

Safety & Equity Task Force
Meeting minutes 11/4/2021 (approved)

Task Force: Clark Adams, Ben Cassavaugh, Margae Diamond, April Dunham, Gail Harbour, Marsh Hudson-Knapp, Lynn Mazza, Jim Vires, Sarabeth Ward, Lauren Wilcox
In attendance: Stu Hurd, Brian Corr, CAT TV, 3 observers
Notetaker: Lynn Mazza

1. Introductions

2. Recap of last meeting:

- ∞ Marsh makes motion to amend the agenda to include input for next agenda in review of next steps, Clark seconds
- ∞ Recap of last meeting's minutes: no comments, no changes
- ∞ Stu Hurd sent Article 20 in response to question about if an independent investigation of a complaint about police can be done simultaneously as internal police investigation according to VT state law, or does the police investigation have to happen first. But the answer is still unclear, Stu will check
- ∞ Discussion of whether the Board that's developed will have investigatory role and the nature of that role
- ∞ Will the people on the Board have time, knowledge and skill set to do that kind of investigation? Is it their role considering police are trained do to this kind of investigation?
- ∞ Not clear if this secondary review of police investigations is the role of the board?
- ∞ Brian suggests to get into those details later in the process
- ∞ Do recommendations of the Task Force need to be unanimous, or is it majority rule? Will be further discussion
- ∞ Marsh moves to accept the minutes, Bed seconds, all vote to accept unanimously

3. Outreach Subcommittee Report:

- ∞ Concerns expressed about focusing our interviews on marginalized populations because it feels exploitive to go up to specifically people who are homeless or struggling and expect

that they would pour their heart out to a stranger when they're busy trying to survive.

- ∞ OK talking with the organizations who work with those populations, but to approach directly feel invasive, like ambushing people
- ∞ We will get organizations to get volunteers to talk about what improvements they'd like to see, ensuring confidentiality. Sharing questions with the director ahead of time and asking them to arrange for interviews
- ∞ Concerns about focusing on marginalized groups when the task force and eventual Board should be focusing on representing and serving the needs of the whole community.
- ∞ Marginalized populations are referred to that way because they are less likely to be heard, therefore more effort is needed to reach them. They may not feel comfortable using or have access to the ways that mainstream people get themselves heard
- ∞ We are focusing on marginalized groups because local research as well as national research shows that these groups are disproportionately negatively impacted by police interactions.
- ∞ We should be including a more "average" group to include more general info
- ∞ Brian: Keep in mind how will you use the info gathered to develop the purpose
- ∞ Can we use data from recent Community Survey? Yes, it will be out soon. It is in a different format, but can be referred to. We can add relevant survey Community questions to our questions
- ∞ Can we try to have some open door or general place for people who would like to be interviewed to approach the Task Force?
- ∞ Question to Brian: Can we get a timeline to work from. He doesn't have one on hand, but can work on one
- ∞ What will the finished product of recommendations look like? Lots of concerns about timeframe
- ∞ We will develop a proposal for the Select Board for Jan, but that they will approve/deny, then send back to us for tweaking for March
- ∞ Brian: reminder to keep referring to the charge we were given
- ∞ We will be reaching out as broadly as we can

- ∞ Try to share any articles or resources ahead of time so we can read them, instead of having them read aloud in meeting
- ∞ PLAN: Subcommittee will redo questions that will be released to the rest of the group by Monday. The group will reach out to the organizations (see attached sheet for assignments) to get contacts for people to interview. Task force members will compile answers, redact any names or identifying details and submit a summary to the subcommittee. Subcommittee will be sure redactions are made before compiling the summaries and releasing a report that will be available to the public

4. Purpose Subcommittee report

- ∞ Marsh passed around a version of the Goals, Hoped and Visions page and requested that we all identify 3-5 top goals to focus on. Marsh will consolidate and develop a stand-in draft of purpose statement
- ∞ Brian: Thinking about purpose- what is the job of final committee

5. Composition of final oversight committee:

- ∞ Composition subcommittee: Ben, Sarabeth, Clark, Marsh
- ∞ Will present draft and get feedback
- ∞ Brian: Research other models to see what other communities did. Composition should reflect town's diversity, but also make sure the individuals chosen are suitable for role

6. Next agenda:

- ∞ Composition
- ∞ Review survey results
- ∞ Report back on draft on purpose, will send out as a draft to review beforehand
- ∞ Scope subcommittee: Jim, Lynn, April
- ∞ Question for future: Is there an annual review of complaints? BPD probably keeps records, but they are probably not reported out. Marsh asked for that data- Stu will see. (Ben is not the conduit for these kinds of detailed police policy and protocol questions.)

7. Public Comment: none

Ben made motion to adjourn, Jim seconded, all voted unanimously "Yes"

Next meeting: 11/18/21 @ 4:30 @ River St. Firehouse