

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY JULY 12TH, 2016 AT 4:15 P.M.**

Board Members Present:

Chair Marty Malloy, Gene Barner, Nora Daniel, Susan Gerard, Sarah Hackley, Cheryl Lawler & Bob Olson

Board Members Not Present:

Jeff Campbell

Department Staff Present:

Interim Chief Terry Gallagher & Meg Massey

Others in Attendance:

Community members in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Malloy at 4:15 p.m. in the Police Department Training Room.

AGENDA TOPICS

JUNE 2016 MINUTES:

The minutes from the June 14th meeting were distributed. Mr. Olson moved to approve the June minutes as presented, Ms. Gerard seconded. The June minutes were unanimously approved.

PERSONNEL / DEPARTMENT UPDATES :

Mr. Gallagher gave the following report:

➤ **Officer Vacancies**

The two entry level officers have been hired: Jeremy Andreano started on June 13th and Maurice Taylor on June 14th. Both will attend the academy from June 28 – November 2.

There is one patrol opening as a result of the retirement of Officer Steve Nordstrand after 31 years of service.

Barbi May of the records department will retire the end of August after 26 years working with the City of Oak Harbor, 19 of those years with the police department. The new human resources director, Emma House, started yesterday. We will work with her to start the recruitment process immediately for the records position that will be vacant September 1.

➤ **COBAN**

COBAN is the in car video system that is currently being used. There are many issues with the system, Officer Krysinski is assisting in getting the system functional on all levels. It needs to work correctly, or go away. There is no legal requirement to have it, but does generate public record issues when it is used. It is a time consuming process to look for any videos requested by the prosecutor's office.

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MEET AN OFFICER:

➤ **Officer Jenn Gravel**

The committee met Officer Jenn Gravel.

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ **National Night Out**

Chair Malloy stated that National Night Out is on Tuesday August 2nd. The event has developed very well and grows every year. Setup starts at 10:00 a.m. and the event runs from 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Mr. Barner stated it is a great opportunity for us and we get a lot of mileage out of it, the information from the surveys we have distributed in the past have been very informative. There are many public safety agencies / displays.

After a brief discussion the committee decided to hand out the “Who Do You Call” cards that are in the process of being updated. Additionally Ms. Massey will print a post card to hand out that outlines the CAB committee on one side, and incorporates some of the information the Officers have discussed with the committee, items they wanted our citizens / community to know. Ms. Massey will put it together and send it out to committee members for review / input.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Cancel August Meeting**

Chair Malloy stated that since the committee will be at National Night Out, as in previous years we would cancel the August meeting. Ms. Daniel made a motion to cancel the regularly scheduled August meeting, Mr. Olson seconded. The motion to cancel the August meeting was unanimously approved.

➤ **Member Terms**

Ms. Massey stated that:

- At the July 5th council meeting Bob Olson's term was corrected from ending December 2018 to April 1, 2019.
- At the August 3rd council meeting Sarah Hackley will be reappointed. Ms. Hackley filled Ed Johnson's vacancy which ends September 18. The reappointment will extend her term to September 1, 2020.
- At the August 3rd Council meeting Austin McBride will be appointed to the one year student term and Jackson Wezeman will be appointed as the alternate. Their terms run from August 3rd, 2016 to August 3rd, 2017.

Mr. Barner stated he recently moved and is now a resident of the county and not a resident of Oak Harbor. He currently holds a resident position on the board. Ms. Massey said she will research that and work out what needs to be done.

➤ **Freund Marsh Property**

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Chair Malloy introduced Carl Freund, the owner of the property that has been discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Freund stated there is a lot of transient foot traffic on the property, mostly along the hillside across from WalMart. He stated it was difficult to know what he can do / should do. Truck loads of garbage and hazardous waste is generated on a regular basis. Ms. Hackley asked if the property was posted as private property. Mr. Freund stated it was not as Island Transit has requested he allow the public to use the property to access the transit stop at that location. In the past he has posted private property signs and provided garbage cans, but it does not seem to make any difference. There is one spot that is continually utilized and it is way back in the brush and very difficult to access. Removing the trash from that area is very difficult.

Chief Gallagher stated that as discussed at a prior meeting, per a recent court decision, if you remove someone from a public space, you need to have a place for them to go, they have a right to have a place to go. Additionally, when you clean up a "camp" it is someone's property. You can't just take it and throw it away. It must be handled like found property, stored in an evidence room, adhere to retention laws, etc. It has become a very complex issue. The community needs to be involved, invest in their community. Port Angeles had success with a coalition that was formed, community groups, etc. Citizens need to understand the limitations of government. An organized group of citizens can do more, and do it faster than government can.

Chief Gallagher stated that being this is private property, Mr. Freund has more control, he can remove items that are left on his property. It is an all or nothing situation once you post no trespassing signs, as that will not allow the transients on the property as well as the general public walking the trails, walking their dogs, etc. You can trespass individuals from your property.

Chief Gallagher stated the community needs to have a broader discussion. The board can help with this, help people bring perspective to the situation.

Chief Gallagher stated he would meet Mr. Freund and walk the property with him to better understand what the situation is.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

The committee discussed various topics with the community members in attendance including:

- Having a contact to call prior to the police, some type of mediator, a hotline, dispute resolution
- Homeless Kids: need a point of contact like a community service officer
- Identify services available: Spin Café, Ryan's House, need for a warming center
- Ride-A-Longs: working with WCIA (Washington Cities Insurance Agency) to iron out concerns, allowing us to reinstate the program
- Panhandlers & Public Transportation
- Always call, we will always help
- Importance of foot patrols – difficult when we are down 4 officers
- Mental Health: 2.6 million people in prison, 40 – 60 % have mental issues

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- Getting critical information to the public: events like National Night Out and the Neighborhood Watch program
- Message needs to be: we support you, not the bad behavior and offer a hand up not a hand out

Chief Gallagher stated most of what the police do is problem solve, not criminal related. The officers spend much of their time directing people to other sources. You have a highly paid officer with a college education responding to dog barking calls. Compare that to Licensed Nurse Practitioners and Registered Nurses. We need to find a way to utilize the officers with the higher skill set working on the more difficult issues. Police today are not being given a fair shake. We are the finest in the world. We are the standard. You have an obligation to support them.

Ms. Hackley stated she supports the resources. Don't underestimate your voice, speak up. Always keep safety in mind.

Mr. Barner stated he had been told that a known homeless man had placed feces into the night deposit at a local bank and nothing had been done about it. Chief Gallagher stated he would look into it.

Mr. Olson stated he had sent an email asking about mopeds which said: I have seen a number of motorized bicycles (mopeds) on the streets. Are they legal? At least two of the riders I have seen are wearing helmets, but I cannot tell if they are lighted or have licenses. He would appreciate it if the officers talk to them when they have the opportunity as they are hard to see at times .

Chief Gallagher stated that at the August 3rd council meeting two officers will be recognized, Officer Jenn Gravel will receive a distinguished service award for her handling of a domestic violence case. Officer Nathan Padrta will receive a Life Saving Award for assisting with a gentleman at the High School during a cardiac episode. The department is extremely proud of both officers.

ADJOURN:

Ms. Daniel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Lawler seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next CAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th at 4:15 p.m. in the OHPD Training Room.

Prepared by Meg Massey