



City of Portland
Departments Committee Meeting Minutes
December 6th, 2021 at 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order

- Chair Ryan Lizanecz opens the meeting. Chair Ryan Lizanecz, Committee Member Marcques Houston, and Committee Member Zachary Barowitz present. No voting members absent. Commissioners introduced themselves for the benefit of Zoom viewers.

2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes.

- Commissioner Barowitz motioned to approve minutes from November 15 meeting. Commissioner Houston seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Staff member Jesse Denno to be taking minutes for this meeting

3. Public Comment

- Chair Lizanecz opened the floor to public comment. No members of the public opted to speak.

4. Recap and Review of Committee's Work on Policing

- Chair Lizanecz addressed questions and concerns heard from the public rearing the committee's work in this matter. Lizanecz stated that the committee's work had been undertaken with the benefit of extensive research, and discussions with diverse community stakeholders and national experts. Commissioners had, to varying extents, run and been selected on platforms of strengthened police oversight, and had been encouraged to engage in the issue by constituents. The Committee's proposed language would differ from the existing Police Citizen Review Committee Subcommittee in key points, particularly in the reduction of barriers to membership, and in the authority to hear or refer appeals and recommend further action. Lizanecz contended that to create this body through charter amendment rather than ordinance offered the citizens to determine what the people, as a city, deemed necessary in their government's structure. Other municipalities in recent years have created civilian oversight bodies through the mechanism of charter amendment, and such a body was instrumental in building trust between the public and police.

- Chair Lizanecz stated that the committee had received a statement from the Chief of Police, which had been reviewed by committee members.
- Chair Lizanecz identified areas of the committee's proposal where language should be reconsidered or clarified in light of the Chief's letter, in the sections delineating the Board's powers and duties, staff and funding, and purposes and goals.
- Chair Lizanecz motioned to send the to forward the Committee's proposed language to the full Commission for discussion and review. Commissioner Barowitz seconded. The motion passed unanimously after discussion.

4. Goal Setting Session

- Chair Lizanecz summarized topics and guest experts for upcoming meetings.
 - Commissioners identified their work for other offices the committee intends to define, that of ombudsman, communications, and constituent services, creating work timeline and clarifying the problems the positions would seek to resolve and what benefits the position would bring to the city.
 - Commissioners identified additional expert guests to invite to future meetings, and determined who would reach out to which officials.
 - It was agreed to invite Cheryl Leeman, Kate Snyder, and a representative from the Wilmington, Delaware, Mayor's Office of Constituent Services.

5. New Business

- Commissioners agree to convene again on November 29th. Commissioner Barowitz states that he is intending to bring speakers from Portland's office of Communications and Digital Services to address the committee at its November 29th meeting.

6. Adjournment

- Hearing no new business, Chair Lizanecz adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.