



Meeting Minutes



Police Advisory Board

Date & Time:	May 20, 2021 - 7:00 pm
Location:	Meeting held virtually through Teams.



P.A.B. Members:	Council Liaison:
Ralph Lohman - Chair	Councilor Kim Young
Diane Foster - Vice Chair	City Staff:
Brian Dorsey	Jeff Groth – Police Chief
Rich Miller	Angie Hass – Executive Assistant
Bob Silverforb	
Mike Smith	
Megan Thornton	
Chris West	
Laurie Zwingli	

This meeting was recorded and is available for viewing on the City of Sherwood's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxqC1xWjvxE>

1. Call to Order

Chair Lohman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chair Ralph Lohman, Vice Chair Diane Foster, Brian Dorsey, Rich Miller, Mike Smith, Megan Thornton and Chris West

Board Members Absent: Bob Silverforb and Laurie Zwingli

Staff & City Council Liaison Present: Chief Jeff Groth and Executive Assistant Angie Hass

3. Approval of Minutes

April 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. West moved that the April meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and all Board Members voted in favor.

4. Board Member Announcements (Chair)

Mr. West wanted to recognize the SPD police officers for the way they handled a recent incident involving an impaired driver going through Sherwood on HWY 99 from Newberg. Other agencies were involved as well and it ended up in Beaverton. It was all over social media and lots of people were tracking it as it developed. It showed great coordination and he was glad no one got hurt.

Ms. Thornton was happy to report that she will be fully vaccinated come May 28th.

Mr. Smith reported that he was also fully vaccinated.

Mr. Miller shared that he had just read about an incident where a deputy singlehandedly overturned a car and got a woman out who was trapped inside. This occurred in Virginia. He gave a shout out to the police officers.

Mr. Miller shared that he had been talking to his congregation about the fact that it took a while for us to get into the pandemic conundrum and all the things that fell in on us. It is going to take us a while to get out of it. He wanted to encourage everyone, as we get into summer and start seeing some of our normal summer activities happening again. He looks forward to seeing everyone again, out walking around downtown this summer.

Mr. Dorsey was excited to report that he would be getting his second vaccine June 8th. With the recent election over now, he is hoping and praying that the community continues to see the value of the Resource Officers in the schools. It is a very important thing, especially with just coming out of the COVID pandemic. It will be important to have that support with counselors and really great officers in the schools.

Vice Chair Foster was happy to report that she has completed the vaccination process and her family of five is well on their way.

Chair Lohman reported that he is also fully vaccinated. He shared that he and his wife have sold their home and will be relocating to the Phoenix, Arizona area in mid-June. As such, this will be his last meeting with the Police Advisory Board. He let the board members know that it had been a privilege to work with all of them the last three years and to chair the last two years. When he made the decision to be on the board, it was his hope to be able to give back and he hoped that he was able to achieve that. He thanked all the board members for their allegiance to the police department and to police in general.

5. Business (Chair)

a. Traffic Safety Committee Liaison Selections x 2 – Effective 7/1/2021

Mr. West stated that being the liaison has been a good experience and the committee is

moving along well, but he is looking forward to having a night back. He encouraged anybody that has the time and wants to learn about some of the challenges the city has.

Mr. Smith agreed with Mr. West and said the committee comprises of a nice group of people. He had learned a lot and found it to be very educational. It will be nice for him to get a night back as well and encouraged others, as he felt that they would really enjoy it.

Ms. Thornton wondered if replacements had been found yet for the board members leaving at the end of June and if the decision for the TSC Liaisons and Chair and Vice Chair needed to be made that evening.

The Chief said that the decision didn't need to be made that evening and the intent of having it on the agenda was to get folks talking about it. As the TSC Liaison positions are rotational after a year, it is important that they be ready to seat those positions beginning in July. If they wait until the next meeting, it will be crunch time.

Ms. Thornton asked for confirmation on which board members will be continuing on as it was her understanding that in addition to herself, Vice Chair Foster, Mr. West, Ms. Zwingli, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Smith, were all staying on the board. The Chief stated that she was correct and that six would be going before the Mayor for reappointment. There will be a wide and broad recruitment for all the vacant boards and commissions seats. The time table for all of the boards and commissions is now the same, which is why the city is doing all at once.

Ms. Thornton stated that she could take on the Chair or Vice Chair position, but wouldn't be available to take on another meeting at this time.

Vice Chair Foster spoke of the challenges with losing three current board members and two transitioning out of the TSC Liaison roles. Mr. Dorsey had already volunteered to take on an additional position with a board, per the City's request. She stated that will leave the remaining five to try to fill the Liaison positions. They will have to do some shifting around.

After some discussion, Chair Lohman asked if there was anyone that would like to serve as Liaison on the TSC. Mr. Smith stated that he would be willing to continue as a Liaison, if necessary. It was noted that Ms. Zwingli was absent that evening. Vice Chair Foster pointed out that Ms. Zwingli also has commitments to another board, besides this one, the Sherwood Police Foundation.

Chair Lohman suggested that with not having enough people present to fill the necessary positions that evening, perhaps folks could think about it and if interested, send an e-mail to the Chief. The Chief replied that it would be preferable to table the discussion and finalize at the next month's meeting.

b. Chair and Vice Chair Selection

i. Chair position effective 6/1 or 7/1, Vice Chair position effective 7/1.

Vice Chair Foster wondered if since this was Chair Lohman's last meeting and the new positions have not yet been decided, will she then be chairing the next meeting. It was stated that she would be.

Mr. West asked the Chief if the other boards and commissions were making the Chair and Vice Chair position decisions at their June or July meetings. The Chief explained that he didn't know if it really mattered and that maybe the only advantage would be for staff to work with the new Chair in preparation of the July meeting. Vice Chair Foster shared that due to a family vacation, she will be absent for the July meeting.

Agenda items 5a and 5ai will be forwarded to the June agenda.

c. Use of Force Discussion – Feedback Update

The conversation for this section begins at the 25:12 minute mark of the YouTube video. Ms. Thornton stated that she received two or three comments and shared what Mr. Dorsey had posted on social media, including the scenarios the Chief mentioned at the last month's meeting. One of the comments she received was from someone originally from the UK and that person spoke of the differences of policing between here and there. They thought it was good that this was being talked about. Ms. Thornton didn't really receive anything with substance that would give the Chief or the department solid information to cogitate on and explained why she found this disappointing.

Mr. West spoke to a few neighbors and the feedback he received, given the scenario involving someone in a mental crisis, was to back away but not to; necessarily let the person run away. Since this has been in the news so much, with Portland and body worn cameras, it was good to have this opportunity to speak to others and get their thoughts. The body worn cameras came up in both of his conversations with his neighbors. Knowing that Sherwood has the body worn cameras, it made people feel good. He also shared a bit about the Washington County Mental Health program with his neighbors. In regards to civil disobedience involving property damage, etc., having the body worn cameras was important. In both scenarios, his neighbors felt that officers should apprehend people, but hold back until things start to break up and to keep the cameras recording. They felt that people should be cited for the damage they have done. They want to see accountability.

Mr. Smith had also spoken to a few of his neighbors who also had no patience with the property damage stuff. They had a lot of empathy and sympathy for police dealing with the mental health crisis episodes. No one had any trouble with apprehensions, so long as the police were not perceived as coming out of the gate at 100 mph. Coming out just looking to be physical. As long as there was some talk first and some intervention that eventually led up to getting physical. They just didn't want to see officers wanting to be physical just right off the bat.

The Chief thanked everyone for reaching out to the community and encouraged them to continue similar dialogue. He stated that if he were to write an article in The Archer and asked folks to e-mail him their thoughts on policing, he was fairly certain he would not hear from anyone. Sometimes putting things out on social media works better than other times, but as Ms. Thornton and Mr. Dorsey reported, their responses were extremely low. He wasn't completely surprised. The one thing they can't get away from is face to face conversations with family, friends and neighbors, co-workers, and so on. He explained that if each board member talks to ten people, that's 90 people and if each of those people talks to somebody about it, that provides an exponential amount of feedback. He appreciated the board members efforts and added that this is something that communities need to talk about. If any of them come across someone that would like to speak with him directly, they are welcome to give out his e-mail address.

Ms. Thornton asked the Chief if they can take the conversations more broad, or would he prefer they stick with the provided scenarios. She wondered if they could say something like, "The conversation for reimagining policing in America is a big conversation. How do you see it directly relating to Sherwood?" The Chief stated that they are welcome to ask whatever questions they'd like. They started vague and tried to narrow down with the scenarios. At this point, he didn't have any further guidance other than just continuing to engage in conversation when they can.

Mr. West referred to a conversation from a past meeting regarding pellet and air soft guns, etc. Since that discussion, those have been in the news again in Washington County. He wanted to give a shout out to all of the departments that have taken situations where young people were doing really dumb stuff with fake guns that resulted in law enforcement calls. The officers involved were able to deal with the situations and nobody got hurt.

6. Traffic Safety Update (Chair & TSC Liaisons)

The conversation for this section begins at the 37:47 minute mark of the YouTube video.

Mr. West reported there is a new member on the TSC, Dorian Libal. Interestingly, he works for Washington County and his job is to deal with traffic light maintenance. Mr. Libal is a great addition to the committee and got engaged with some of the issues they are dealing with right away.

One of the issues they are still dealing with is along Sherwood Boulevard, with the school district office in the former Hopkins Elementary and the former Sherwood Middle School, now Hawks View Elementary. Relocating the school zone signs, etc., is a work in progress. There are a lot of moving pieces and needs some engineering assessments and will also need the school district's involvement. Having Mr. Libal's input was really beneficial.

One request they received was to put in a mini roundabout at 1st and Oak. The TSC made the decision to deny that request based on information gathered by City staff.

Mr. Smith said that they did manage to close out one request that had been quite contentious. The location was on Lavender Place. In addition to what Mr. West mentioned there are still a couple more that are in the pending status. One is regarding speeding issues coming down Ladd Hill Road to Sunset.

7. Councilor News

The conversation for this section begins at the 41:16 minute mark of the YouTube video.

Councilor Young was unable to attend, due to a meeting conflict.

The Chief stated that the City has begun the task of going through and approving the next year's budget. He reported that just prior to this meeting; he and Captain Hanlon presented the proposed police budget for 2021-2022. Captain Hanlon serves as the budget manager and does a very good job. In addition to that night's budget committee meeting, meetings are scheduled for the next two Thursdays as well. They may not need to meet the third Thursday, depending on how it goes.

Mr. West asked the Chief if he had any sense of what the City would be getting out of the American Rescue Plan Act. The Chief stated that there's a few moving parts with that as there are different funding sources and allocations. He recommended that Mr. West contact the Finance Director, David Bodway. The City of Sherwood has benefitted from some of those grants and funding but he didn't know what the amounts were, where they went, timelines, etc.

Mr. Smith asked the Chief if he had any word on when their meetings may begin to go back to being in person. The Chief stated that he didn't know and there are on-going conversations about looking ahead to the future from their Emergency Management Planning Committee. It is right there at the forefront of their planning. They are just waiting for some of the additional guidelines to come out. It was his thought that maybe by July they will start seeing some noticeable changes.

Ms. Thornton had a question regarding Chapman Road and some statements that had been made about it being dead-ended. She had heard three different answers. The Chief explained

that the Traffic Safety Committee would not be engaged in those types of conversations because it's along a state highway and Chapman Road is in the county. The best place to direct those inquiries would be to Julia Hajduk in Community Development. This area will be included in the Brookman Concept Plan. He didn't recall hearing anything about Chapman Road being dead ended, however.

8. Staff Report(s)

The conversation for this section begins at the 47:16 minute mark of the YouTube video.

a. Policy Updates – next round coming.

The Chief shared some good news regarding the COVID-19 front. Beginning the next day, May 21st, Washington County will move to low risk. The county is presently in high risk. Moving to low risk is a result of reaching the 65% vaccination target rate for persons 16 and older. The county has also submitted the required Equity Assessment Report. As a result, the Governor announced that Washington, along with four other counties, will go to low risk. He encouraged anybody that would like to know what low risk means, to go to the OHA website. This move will have a positive impact on our local restaurants and businesses. In addition, the Oregon Healthy Authority updated its COVID-19 epidemic trends and scenario projections in Oregon. As of April 28th, the average number of secondary cases that a single case within Oregon is estimated to be a .86. This is a clear indication that the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon is decreasing. While getting vaccinated is a personal choice, it is highly encouraged. The target goal for the State of Oregon is 70%. Once the State of Oregon reaches the 70%, there will be some significant lessening of restrictions across the state.

In light of this potentially great news, they are looking at the possibility of holding the annual National Night Out event, which would be in August. In addition, the Robin Hood Festival is on track for a weekend in September. He believed the dates are the 24th and 25th, but he wasn't positive. Cruisin' is scheduled to happen in August. Sherwood is going to begin to feel like Sherwood again. What's most important and valuable to him, as Sherwood's Police Chief, is this means that the police can begin to engage with the community at a time when they and the community both need it.

The next round of policy updates are coming. This time, there are only a few, non-critical policies. He will get through them and will have them available for the board members to review soon.

Mr. West asked if the PD is fully staffed. The Chief replied that they are not. They still have an unfilled position and the recruitment process has begun. He shared the challenges of recruiting at this time. He let the board know that if they know of anyone who would make a good police officer and would be able to get through their recruitment process, he would love for them to apply. The City is not currently taking applications, but it is very likely that they will again in the future. The most recent recruitment closed last

week and they are moving forward with the process. Mr. West asked if the opening was for both laterals and recruits. The Chief replied that it was. Mr. Dorsey inquired about the reserve officers and if the PD has any at this time. The Chief replied that they had actually hired the two that they had. He added that in addition to trying to fill the full time police officer positions, they are also looking to replace the reserve officer positions.

9. Citizen Comment

N/A

Mr. Dorsey had attended the first meeting of the Sherwood West Community Advisory Board and provided a brief recap. They had introductions of all of the members and reviewed some of the goals that they are hoping to achieve. One thing that was really impressed upon them is that they are really looking to facilitate economic development within and around the community in Sherwood West. He had suggested that they bring in Bruce Coleman, who had presented to the Police Advisory Board a while back and provided some great insight on what's happening in Sherwood. Mr. Coleman will, hopefully, be attending their next meeting. Some of the hurdles and challenges that were discussed included transportation and affordable housing. It was a great first meeting and he looks forward to being a part of them.

Mr. Smith let Chair Lohman know how much he has enjoyed working with him on this committee and thanked him. All board members chimed in and let Chair Lohman know that he will be missed.

Chair Lohman also said a few parting words and asked the Chief and all of the men and women in blue to be safe out there.

10. Adjourn (Chair)

Ms. Thornton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17th at 7 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:



Vice Chair Diane Foster

06/21/2021

Date

Attest:



Angie Hass, Executive Assistant

06/21/2021

Date