

MINUTES
POLICE CITIZEN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

January 10, 2024
Meeting Held Remotely Via Zoom

Members present: Reggie Parson, Chair, Anne Hardcastle, Vice-Chair; Xavier Botana; Reverend Kenneth Lewis; Tim Smith; Kaylin Kerina (left at 6:50)

Members absent: Jean-Raymond Desruisseaux (Gino)

Staff present: Associate Corporation Counsel Rachel Millette; Interim Assistant Police Chief Robert Martin; Tracy Boyd

6:04 Call to order.

Motion was made by Reverend Lewis and seconded by Xavier to adopt the December 13, 2023 meeting minutes.

Discussion followed. Xavier spoke about an email he sent after the last meeting. A copy of the email was included in the backup materials for the meeting, including the Maine Labor Relations Board regarding the subcommittee's structure and collective bargaining requirements. Xavier proposed amending the minutes to include a summary of the public comment. Anne asked about the degree of detail historically included in the PCRS's minutes in regards to public comment. Reverend Lewis responded that typically only a commenter's name and address is what is included in the minutes. The recording of the meeting includes exactly what was offered as public comment and he cautioned that a synopsis of public comment becomes interpretative.

Motion was made by Xavier and seconded by Kay to amend the December 13, 2023 meeting minutes from the current version: "Public comment from Joey Brunelle and Marcella Makinen was offered. Gino, Tim, Xavier, and Reggie all responded to the public comment, which centered largely around public engagement."

To the proposed amendment: "Joey Brunelle and Marcella Makinen offered public comment around their ideas about why the public hesitates to engage with the PCRS work. Most notably, both suggested that it is unclear what happens with feedback and that the limited authority of the PCRS makes it questionable whether investing time in speaking to it is of any consequence. Mr. Brunelle expressed a desire for the future civilian police oversight body to have the ability to weigh the substance of case investigations and believes that this would increase the likelihood that the public would engage with the board."

"Both speakers also raised concerns about the appearance of the PCRS' interest in public comment given that it was only open at the end of the meeting. They offered suggestions including allowing public comment as the PCRS engages with each agenda item and/or holding comment earlier in the meeting. All PCRS members present concurred with the latter and Chair Parsons said he would take that into consideration going forward."

Discussion continued regarding amending the minutes. The Subcommittee expressed concern about summarizing the public comment rather than using direct quotes.

Motion failed 5-1 (Xavier).

A second motion was made by Reverend Lewis and seconded by Xavier to amend the December 13, 2023 meeting minutes public comment section to include the name of the commenter, their address, if available, with a link to the video proceedings with a timestamp of when public comment began and ended. Passage 6-0.

A motion was made by Reverend Lewis and seconded by Xavier to approve the amended minutes. Passage 6-0.

No public comment was offered.

Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. Sec. 405(6)(F) to discuss IA2023-006, IA2023-17, and IA2023-19.

6:31 Motion was made to enter into Executive Session by Reverend Lewis and seconded by Kay. Passage 6-0.

7:02 Out of Executive Session.

Motion was made by Tim to find that IA 2023-019 was timely; seconded by Anne: roll call vote 5-0.

Motion was made by Reverend Lewis to find that IA 2023-019 was fair; seconded by Tim; roll call vote 5-0.

Motion was made by Anne to find that IA 2023-019 was objective; seconded by Reverend Lewis; roll call vote 5-0.

(No vote was taken on thoroughness.)

Motion was made by Tim to find that IA 2023-006 was timely; seconded by Anne: roll call vote 5-0.

Motion was made by Tim to find that IA 2023-006 was fair; seconded by Anne; roll call vote 5-0.

Motion was made by Tim to find that IA2023-006 was thorough; seconded by Reverend Lewis; roll call vote 5-0.

Motion was made by Anne to find that IA 2023-006 was objective; seconded by Tim; roll call vote 4-0, 1 abstention (Rev. Lewis).

Motion was made by Tim to find that IA 2023-017 was fair; seconded by Xavier; roll call vote 4-0, 1 abstention (Rev. Lewis).

Motion was made by Tim to find that IA2023-017 was thorough; seconded by Anne; roll call vote 4-0, 1 abstention (Rev. Lewis).

Motion was made by Tim to find that IA 2023-017 was objective; seconded by Anne; roll call vote 4-0, 1 abstention (Rev. Lewis).

(No vote was taken on timeliness.)

Reverend Lewis would like to add public comment instructions to the PCRS web page. Rachel suggested to Reggie that he contact Jessica Grondin to ask her to add that information. Xavier inquired if there were any updates with regards to the proposed ordinance and when it will be taken up by the counsel. Rachel responded that there were no updates, adding that she will let Reggie know if there will be any updates before the next meeting so that it can be added to the agenda. Discussion began around the Annual Report process, Rachel cautioned the group that this topic was not on the agenda for this meeting and without public notice they should not be discussing the matter.

Next month's agenda: possible update on new ordinance, one Category U case and potentially a second Category 1 case, and discussion of Annual Report.

7:20 Motion was made by Reverend Lewis to adjourn, seconded by Xavier. Passage 5-0.