

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, 3/12/13, 4:15 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Dave Thomason, Lucas Yonkman, Bonnie LaForest, Jo Balda, Robert Young, Jeffrey Campbell, Ed Johnson

Not Present: Lauren Nelson, Gene Barner

Dept. Staff Present: Chief Ed Green, Martha Folsom

Also Present: Bob Brown, Terry Lacey

The meeting was called to order by Johnson at 4:15 p.m. in the Police Department Conference Room.

The new CAB members present were introduced and told a little about themselves. **Jeff Campbell** has lived here since 2007, and came here from Las Vegas, coming here for the boating/sailing opportunities. He served for several years as the Manager of Oak Harbor Yacht Club, and he is proud to be a citizen here. **Robert Young** is a business owner in town (one of three owners of Tradewinds Insurance), came to live here in 1983 when he got out of the Marines, and went straight into the insurance business. He loves the community and the people here, and hopes to continue to help make this a great community. **Lucas Yonkman** was born and lived his entire life here, except for 5 years spent in the Army Infantry. He was honorably discharged with a disability in 2011. He is President of Ronsons Design & Construction in Oak Harbor, and they do contracting with the military for the most part, here on Whidbey and at Bangor and JBLM. He is excited to be part of the Board and to continue to serve our city.

Balda asked if we were going to hear anything about the three women that were replaced. Johnson said this was a decision from the Mayor. Balda asked what kind of program we are heading into that she (Niiro) apparently didn't abide by. Johnson said he was not privy to that information. LaForest asked what the "new direction" is, saying that she would like a clarification. Johnson again referred to the letter that the Mayor sent out (to Niiro) and that he didn't see anything that indicated a "new direction" and that he hadn't been told of any new direction. He said if that was a verbal conversation they had (Niiro and the Mayor), he couldn't say, as he wasn't involved in that conversation. He said our appointments (to the CAB) are by the Mayor, we are "at will" people, volunteers that we may be. Balda said that, in protest of the firing of these people, and in support of them, she hereby tendered her resignation from this Board, and left the meeting at that time.

Johnson introduced a second visitor who had arrived since the start of the meeting – Terry Lacey – a retired USN Chief, who is very active in Veterans' Affairs.

**AGENDA TOPICS**

1. **February Minutes:** No discussion. Thomason moved to approve the February minutes, LaForest seconded. Unanimous approval. The February minutes were approved as presented.
2. **Pertinent Updates / CAB Questions:** Chief Green thanked everyone for being here, and the new members for agreeing to participate. He said the Board is comprised of people chosen from the community by the Mayor, and work at the will of the Mayor. He then went on to speak of the CAB Annual Report given to the City Council (February 19<sup>th</sup>), and said that the feedback he received was that, next time, they (Council) want a little more, so next time we will give them more.

Regarding the survey, Chief Green gave the history to the new members present. He mentioned the five target groups: military, high school or college students, residents, businesses and other government entities. He is looking at about a 10-question survey, but it is the CAB's decision. He was thinking that 5 questions be constant and five be fluctuating and specific to the target audience. He also mentioned that he was excited about discussions by the CAB of getting out into the community and talking to citizens. Members' purpose is to be the advisory board to the department, to tell us what you are hearing. He said members need to be forthright with us if we are going to effect any type of change. Discussion was held to have a target date of survey completion by mid-summer, and Thomason said it would be good to have it ready for National Night

Out in August. LaForest asked for an update on the Neighborhood Watch program, and Chief Green said it is rolling along well, and is being well received. We have had some people expressing a desire to act as Neighborhood Watch Captains. He reminded CAB members to advocate for the program when they are out there talking to folks.

3. **CAB Survey Discussion:** Johnson said that the consensus was that the Charlestown survey was closest to what we wanted to do. He said it is a good thing to have "new minds" here. He would like to make sure that the new members take some time before the next meeting to look over the information packets they were provided (by Folsom). Chief Green said that we may want to elaborate on the method of getting the survey out, i.e., Survey Monkey, etc. Thomason said it was a good service because it is free, and we would just need to get the work out so people will utilize it, and Survey Monkey will also compile the results. For National Night Out, we could go ahead and print out surveys, and add in the feedback received ourselves. Another concern was standardization (of the rating method), that it needs to be a consistent scale through every question. He would also suggest adding an item such as "what issue not covered in this survey are you most concerned with?"

We would want to know what area of the city the person lives in, as there are different problems in different areas. Perhaps, too, have a letter from the Chief to accompany the survey (such as Plano PD did). Bob Brown told of how, during his time on the Board he told everyone he ran across of the Board's existence, and he got some good input from people. Discussion was held on wearing the CAB polo shirts, and the question was asked about perhaps getting nametags. Thomason mentioned asking everyone we introduce ourselves to something like, "Are you happy with the Police Department, or is there something you'd like to see changed?"

Chief Green said that there is possibility of the city reestablishing a traffic safety committee, and said he would like to see 1-2 CAB members on it, as they have that nexus with the community and are out there talking to them. One of the issues that has come up recently is the stop sign at Dock Street and Pioneer Way (downtown) and if it is needed. Johnson reiterated that the CAB does not set policy, but receives information, talks about it, works up a recommendation and forwards it to the Chief, Mayor and/or City Council. Members should tell citizens that the information they give us will be addressed at the next CAB meeting.

Young asked what our objective was (for the survey), was it to gather data, set a benchmark of where our Police Department is currently – or what are we trying to accomplish, as that will help determine our questions. Chief Green said we are looking for that benchmark, we want to see where we are right now. He said he hasn't been here long, but he gets the feeling that the community likes our department and thinks we are doing a good job. But, are we "missing the boat" somewhere? Brown talked about the Department Ride-Along program and how valuable that was when he participated in it, as it gives a good idea of what the police go through. Chief Green said that CAB members do not have to wait for the monthly meetings to bring up issues, they are welcome to send an email, or call, if you need answers to questions someone is asking you.

Thomason mentioned Chief Green putting an "opening statement" (for the survey) where he would put his vision, and then the first question could be "how do you feel about the Chief's policy/vision?" Young said that he agreed on the issue of standardizing the rating throughout the survey.

Yonkman asked how the department is tracking what the needs of the city are currently, do we do hotspot mapping, based on calls received. Chief Green said predominantly yes, through our Records Management System. However, it tends to lend itself toward anomalies/abnormalities, and that it doesn't mean it is a high crime area necessarily. He has to ask "am I really doing the City justice by concentrating a lot of energy over here, when other people are worried about this other area"? We need to know what folks want. The mapping we do is more reactive, and we are looking to CAB for a more proactive approach. Yonkman said that he has been listening to people around him talk about issues they are having, and letting people know that he is going to be a part of the CAB. He has heard recently about thefts at the Thrive gym area, where cars are being broken into and purses taken. He said that security cameras were up, but they were knocked down/stolen and then the vehicle prowls started. He said it has been going on a while, and he did hear that new cameras are going to be installed. Chief Green said he will have our CSO (Community Service Officer) work with them, and possibly have stake-out's of the area.

Campbell asked if there is a record of the CAB's Annual Report given to City Council, (for the new members). Folsom will provide the link to the video to the new members. Chief Green said that we are not limited to giving a CAB report to Council to only once per year, but it should be given at least once per year.

Johnson asked the new members, between now and the next meeting, to come up with some ideas. Campbell asked – with regard to the surveys, and Johnson said yes, or anything else they come up with. Chief Green said that he may say “I want this, I want that”, but the CAB is not locked into that. He needs quantifiable feedback. If the CAB comes up with a different way to do that, fine, he just needs the feedback. He reiterated that he is steering the ship and the CAB gets to help, they are right here beside him. Yonkman asked if we had considered opening up (CAB meetings) for public comment. Johnson advised they are open to the public, and it is advertised on Channel 10. Thomason said that is also why our last item on each agenda is “General Discussion” – CAB members can bring up anything, and so can citizens. Chief Green said we would need to watch the timing, right now the meetings are set for 45 minutes, and we are already close to one hour.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

1. **Intersection Photo Cameras**: Visitor Terry Lacey mentioned about intersection cameras being used in other areas, and asked if there were any plans in Oak Harbor to install these cameras. Chief Green said he would have to say no to that question, but this would be a decision made at the Council level. They are legal, but he hasn't heard anyone advocating for them, nor is he advocating for them. Thomason said CAB members could ask community members about this issue too, when they are talking to people.
2. **Business Cards**: Johnson asked about CAB business cards. Chief Green will get back to him.

Mr. Campbell requested to add an Agenda item for the next meeting – Graffiti. Folsom will add it to the Agenda for the April meeting. Chief Green said he will have also an officer attend who can answer questions about Graffiti issues.

Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Yonkman seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. on 3/12/13.

The next CAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4/9/2013 in the OHPD Conference Room.  
Prepared by M. Folsom