



City of Portland
Departments Committee Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

- Chair Lizanecz opens the meeting. Introductions.

2. Approval of prior meeting minutes.

- Lizanecz motions to approve minutes from prior meeting minutes. Barowitz seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Houston will be taking minutes for this meeting.

3. Discussion with Attorney Katsiaficas

- Attorney Katsiaficas explains that it is good that the committee is taking a high level approach to looking at the topics that it has been charged with because it is easy to get lost in ordinances. What is important at the charter level is to establish functionality of government administration and let the Council committees work out the details. Katsiaficas explains that Maine has two types of home rule authority: charter home rule authority and ordinance home rule authority. Katsiaficas gives an overview of confidentiality matters under the Freedom of Access Act. In Maine, there are several statutes in place to protect an individual's confidentiality when it comes to criminal record. Commissioner Barowitz asks if a review board would be a public body and Katsiaficas says that he believes that it would be, but they would not have access to confidential personnel information because they would not be supervisors. When it comes to an investigation, a review board would only have access to information that is publicly available.

4. New Business

- Commissioner Houston proposes that each commissioner starts researching models for police oversight. Chair Lizanecz says that there are still some questions around how the committee should look at police union negotiations. Commissioners will go through reports sent to them by NACOLE to get a better understanding of how citizen oversight has worked in other municipalities across the country. Chair Lizanecz will work on creating a Google Folder for notes and research materials to be stored.



- Commissioner Barowitz would like the committee to start discussing the Office of Civic and Community Engagement in the next meeting.

5. Adjourn

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