

## **Minutes of the Park Police Advisory Council Meeting of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board**

**Date:** February 11, 2020

**Location:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Mary Merrill Headquarters, 2117 West River Road  
Minneapolis, MN 55411

### **Present at Meeting:**

#### **Appointees Present:**

- KC Harrison
- Mahdi Abdi
- Carole Martinson
- Jae Hyun Shim
- Sheila Nezhad

#### **Appointees Absent:**

- Alora Jones
- Roxanne O'Brien

#### **MPRB Resource Staff:**

- Al Bangoura, Superintendent
- Radius Guess, Community Outreach Department
- Jason Ohotto, Park Police Chief
- Cordell 'Corky' Wiseman, Community Outreach Department- absent
- Latricia Vetaw, Citywide Commissioner- Absent
- Courtney Sullivan, Meeting Recorder

#### **Guests:**

- Corrine, guest, U of Minnesota student
- Roberto, guest, U of Minnesota student

The regular meeting of the Park Police Advisory Council was called to order at 6:26PM on 2/11/2020 by Carole Martinson. Late start was due to lack of quorum at regular start time of 6:00PM.

#### **I. Open Time 6:00PM- 6:10PM**

- a. Introductions of guest students from U of M

#### **II. Approval of the Minutes and Meeting Agenda**

- a. The minutes of the previous meetings (December 10, 2019) were reviewed and approved.
- b. The agenda for the previous meeting held on 1/14/2020 was distributed. Carole gave a brief overview of the presentation given at this non-quorum meeting. Meeting minutes were distributed; however, they are not official minutes since we did not have a quorum. Noted as informal meeting notes.
  - i. Discussion generated from previous meeting agenda recap
    1. Jae Hyun Shim- Is the data being analyzed by someone from MPD or the City? 911 advisory group?

2. Jason Ohotto- No, there is a Park Board staff that has been assigned. Would not feel comfortable having someone at the City do the work without a cost.
  3. Jae Hyun Shim- There has been a 911 advisory group for past 5-6 months, perhaps there is some duplication?
  4. Jason Ohotto- Our work is park Board work and not the City's job. Would not feel comfortable having them do the work without a cost.
  5. Carole Martinson- Would be interesting to see what the 911 advisory committee is working on.
  6. Jae Hyun Shim- I was just appointed to that committee (911).
  7. KC Harrison- Survey results information shared at last meeting, such as average call took 23 minutes, precludes a depth of information. A theme you'll notice in my comments today, as a person who was appointed to be a community voice, I don't feel...I will come back to that thought.
- c. The agenda for tonight's meeting was distributed and approved.
- d. 2020 Meeting Schedule- Does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month still work for everyone?
- i. KC Harrison- We are 6 months into this process, heard a lot of information from Park Board. Worth asking who has been at the table and who has not and why. Serving as a community voice, I don't feel connected enough to voices of the community. Survey provided professional information, however also wanting narrative research such as Voices for Racial Justice. I love the parks. I've had no interactions with park police or police in general. Feel like I need further information before we move forward.
    1. Radiums Guess- Would you suggest we have Voices for Racial Justice come to a meeting?
    2. KC Harrison- I think that could be one component of the committee serving its purpose. Want to hear from community members who have been impacted to speak about park police. Such as a community-based survey, public listening sessions, speak directly to us. When critical perspectives shared at earlier meetings, such as Roxanne making suggestion about her mom giving a presentation about history of police violence, this was rejected because can't hire a consultant. If want to be truly representative, need to think about larger dynamics.
    3. Sheila Nezhad- Great idea, how do we get more voices in the room. Like the idea of a listening session. The survey was not focused on single topic. Have kids at an in-person forum.
    4. Jae Hyun Shim- Parks in Power does a lot of good within Hope Community.
    5. Carole Martinson- What is the suggestion from the committee?

6. Sheila Nezhad- Need to break down cost scenarios. 6 listening sessions in park buildings? Hiring Voices to do a survey? Humphrey students working on a capstone?
7. Radiums Guess- Can you clarify the purpose of listening sessions or community-based survey?
8. Sheila Nezhad- Purpose to capture people's experience with safety in the parks. Feel safe or unsafe. Hopes, dreams, desires for having safer parks. Would need a strong facilitator. Someone cool under pressure.
9. Carole Martinson- Age range for attendees?
10. Sheila Nezhad- Whoever wants to come.
11. Carole Martinson- Sheila, would you be willing to work with Radiums?
12. Sheila Nezhad- Yes
13. Jason Ohotto- There is some intersection with comp plan right now. Trying to envision how we see safety in the next 10 years. There may be an opportunity to bring some of that information to this committee, as to not duplicate work already being done.
14. Carole Martinson- In talking with KC after our last meeting, feel like we have been institutionalized, all information is coming from the Park Board. It has been very good information from Park Board about what you do. How do we validate that?
15. Jason Ohotto- Understand that you don't want information month after month. Frustration on my part that trying to build base knowledge and attendance has been poor. We try to put presentations in the notes, but it is not the same as being here. There is a huge variance in information that has been gathered based on who attended.
16. Al Bangoura- We are just sharing information. This group also needs to share what you need going forward as you have done today. We will support what group needs, but don't want to be seen that we are not sharing information. Need to have quorum so can do the work of this committee. To go forward, tell us what you need and show up.
17. Radiums Guess- With the comprehensive plan work, we are planning a summit that is open to community. One of the 7 work groups is about safety. Might be a great idea to join us at that summit. I will confirm date and location. Youth design team are paid to be part of comprehensive plan and they will be there. Might be helpful for you to be there.
18. KC Harrison- No disrespect intended at all. Want to caution against binary good committee/ bad committee member. Factors as to why they cannot be here.
19. Jae Hyun Shim- As one of the people that hasn't been here a lot, I feel the need to share it is for health reasons. What was said earlier was

disrespectful and if it continues, would keep me from coming to further meetings.

20. Carole Martinson- I just ask that we respond to meeting invites and take a hard look at our schedules to see if makes sense to be on committee and participate if able.
21. Jae Hyun Shim- Is that an option, to be here as needed? I have access to minutes, and I do read them. I am doing the work; this is unpaid work; I just can't physically be here sometimes.
22. Sheila Nezhad- Good point that this is unpaid work. Felt like this was a set-up from the start. At the very first meeting, there were police officers that didn't introduce selves at the beginning until Roxanne asked who they were. Staff had pre-ready responses, glowing responses about their work in the parks. Felt like a PR set up. Felt like direction of Park Board staff of what our direction should be. Keep hearing this is your committee; this is what you want it to be. But we have these meetings here on Park Board property. When other opportunities arose, those took priority over attending for that reason. Sorry, but not sorry, you can put that in the notes.
23. Jae Hyun Shim- Staff hasn't been that responsive about data. Keeps coming up in the meeting minutes. You say you don't want to ask others to do the work. But are happy to have someone from the comp plan come to speak.
24. Jason Ohotto- Comp plan is Park Board work.
25. Radium Guess- I want to clarify that at first meeting, there was one police officer and another person and that was it. They have not been back to a meeting since.
26. Mahdi Abdi- Wanting to hear from people, the concerns in neighborhoods. Connect with residents and see what concerns are. Not here to accuse anyone, here to bridge and connect and make things better. We need to talk about things we know are true, work with each other to make things better. Here to speak the truth.
27. KC Harrison- Will this committee last past this year?
28. Jason- It is a two-year appointment.
29. Al Bangoura- Yes, we set up the charge to give us direction and we will respond to requests you may have. It doesn't end in two years. This is continual work how we can be responsive to community. Appreciate your input tonight.
30. Radium Guess- The resolution that formed the Council says members cannot serve more than three terms. Shows this is an on-going committee.

31. KC Harrison- I am just wanting a pause before we move directly to making recommendations. Don't feel comfortable based on presentations alone.
32. Radiums Guess- There are other departments willing and ready to talk to you, just let me know when you are ready.
33. KC Harrison- Can we meet at different park buildings to help with attendance?
34. Al Bangoura- Yes, we are hearing your concerns and can adjust to concerns. When we share information, we are just providing data, not intended to institutionalize. Need more like you shared today, we can adjust. Hope presentations showed that we are unique as a Park Board and as Park Police. We are able to adjust in a way that is unique, having 35 officers instead of 900. I've always excited about the committee, my only concern was attendance because we need quorum to move forward and do the work. That's our commitment to this group.
35. Carole Martinson- What I've heard is that there is a legitimate concern about hearing voices from community about safety in the parks. Start with comp plan work, that sounds like great place to start. Sheila willing to work with Radiums on cost, what it looks like for focus groups, surveys. Going back to attendance, when Radiums sends out documents, ask that we look at. If can't be here, then let us know your comments. Participating whether you are here or not.
  - a. Jae Hyun Shim- That is also something that I cannot do sometimes. If I am disrespected like I was tonight, if it happens again, I will not come again.
  - b. Carole Martinson- You are looking right at the Chief?
  - c. Jae Hyun Shim- Chief responded to me really aggressively. Made direct eye contact with me while talking about attendance.
  - d. Jason Ohotto- I try to make eye contact with everyone.
  - e. Jae Hyun Shim- You do not feel you were disrespectful?
  - f. Jason Ohotto- I do not feel like I was disrespectful.
  - g. (Jae walked out of meeting; Shelia also left at same time)
  - h. Carole Martinson- We lost our quorum.

### **III. Discussion after Non-Quorum**

- a. Carole Martinson- I will work with Radiums to connect with Jae and Shelia to see if they are willing to serve on committee further or not.
- b. Jason Ohotto- Great idea to have meetings out in parks.
- c. Radiums Guess- We can have ready to go, press releases, posters, multiple touch points.
- d. Jason Ohotto- Park Police gets invited to public forums all the time, they are well attended. If seeking to hear from people in parks, we can advertise upcoming meeting and will get some who just fall into by accident. Kids there at the parks for drop-in program.

- e. Radious Guess- We also have a pool of applicants from before, they would be notified if there was a vacancy on the committee.
- f. Carole Martinson- Will revisit membership piece, where to have meetings.
- g. KC Harrison- Community public safety meetings, can we come?
- h. Jason Ohotto- Yes but understand the PPAC is subject to open meeting laws.
- i. KC Harrison- Would want to attend just as an observer.
- j. Jason Ohotto: I can share upcoming meetings with this group.
- k. Radious Guess- Several work groups within the comp plan, I can reach out to them.
- l. Carole Martinson- Let's keep the work going around recruiting and social service connections.
- m. Radious Guess- Shelia was going to work on connecting with Voices for Racial Justice. I will reach out to see if she is still interested.
- n. KC Harrison- We should reflect on fact that someone left because they felt disrespected.

**IV. Agenda and Time of Next Meeting**

- a. The next meeting will be held at *To Be Determined* on March 10, 2020 at 6:00PM

**V. Meeting Adjourned**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23PM by Carole Martinson

Minutes Submitted by: Courtney Sullivan

Minutes Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Requested Documents:**