



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Citizens Police Review Board

Wednesday, March 13, 2024
6:00 PM

Regular

City Hall – City Council
Chambers
701 East Broadway
Columbia, Missouri

I. CALL TO ORDER

Doug Hunt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Board Members Present: Denise Balazic, Stephanie Coleman, Douglas Hunt, Steven Jeffrey, Xavier Lee Scruggs, and Jamie Thornsberry

Excused Absence: Reece Ellis

Unexcused Absence: None

Staff Present: Assistant City Manager Matt Unrein, Assistant Chief Paul Dickinson, and Rose Wibbenmeyer

Members of the public were present.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were introductions.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Steven Jeffery made a motion to approve the agenda. Xavier Scruggs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 14, 2024 Draft Minutes

Attachments: [February 14, 2024 Draft Minutes](#)

Jamie Thornsberry made a motion to approve the draft open meeting minutes of the February 14, 2024, regular meeting. Stephanie Coleman and Denise Balazic seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

February 14, 2024 Draft Closed Meeting Minutes

Steven Jeffery made a motion to approve the draft closed meeting minutes of the February 14, 2024, regular meeting. Xavier Scruggs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Planning for Work Session on Police Policy 447

The Board discussed planning for the work session. The Board reached consensus on April 24, 2024 for their work session. The Board would like food delivered at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6:00 p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Changes to Section 21-52(h)

Attachments: [Section 21-52\(h\) Recommendations](#)

The Board discussed the proposed changes to Section 21-52(h).

Xavier Scruggs made a motion to send a report to the City Council to recommend the proposed changes to Section 21-52(h). Steven Jeffrey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Appeal and Jurisdictional Review Procedures

The Board discussed the appeal and jurisdictional review procedures.

Role of Staff Liaisons

The Board also discussed the role of the staff liaisons. Doug Hunt suggested the following wording for the role of staff liaisons: Liaisons appointed by City of Columbia agencies and departments may attend closed sessions of the Board to answer questions about policies and procedures in their areas of expertise. During such sessions they will not be advocates for any person or course of action.

The Board discussed the language and decided to pass this item to next month's agenda for consideration of an amendment to the Board's bylaws.

2023 Complaint Data

The Board discussed their approach to their review of the 2023 complaint data. Doug Hunt summarized the number of complaints and discussed different ways to approach auditing complaints. Stephanie Coleman commented on the types of complaints last year and asked if the report could be sorted by allegation. Assistant Chief Dickinson said that he could prepare such a report.

The Board reached consensus to look at the most common external complaints. This item was passed to next month's agenda.

Productive Outreach and Direction of Outreach Efforts

The Board discussed productive outreach and the direction of outreach efforts. Stephanie Coleman talked about her presentations to school groups. Doug Hunt asked about other natural audiences for presentations. Doug Hunt also talked about brochures. Jamie Thornsberry mentioned the upcoming event for the public to get to know city departments and would like to suggest that the city have a similar event for boards and commissions. Xavier Scruggs discussed the policy work sessions and felt that the work sessions were an effective opportunity to engage with the public. Stephanie Coleman gave an update on the brochure process.

FY 2025 Budget

The Board discussed their budget. The Board reached consensus to recommend that funding be moved from miscellaneous contractual to food, the amount of funds needed to provide food for four events.

Items for Next Months Agenda

The Board discussed the following items for next month's agenda.

Old Business:

Planning for work session on police policy 447

Status of Change to Section 21-52(h)

Review of 2023 complaints

New Business:

Items for Next Month's Agenda

Bylaw Amendment Staff liaison

Brochure review

Juneteenth Event

Reports:

Human Rights Commission

Positive Connections, Training, Outreach and Ride Alongs

VII. REPORTS

Human Rights Commission

There was no report.

Positive Connections, Outreach, Training and Ride Alongs

Doug Hunt talked about homeless outreach team in the evenings at Wilkes Boulevard church. He felt that it was having a quieting effect there. Doug Hunt saw officers intervene very usefully in a domestic dispute that the officers calmed down. Doug Hunt also said that Officer Moesel did a similar good job in intervening in a domestic dispute and worked diligently to resolve the dispute.

Reece Ellis reported via email that he attended a community conversation hosted by the Commission on Human Rights on March 9, 2024. It was at the Public Library in the Friends room and had fairly good attendance with a mix of people from the community. D'eAndre Thompson served as the moderator for the discussion which centered around how people were experiencing or witnessing discrimination in our community. There was a big focus on things that perhaps are not intentionally discriminatory at least on their face, but present real barriers to access for all different kinds of communities. It included conversation about sidewalks and folks in the disability community, talk of public transportation and making Columbia more accessible to people who can not afford to or choose not to own a car, and the locations of voting centers. Most of the conversation kept coming back to how we can do better at making sure the people who are topics of policy conversations, especially people in minority or marginalized communities, are aware that they can participate in these conversations with civic leaders at these forums; and are having their perspectives meaningfully included instead of represented second hand by advocates. Reece Ellis reported that all were worthwhile conversations and that he was glad to have been informed of the event by the community members who attend our meetings.

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Doug Hunt announced the time limits for individuals and groups.

Members of the public commented.

Dr. Mehrdad Fotoohigham commented and handed out a letter to the Board.

Chriss Jones spoke on behalf of Hold CoMo accountable and commented about the Human Rights Commission event and encouraged the Board to do a listening session at the library. Chriss Jones mentioned the board's discussion related to focusing on community complaints, rather than officer complaints. Chriss Jones encouraged the Board to also look at officer complaints. Chriss Jones emphasized that the community needs the Board and that complainants need to feel that they are heard.

IX. MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Jamie Thornsberry made a motion to go into closed session to discuss records which are protected from disclosure by law, Sections 610.021(14) and 590.502 RSMo. Steven Jeffrey seconded the motion.

Denise Balazic, Stephanie Coleman, Douglas Hunt, Steven Jeffrey, Xavier Lee Scruggs, and Jamie Thornsberry voted in favor of the motion. No one voted against the motion. No one abstained. The motion passed.

The open session of the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m. The Board adjourned to room 2A for closed session. The closed session ended at: 8:04 p.m.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Regular Meeting April 10, 2024

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-CITY (573-874-2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

USB DRIVES PROHIBITED: Due to cybersecurity concerns, flash drives and other media devices are no longer permitted for delivering files or presentation materials. A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit CoMo.gov/upload. (Effective Jan. 1, 2023)