

Community Policing Advisory Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, First Floor, Oakland City Hall, Oakland, California 94612

February 6, 2013 6:00 pm

Officer John Hege Hearing Room (3)

AGENDA

Call to Order at 6:13 p.m.

Committee Roll Call: No Quorum Established (7)

Present- Jeffrey Cash (M), John Garvey (Dist. 2), Krista Gulbransen (Dist. 4), Barbara Hunter (Dist. 3), Chairperson Marcus Johnson (AL) Alex Miller-Cole (M), Renia Webb (OHA)

Absent- Frank Castro (NW), Angela Haller (NW), Vice Chair John Nichols (Dist. 6), Greg Novak (Dist. 7), Vertis Whitaker (Dist. 1)

Vacancies- District 5, Mayoral, OUSD

Appointee Notes: Dist. = District; M = Mayoral; NW = Neighborhood Watch; OHA = Oakland Housing Authority; OUSD = Oakland Unified School District.

Agenda Item 1, Open Forum

Jacquee Castain spoke to the Board regarding two incidents with the Oakland Housing Authority Police in her neighborhood. The second incident involved OHA Officers entering and searching a neighbor's home and arresting their son. She felt that there was a disconnect between OHA Police and OPD and that residents need to know what agreement exists between these two agencies and what their duties and responsibilities are. She would like this as a future agenda item for the CPAB.

Chairperson Johnson asked that Member Webb, the OHA appointee, do some follow-up with Ms. Castain and OHA.

Jim Dexter also spoke during Open Forum, he asked about the follow-up to the committee from Assistant Chief Toribio since the January meeting as he had not received anything. Second, he stated concerns that the Board's agenda does not reflect critical issues that are happening in the City.

Joe DeVries noted that an email did go out to the subscriber list with two of the five items from AC Toribio. There was an email problem that appears to be resolved.

Chairperson Johnson reiterated that the items this board discusses are limited in scope and the board will not discuss items outside its scope.

Chairperson Johnson also stated that in regard to the Wasserman Consulting Team, his hope is that the consulting team goes out into the community to discuss their plans.

Agenda Item 2a, Jan. 2, 2013 Minutes

Tabled due to lack of quorum

Agenda Item 2b, OPD Reports and Updates

Tabled due to lack of quorum

Agenda Item 2c, Beat 33/34 NCPC recertification

Discussion: Public

Beverly Williams, the Chair of the Beat 33/34 NCPC. She explained that she had met with the CPAB Resource Committee and they discussed changes to the by-laws including language regarding outreach, removal of officers, and other language. She stated that the NCPC voted on and passed the new by-laws at their January Meeting as per the direction of the CPAB. She noted that without a quorum, the NCPC recertification will not be able to take place tonight.

Chairperson Johnson reminded the committee that the NCPC was following the direction of the CPAB in working diligently to rebuild their NCPC with viable by-laws.

Member Webb asked if the by-laws were forwarded to the chair of the committee?

Staff Joe DeVries clarified that they were received. The Beat 33/34 NCPC Members were congratulated by the CPAB for their efforts.

Tabled due to lack of quorum

Agenda Item 2d, Chair's Report

Chairperson Johnson turned the floor over to Staff Joe DeVries

Staff Joe DeVries who reviewed the new member orientation binder that he put together which includes the enabling legislation for the CPAB, meeting Schedules for NCPC Meetings Citywide, past reports to the City Council, and an up-to-date roster. Staff explained that any of this information that current member does not have, he will provide electronically to them.

Member Miller-Cole offered his personal printing account that he would allow to be used to produce documents.

Staff Joe DeVries also stated that he will be assisting OPD with coordinating the Wasserman Consultant strategy meetings and he is recommending that, after the Holy Names event, the Consultant make his next presentation to the with the CPAB.

Chairperson Johnson raised the issue of PSOs being reassigned again and the fact that now they will have an email address that doesn't identify the officer but instead the beat that they work in. This concerns him as it further diminishes the relationship between the community and the officer.

Chairperson Johnson raised the issue of the retreat wanting to discuss topics and potential dates for the retreat. He would like the retreat to start with some trust building exercises among the board members to strengthen their relationship.

Member Webb suggested that the highest priority for the retreat is to set a plan of action that ensures the CPAB is doing the work it was created to do in the enabling legislation. She cited the subcommittee work as an example of what needs to be done.

Member Cash pointed out that while trust among the board is important, even more significant is the board's relevance in regard to OPD and Community Policing in general. Cash noted that OPD is not giving the Board its due. Cash cited the Wasserman Strategy Meetings as a perfect opportunity to ensure the Board is being heard.

Member Hunter asked about the political aspect of these efforts. She asked what power we have to hold OPD accountable. She wants to see OPD give the Board the respect it deserves.

Member Garvey noted that the Board should look at metrics similar to what were raised by Mr. Dexter such as how much time the PSOs spend in their beats, how many meetings they go to, and how the Board should analyze the data. He sees the retreat as an opportunity to frame what tools the board should be using to evaluate the body of work of community policing. He offered his project management expertise to help develop a work plan for the board, especially determining how to be productive each month in between the meetings. He also noted that the Wasserman Meetings, by law, should start with the CPAB.

Member Miller-Cole suggested that a review and potential revision of the Board's by-laws is an important topic for the retreat. He also sees a need for educating the Board on what its authority and responsibilities are, as well as the responsibilities of the City to the Board such as staffing levels and funding.

Member Cash expressed frustration with OPD not coming to the table.

Chairperson Johnson also shared this disappointment and the group agreed that the Chief and City Administrator need to be informed of the frustration of the Board with the lack of participation by OPD.

Member Garvey asked Staff Member Joe DeVries what his role is in this discussion regarding the Chief, the City Administrator, and the Board's relationship with them.

Staff Member Joe DeVries stated that he sees the discussion the Board is having as vital and exciting and that it is his responsibility to report directly to the City Administrator the concerns of the Board. He sees those concerns as dissatisfaction with OPD leadership in not providing the Board with a presence, a role in the decision making process, and respect. He recommended that the board members individually contact the Council Member who recommended them to discuss their concerns. He does believe that the relationship can change with the Chair leading the effort, and each member making the effort to contact their appointer. He sees the new Council Members as a great opportunity especially with the Chair of the public Safety Committee coming to the meeting. He also noted that a quorum is needed and the members need to make every effort to be at the meetings.

Committee Members discussed having a singular, direct message to the Council/City that they all will deliver.

Discussion: Public

Nancy Sidebotham spoke about the importance of OPD understanding that Community Policing is a philosophy, not just a strategy. She feels strongly that the Board needs to understand the philosophy first, and then use that understanding to see that Community Policing is implemented correctly citywide.

Ann Wilson addressed the Board. She expressed extreme frustration both with OPD and with the Board. She feels it is a waste of time to come to the Board if there isn't even a quorum. Further, she wants to see action emerge from these meetings.

Jim Dexter addressed the Board. He spoke to the scope of the CPAB in that it is a representational body, each person representing a piece of Oakland. He feels that each member should contact their appointer every month. He also wants to see the Board involved in the City's legislative process, from the Rules Committee all the way to the City Council. The Board, in his view, should be deeply involved in the legislative process of the City.

Chairperson Johnson felt that a lot of important topics were raised and discussed during the meeting. There was some discussion of potential dates and location for a retreat but no final decisions could be made.

Adjourned