

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 8, 2020 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)

Laurel Grasmick - Black (Chair): laurelgrasmickblack@gmail.com

Members Present: Franziska Rose - City of Beaverton, Dori King, co-Chair, Tonia Cottrell, Ronda Groshong, Police Chief City of Beaverton, Joy Stevens, Recorder, Paolo Esteban, Staff Liaison, Neil Stellingwerf, Lieutenant - Community Services Officer, Councilor Mark Fagin, Beaverton City Council, Spencer Ehrman, Cameron Green, Annala Swafford, Youth Liaison, Laurel Grasmick-Black – Chair, Tagrid Curi. Michael German, Kossikan Yawo, Anjabeen Ashraf, Stephanie Somanchi, Taghrid Khuri, Kossikan Yawo,

Meeting order –

6:33 Call Meeting to Order – Laurel Grasmick - Black

6:37 Motion by Spencer Ehrman to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Tonia Cottrell. Minutes Motion carried. Minutes approved.

6:38 – 6:42 Public participation: 2 min each or 10 min max for entire agenda item

- Karen J: Sitting in to participate
- Kathy French: So in favor of having an oversight board and it is a good time to make the change with the other changes. Avoiding appearance of impropriety, for example no complaints were found to be valid internally.
- Ron Marson: Like the process with the group. Likes people talking with each other.
- All additional questions/comments outside of allotted time can be sent to [HRAC Website](#)

6:42 – 6:54 Liaison Updates

- Council Update – Councilor Mark Fagin – transition to new charter process. Tuesday at 6 PM judge finalist. Election, new mayor, Lacey Beaty January 1, 2 new city councilors.
- Beaverton Police – Lieutenant Neil Stellingwerf – new training teams. November snapshot to be sent.
- Mayors Youth Advisory – Annala Swafford – Youth group into sub committees, will reach out to the adult boards.
- City Update – Paolo Esteban – did not review recommendations last time. Keeping track of recommendations as they are made in order to remember them when we review. Thanks for patience. Interviews of applicants (18) for 4 openings.

Commissioner comment –

Stephanie Somanchi - joined social studies study group. They are impressed with the Black and Brown Lives matter statement put out years ago and Beaverton Schools have adopted it.

6:54– Sessions Topic – Community Oversight

Last meeting recap – Dori King – @Dori, I imagine this could be a good way to acknowledge where we left the last meeting. “Value of Discomfort” google doc.

Foundational history of policing as order keeping rather than law enforcement. Review of 8 Can't Wait. Review of previously asked questions and answers.

Comments from the chief – Oversight is a big deal. Not opposed to it. Building trust. Have not had oversight. Many facets of oversight possible. Would like to suggest slowing down the process and not doing it at our deadline. Board not so large that it does not function.

Dori: diverse representation and ideas about that...

Value & Purpose of Community Oversight – Michael German

Oversight is a complex issue, lots of way to get it wrong.

Intention is key. Not necessarily a justice delivery system, a transparency vehicle. Creation of documentation to provide for records, compliance model.

Complaint investigation model: more complex and competing interests.

Personnel selection – difficult for lay people to understand tactics.

Transparency as a hallmark.

Appellate model: board doing appeal of the adjudication of discipline

How to protect whistleblowers and employees. GAO in DC available to assist in whistleblower protection expertise.

Kossikan: how does a community decide?

Laurel: Educational component

Spencer: Minneapolis has had oversight for 25 years

Dori: How do we know the training outside of the job? Looking at this with a racial equity lens...there are outside consultants, finding help to formulate in a transparent way.

Portland Community Oversight Advisory Board & other oversight models – Spencer Ehrman

@Laurel, building off of the prior convo's, can you lead us in discussion on:

Purpose of oversight, community decides the goal of committee

Many models, investigative, review focus, auditor

Effectiveness, measuring completely subjective. Would this need an election, city attorney, city council? Research needed.

Portland changed their city charter to take this up.

Dori: The challenge that is being faced in America is BIPOC have a higher rate of death at the hands of police. We do not actually know that there is not a problem, there are community members uncomfortable with going to the police.

Tonia to Michael : How do oversight boards work with the police unions? Negotiated at set up.

Laurel: do we want to make a recommendation about oversight committee? Process of setting it up separate from discussing having a committee. Circling back to what is the purpose.

Anjabeen: Where is the power of the committee coming from? From BPD, then what is the point? New Orleans, independent police monitor.

Kossikan: Power form community to oversee the PD.

Fagin: advisory committees created by city council, from the city attorney. Key is what is the purpose of the committee? Advisory committees, decision making committees, (planning commission).

Recommendations review – Paolo Estbean

Examination of current recommendations on screen share. SRO recommendations. - Laurel

Halfway Check in Recap – Joy Stevens. Comments by counselors deidentified and sorted by category:

Meetings:

- Not doing enough between meetings
- Not sure how to participate as a non person of color
- Not sure that a 2 hour meeting is making a real difference
- Happy to be involved
- Concern that for those who are hustling more than one job have to take time unpaid to be involved in government
- racial representation

Police reform

- First impression (line by line review) different from process goal (policy recommendation)
- policing policies studied in the 1970s not effective
- Is PD working with BIPOC
- are we hearing from all the voices?
- Some doubt as to whether there can be change
- hope that conversations continue and not just end in December

City coordination

- question of working with DAB
- racial representation of city counsel
- how will our recommendations be presented to city?

Clarify Next Steps – Laurel Grasmick-Black

Discuss next steps – Finalize our recommendations as a board at the next meeting. What would be the purpose of an oversight committee? What is our final deliverable?

8:32 - Adjourn

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION www.BeavertonOregon.gov/HRAC Paolo Esteban, Equity Specialist, 503-526-2439, Pesteban@BeavertonOregon.gov

ADA Notice: This information is available in large print upon request and assistive listening devices or sign language interpreters are available at any public meeting with five days advance notice.

