

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017, IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL ROOM.

The meeting began at 7:38 p.m.

Members present were: Kevin Hammett, Daniel Hamlin, Dea Zugby, Jamie Krauk, Rev. Ray Raysor and David Moran, Staff Liaison.

Other City Officials present were: Thomas Kemp, Acting Chief of Police

Also present were: Katie Pugliese, Michael Hartman and Crystal (University of Maryland student).

Welcome & Introductions

Kevin welcomed everyone. There were introductions.

Reverend Ray recited the Community Pledge.

Michael suggested the Community Pledge be updated to be more inclusive and encouraged the addition of language regarding accessibility, gender, etc.

Approval of Minutes

Jamie moved approval of the Minutes from the CRAB Meeting on October 18, 2016, November 1, 2016 and November 17, 2016. Dea seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Selection of CRAB Member for new City Grant Review Panel

There was discussion of this new panel and its responsibilities. Jamie agreed to serve on the panel for a year.

Discussion of 11/29 Forum

Jamie noted she had not been able to attend due to death in the family and wanted to hold her comments until others had spoken.

Dea was impressed with the Forum. She thought there was good mix of people and indicated that participants opened up during the small groups.

Dan's impressions were positive overall. He was relieved that things aren't worse than they are and thought there was greater tensions other communities. Dan believed Dr. Marsh did a good job. He was disappointed that her associate wasn't able to attend.

Ray was disappointed that Franklin Park didn't get the word out about the Forum. He wanted to publicize the Forum better. Ray suggested that CRAB meet as a Board. Kevin noted that CRAB meetings have to be open to the public.

Dea noted she had delivered flyers throughout the City.

Kevin was positive about the Forum. He believed there was value in getting together and having a listening opportunity. Kevin indicated that people felt comfortable speaking. He noted problems with refrigerator noises in the Springhill Lake Elementary multi-purpose room and wanted to get a more conducive setting next time.

Jamie wondered if CRAB should entertain solutions at the Forum. She wanted to get the notes posted as a repository. She suggested that some activities could occur in between forums such as posting Police training information on the City website.

Kevin stated that one of the challenges is advertising and trying to get the word out. He expressed concern that some people choose not to attend and asked how CRAB should address this perspective.

Ray suggested that you need to reach the "influencers" in that community in order to promote the forums.

Dea reported that CRAB had held meetings in Franklin Park previously and there was very little attendance. She also noted a Utopia Film Festival showing of a film on Dr. Martin Luther King Beltway Plaza theaters where there was very little attendance.

Ray stated that there are cities within cities and sometimes they never come together.

Acting Chief Kemp agreed. He noted there were 56 neighborhoods in Greenbelt. He indicated Franklin Park was very transient with approximately 50% turnover. Chief Kemp suggested coordinating with the schools to try and reach the parents.

Kevin stated that in order to be heard you have to attend. He believed there could be more of a grass roots effort.

Jamie wanted to encourage CRAB to think about success differently. She indicated that 50 people attending was a good start. She wanted to build on what went well and focus on getting the next forum scheduled.

Other Feedback regarding the 11/29 Forum

Michael appreciated the Board's perspective. He reported that at his table there was deference to white people. Michael believed there needed to be more creative ways to reach out to residents.

Katie referenced the issues that GREA raised in their handout. She asked about Dr. Marsh's assessment. Kevin read Dr. Marsh's feedback.

Katie asked about the goal of the forum. CRAB members responded that CRAB planned to report and make recommendations to the City Council.

Dea indicated that there were 28 non-police attendees at the forum.

Ray encouraged CRAB to meet as quickly as possible to plan the next forum.

Tom indicated that one of the reasons the beat officers didn't speak was that they were there to listen. He stated that Police General Orders (policies and procedures) were available on the City website including the complaint procedure. Tom indicated the Department was planning to post information about the last three years of training. He also mentioned there were CALEA reports on the City website that provided summary data about Police complaints.

CRAB scheduled the next meeting for February 21 at 7:30pm

The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.