

Minutes
Citizen Review Committee
April 3, 2013

Date Approved: 5/1/13

Meeting Location: Room C, Portland Building, 1120 SW 4th Ave. Portland, Oregon

Chair Troy called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

Introductions and Welcome

Citizen Review Committee (CRC) Members Present: Jamie Troy (Chair); Michael Bigham (Vice-chair), Jeff Bissonnette (Recorder), David Denecke, Rodney Paris, Dr. Rochelle Silver, Steve Yarosh

City staff: Constantin Severe, Assistant Director, Independent Police Review (IPR)

Portland Police Bureau (PPB): Captain Dave Famous, Professional Standards Division

Community and Media: Dan Handelman (Portland Copwatch and Flying Focus Video), Debbie Aiona (League of Women Voters); other unidentified community members.

Minutes of 3/6/13 CRC Meeting

Chair Troy made a motion to approve the minutes of the 3/6/13 CRC meeting. Mr, Bissonnette seconded. The motion passed 6-0, with an abstention by Mr. Denecke, who did not attend the 3/6/13 meeting.

Director's Report (Mr. Severe)

(See attached.)

Chair's Report

Chair Troy: reached out to the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Albina Ministerial Alliance to express his concerns about the appeal timelines in the DOJ settlement; worked with Mr. Yarosh to create the case summary for the appeal that was originally scheduled for this evening; had contact with the appellant regarding her request to postpone this evening's appeal hearing; had coffee with Dr. Silver to discuss her concerns and get updates; participated in a Crowd Control Workgroup activity; reviewed the draft minutes of last month's CRC meeting before distribution to the full CRC.

Chair Troy apologized to CRC members for having forgotten to announce at last month's meeting that the election of CRC officers was scheduled to take place at this evening's meeting. .

Old Business

The appeal hearing for Case #2012-C-0187/2013-X-0001 that was originally scheduled for tonight's meeting has been postponed at the request of the appellant. Chair Troy thanked the appellant for being present and asked her how much time she will need before rescheduling the appeal hearing. The appellant expressed the desire to have the appeal hearing in June.

Chair Troy made a motion to reschedule the above-mentioned appeal hearing for 6/5/13 at 5:30 p.m. in Room C on the 2nd floor of the Portland Building. Dr. Silver seconded the motion. No public comments were offered. Mr. Severe advised that there is another appeal case file review scheduled for the May meeting, so depending on the results of that review, there may need to be two appeal hearings scheduled in June. Chair Troy affirmed that the CRC members are prepared for that possibility.

New Business

Chair Troy announced that the election of CRC officers will take place at the May CRC meeting.

Dr. Silver brought up the fact that not every City Commissioner currently has a CRC liaison.

Current liaison appointments are the following:

Commissioner Fritz: Dr. Silver and Ms. Yarosh
Commissioner Fish: Mr. Paris
Commissioner Saltzman: Mr. Bissonnette
Mayor Hales: None
Commissioner Novick: None

Mr. Denecke and Mr. Bigham agreed to contact Mr. Novick.

Chair Troy agreed to contact Mayor Hales.

Workgroup Updates

Crowd Control Workgroup (Mr. Paris): The workgroup met with members of the Rapid Response Team. They will be planning their next steps as they start to work towards making recommendations. The date of the next meeting will be announced.

Outreach Workgroup (Dr. Silver): The workgroup met today and discussed CRC recruitment and the next community forum. A letter has been sent to the Center for Intercultural Organizing asking if they would like to collaborate with CRC on the next community forum.

Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion Workgroup (Mr. Yarosh): The workgroup met on 3/15/13 and was briefed by Lieutenant Craig Morgan, a primary drafter of PPB's 2013-2017 Affirmative Action Plan. The last PPB recruitment cycle resulted in an increase of more than 40 percent in the number of minorities and women in the pool of recruits. The next meeting of this workgroup is scheduled for 4/19/13 at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditor's Conference Room. The workgroup will discuss ways to curtail the "five year drift" phenomenon, describing the typical loss of recruits within the five to seven year range.

Recurring Audit Workgroup (Mr. Bissonnette): The workgroup last met on 3/29/13 to examine its review of IPR dismissals. Mr. Reinke will be working in the next couple of weeks on an analysis of the data, which will frame the report on dismissals. The next step will be a review of recent investigations. The next meeting is scheduled for 4/26/13.

Use of Deadly Force Workgroup (Mr. Denecke): The workgroup last met in February. Mr. Denecke is currently trying to schedule a meeting with Captain Alexander of SERT.

Public Comments

Mr. Handelman: commented on the hiring of additional IPR investigators and posed the question of how the new positions would be funded; voiced his concerns that the transparency of the review process is being diminished by email communications among CRC members; suggested that there may have been "double counting" in reporting the increase of women and minority recruits.

An unidentified community member, observing that April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, expressed her appreciation to CRC members for the effort and energy that they give to their work. She also appreciates her ability to bring her concerns to this body.

Wrap-up Comments

In response to Mr. Handelman's comment about diminished transparency in CRC communications, Chair Troy clarified that the email communications he referred to earlier were only concerning the logistics of postponing this evening's appeal hearing. He stated that there were only informal, one-on-one discussions between CRC members about who might be interested in the various CRC officer positions.

Mr. Yarosh urged everyone to support Senate Bill 833, which is the driver's license bill for undocumented persons. He said he plans to contact Chief Reese to find out what PPB's position is on this.

Dr. Silver asked Captain Famous if Lieutenant Graham was no longer with IA. Captain Famous replied that Lieutenant Graham was transferred from IA to North Precinct, and Acting Lieutenant Jeffery Bell is currently assigned to IA.

Adjournment

Chair Troy adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.