read the CPC mission statement and the voter findings from issue 24. And said that these should guide our work as commissioners.

Chair Pro-Temp introduces the Interim ED to give a 15 minute explanation of the Consent Decree

Interim ED Goodrick noted that the education on the Consent Decree is often insufficient. And then goes into a brief lesson on the Consent Decree.

Overview of lesson

- History of how we got to the Consent Decree (initially a findings letter and an MOU on the issues with the jails-voluntary process). Citizens asked the Department of Justice to

return. High profile incidents, then mayor Jackson asked them to come. US Code 42-4141 prohibits patterns and practices of Constitutional rights violation, Department of Justice and prosecutors found the City of Cleveland had numerous violations of the Fourth Amendment. Listed all of the problems they found. The Federal Government can sue a municipality to address this, the Settlement Agreement was entered into instead of a lawsuit - the Consent Decree is more than 400 paragraphs

- Lists how it's broken down
- Evaluation - people talk about ending the Consent Decree, there is misinformation about the Consent Decree sun setting--it does not. Monitor looks to see how much progress has been made. It is a subjective assessment, everyone has a different perspective, the CPC developed a number system. Still subjective, not always complete, but gives a snapshot.
- Getting out of the Consent Decree is described in Paragraphs 401-403; substantial and effective compliance with the search and seizure for 1 year, for all remaining for two consecutive years. The one thing that still lacks is proving that practices have changed, there has been policy and training, but the question is how effective it is. We know there have been changes on paper, but how does it look on the street?
- Be there for the next status conference 3/23, 3:00 federal courthouse

Chair Pro-Tem: Table approval of minutes until next meeting. Use Robert's rules, wait to be acknowledged. Please no side conversations when someone is speaking

Now for community comment.

Brenda Bickerstaff: asks if they should have minutes during the executive session. Glad you adopted Robert's rules.

Chair Pro-Tem: we can't answer questions during public comment, but we will listen and refer to them later.

One gentleman asked about volunteering to help the Commission.

Richard Jackson: how far along are you in your training? When do you anticipate that you will be able to engage in practical work?

Chair Pro-Tem: status reports from the committees--nothing requires action, so just reports.

Garrett-Ferguson: training report, we decided we wanted to do all of that legal training on March 25 over the course of 8 hours, with the law department, with the meeting on the March 22 have CPRB and OPS, and March 15 for the grant writing. To answer the question as soon as possible, with the police training, it will take a lot of time. We all work full time. We will try to get in 8 hour training sessions a day. This is to show us how the police are trained. We hope it will be done in the next six months.

Chair Pro-Tem: budget report from City Council, read by Interim ED

Interim ED: explains the situation with the City Council and the budget. Finance had submitted the Mayor's budget and the commission agreed, the bulk of the money is going to staffing. Some management that needed adjusted, make sure staff pay is competitive, and the discussion over an attorney--the ability to hire a full time attorney on staff. The committee forwarded that to the commission who voted for it, who sent it to council. IED spent two hours discussing it with the council. Council then, without talking to us, took that money out. We asked more than the minimum--the minimum was the floor. We didn't ask for a lot more. If we can justify an ask, we should ask. The denial was because we were too new, the second was that they can legally give us the minimum. Every department asks for money, especially if it's justified. Details of cuts. Went through its first read. But it has not had a final vote yet. Contrary to statements made in council, this is a cut from what you voted on.

Chair Pro-Tem: Budget and Grants committee next. This brief report on budget cuts is important for your next meeting. We might be able to go back in June to go back for an amendment.

Adams: Budget and Grants committee met on March 3--we thought we were done with the budget. We focused more on the grant process. There are several areas we need to make a decision on before we can start making rules for grants. We are going over the various parts, we looked at eligibility and the number of grants, and the guidelines during the last meeting.

We talked about a ceiling for organizations--we did not make any decisions, we still want more input.

We talked about ways to address areas of most need. We talked a lot about how that grants were sustainable, making sure that we don't design our grants in such a way where we exclude people doing good things.

One tentative thing we had consensus on, maybe designating grants into different categories: starter grants, sustainability grants, expansion grants. There was discussion, as we are going to be on a tight timeline, that we can work on things piecemeal. There is an outstanding question of how high do we go with grants. Contact anyone on the budget committee if you have any ideas.

We have to manage all of the grants that we send out, and with budget cuts, we will likely have less resources.

I encourage everyone on the commission to contact anyone with any ideas. We decided on one round of grants for this first year.

Chair Pro-Tem: everyone send suggestions, also consider getting involved with work groups. Use full meetings for a vote, but not lengthy discussions on the grants.

Benito: when is the next budget meeting and when would Adams like the recommendations by?

Adams: March 20th at 3pm, I am comfortable with a couple of hours to look it over, others might want more.

Chair Pro-Tem: you can come up with something with your co-chair.

Chair Pro-Tem: Hiring Committee

Donaldson: We have not yet met, we can meet sometime in April, but we have other things to focus on.

Chair Pro-Tem: just wanted to list the standing committees that have yet to be established.

Chair Pro-Tem: old business, Wang from the rules committee.

Wang: We are in the process of passing the rules. I'm just going to read into the record the summary:

On March 2 232 the Rules Committee agreed to these updated rules -- **Operations Manual with Rules Section is attached to these minutes.** [CPC Operations Manual 2023 - Section 1 - Approved March 2023.pdf](#)

Wang: Move to adopt the rules in Section 1

Zayed: Second

Adams - aye*

Benito - aye

Chura - aye

Donaldson - aye

Earley - aye

Garrett-Ferguson - nay

Kennedy - aye

Reaves - aye

Van Lier - aye

Rodriguez - aye

Wang - aye

Zayed - aye

Ridgeway - aye

Motion Carries 12 - 1*

***Commissioner Adams requested to change his vote to Nay, after reviewing the rules, it was concluded this is not allowed once the vote was moved on from, but Commissioner Adams requested this be recorded.**

Wang: Rules meetings are boring, but important. We followed the legal recommendations. We want transparency and clarity.

Benito: a person may change their vote until the Chair declares the results of the vote, but you can, by unanimous consent, change it until after the vote, as long as it is before the next business is moved on to.

Some back and forth.

Chair: Shelly Williams wants to give an overview

Williams: the Trauma Project Overview

The project is entitled the conversation, about how police violence impacts the mental health of the black community. This started several months ago, originally focusing only on Black men, this was from the previous commission, it was Terry Ecole's idea. I began to talk to different community members, you can't have a conversation with just men only. It's not expanded into a four part series aht addresses how police violence impacts the mental health of Black women, men, and youth, then on July 28, have a collimation of how trauma affects everybody, including police. I do have a proposal that I sent out to people who I am asking for funding from, you can overlook that at your leisure, we can talk about it more extensively. We are partnered with several community partners, including BLM who is a fiscal agent. The CPC is not funding this.

Chair Pro-Tem: what is important for this commission is that we support this four part series. One of the things that Ms. Williams did not mention is that the conventions for men and women are broken up by gender. We should support this.

Garrett-Ferguson: what is the intended role for commissioner roles when it's listed under fiscal?

Williams: I just want you to bring people, we are not asking for money. (Brenda reiterated this.)

Chair Pro-Tem: Ad Hoc committees, as chair I have the power to establish two ad hoc committees. One will be to poll all of the commissioners who want to run for co-chair. Next week these candidates will be presented and will speak on their behalf. Vote in the next meeting the two commissioners who will work on who is interested are **Donaldson and Kennedy, along with support Ryan Walker**

Next one will poll the whole commission on which of the six standing committees and two temporary they want to be on. **Zayed, Chura, and Walker**. Will report a process ready by the next meeting.

We need to work together and trust the process and each other. These ad hoc committees will all for that to happen. Please talk to the ad hoc commissioners. We will have a process to put together committees. We trust you with the process and the ability to talk to your fellow commissioners

Van Leir: next Pro-Tem?

Chair Pro-Tem: Make a motion

Van Lier: Rodriguez for next pro temp--motion.

Reaves: second

Adams - aye

Benito - aye

Chura - aye

Donaldson - aye

Earley - aye

Garrett-Ferguson -aye

Kennedy - aye

Reaves -aye

Van Lier - aye

Rodriguez -aye

Wang - aye

Zayed - aye

Ridgeway - aye

Zayed - some time left, do you think they should make any comments.

Chair: I have no problem, but I would encourage the public to make their comments during the allotted time. We are open for comments.

Loh: Robert's rules are good for committees, not everyone in the community, I might want to respond or speak to something someone said during the meeting. This mental health issues on other communities like Hispanic, Asian, unhoused, with police violence can be addressed.

Gentleman: Robert's rules of order, should not be allowed to take votes back, his vote should remain an aye.

Reaves: maybe schedule it so we can have all of the training in one week.

Chair: it may be possible for the staff to work that out.

Garrett-Ferguson: the work of policing is going to come up quickly, I hope that once we figure this out that we can hit the ground. It is unfortunate that some of our committees will not get going for months. Just want commissioners to remember that we should honor what the community wants.

Chair: I appreciate that, I don't think that it's one or the other. I think that with the election of the chairs and committees--I don't think that one negates the other. We wanted to wait to establish the police committees until after the training is done. Once the committees are done we can go forward.

Wang: we did include that no police commission will be within 90 days. But part of our commitment to the community is that we are equipped to deal with these issues. This is not an attempt to delay, we just need to gain the skills necessary to help the committee.

Chair: We have a commission of 13 highly qualified people who have experience and training, as soon as we can finalize the specific training for the commission. Because of the people who were selected we need to move forward as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Chair: thank you for letting me change some things around tonight. Last night was an interesting meeting listening to the two law firms. It will be virtual tomorrow, you should listen in. It is important because we have to work with them.

Goldsby: Rimbick article: he was suspended for 25 days for derogatory comments against community members. He should have been fired. He's back in the media, violating policy, violating procedures, this is why this commission was created.

Brenda: importance of training.

Chair Pro-Tem: motion to adjourn--

Wang: noted the disparity in punishment with Rimbick, emphasizing that the training is necessary.

Benito: Wanted to add a comment about getting the work started; our rules Chairperson said at a meeting this monday the 13th, we are looking at part 2 of the manual, which looks at policy and procedures for police--so the work is starting. Encouraged all commissioners to come.

Reaves: moves to adjourn

Second by Rodriguez

Chair-Pro-Tem: There is no need for a vote when its scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm