



City of Portland
Departments Committee Meeting Minutes
October 4th, 2021 at 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

- Chair Lizanecz opens the meeting. Introductions.

Introduction of topic of policing

- Chair Lizanecz explains that policing is a sensitive topic that affects a lot of communities in different ways. Committee invited members of the Portland Police Department, but have not heard back from them yet. Commissioner Barowitz requests permission to make comments

2. Approval of prior meeting minutes.

- Houston motions to approve minutes, Barowitz seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Commissioner Houston will take minutes for this meeting, Commissioner Barowitz will assist. Barowitz also invited the State Commissioner of Policing, but his office also declined. Barowitz notes that this is a sensitive issue that directly affects individuals' jobs.

3. Maria Testa, Former Member of the Portland Police Citizen Review Subcommittee

- Testa explains that individuals in Portland have been dissatisfied with the work in the past and explains that when she was first appointed to the PCRS, it was unclear what the subcommittee did and what the purpose was. Testa explains that the purview of the PCRS is so small that it is difficult for individuals in Portland to understand what they actually do. Testa states that the PCRS' abilities are clearly defined, but the subcommittee cannot subpoena, punish, comment, or consider methods and procedures.

4. Brendan McQuade, Professor of Criminology at University of Southern Maine

- McQuade gives an overview of the history of failures and shortcomings of Procedural Justice, a concept brought forward by the Obama administration. McQuade states that police presence is often the problem. A police oversight committee should review and set policy pertaining to the police department. McQuade then goes on to introduce the Committee to the ideas behind the Community Control Model and gives the examples of Minneapolis and Cleveland.



5. Cameron McElhiney, Dir. of Training and Education at NACOLE

- McElhiney explains that there are approximately 200 citizen oversight committees in the country, but there is not one best model. The goal is to move towards proactive models. McElhiney will send reports to the committee. McElhiney gives an overview of the most common models for citizen oversight: Monitor-Auditor, Investigative, Community Review Focus, and Hybrid. McElhiney then states that the committee must be as independent as possible with unfettered access to resources such as data and facilities. It also must be adequately funded and allow for community outreach and feedback. She also states that smaller cities can have some difficulties with confidentiality.

6. Public Comment

- Sampson Samaphore thanks guests for their comments.
- Wes Pelletier encourages the committee to work on reallocating resources from the police department to other resources in the City.
- Rachel gives a point of clarification to Maria Testa on the point of establishing a stronger board before something bad happens and states that a tragic event has already occurred in the City and the individual's name was Chance David Baker.
- Chair Lizanecz ends public comment.

7. New Business

- Commissioners have general discussion on review boards and next steps and commits to continuing the process of reviewing information on policing. Commissioner Barowitz states that this may also tie into an Office of Civic and Community Engagement.

8. Adjourn

- Houston motions to adjourn, Barowitz seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.