

Meeting Minutes
Police Advisory Board Meeting
VIA TELECONFERENCING
5:00 PM WEDNESDAY June 22, 2021

Board Members Present: Chair Melinda White; Co-Chair Jamie Pinkham; Kris Lukins; Winnie Wilkerson; Tom Benton; Danielle Lindley

Board Members Absent: John Nicholls;

Staff Members Absent: Wendy-Ayn Coy, Minute Taker

Public Present – Chief Maurice Lamothe, LT Jason Wetherby, Reier Erickson, Zach Scheffler, Angie Sturm, Barbara Finch, Jen Williamson

- 1) **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 5:02.
- 2) **Agenda Introduction & Review** – None
- 3) **Open Brief Public Comment on Agenda Items** – None
- 4) **Mission Review** –
 - **Mission:** To offer advice to the St. Albans Police Department for the successful implementation of 21st Century Policing strategies and to assist the Police Department in following the established “Road Map” as amended by the City Council
- 5) **Consider approval of 05.25.2021 meeting minutes** – Correction: Board Member Benton was absent in May’s meeting and did not make a motion to adjourn. Member Benton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes after correction. Co-Chair Pinkham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6) **Future PAB Meetings** – Discussion on whether to continue meetings via zoom or in-person. Member Lindley suggested a hybrid model; others agreed. Board members felt there’s value in holding in-person meetings, while still offering virtual attendance. Chair White will connect with city to see if hybrid is an option. Board decision will be made in next months meeting.
- 7) **Areas of Focus** -
 - **Community Partnerships** – Melinda White – Chair White turned the floor over to LT Wetherby for an overview on SAPD surveys being delivered on foot. The survey has been used frequently across the country (Department of Justice). Approximately 129 surveys distributed and 59 received. Member Wilkinson stated minority people who reached out to her were uncomfortable with the approach of delivering in-person at peoples’ homes. LT Wetherby responded asking for suggestions on how SAPD can be more appropriate in serving everyone. LT asked to connect with Winnie to learn more about how they could improve the process.

- **Policy and Procedures** – Jamie Pinkham – Co-Chair Pinkham
 - **Social Media Policy** – (Dispatcher Policy Only) – The SAPD Social Media policy will be reviewed in July.) The most stringent policy is what will be adopted. Member Pinkham stated when looking at the Standards of Conduct Policy, it has language in it referring to social media presence and accountabilities around them. Chief Lamothe explained that the Social Media Policy refers to the Standards of Conduct Policy often, which is very in depth. There has never been a Social Media Policy until this one.

Chair White explained that the new Social Media Policy will be reviewed next month. Chief Lamothe said the policies will have different names to avoid confusion; one policy for “in house” and one for “personal use”.

Member Lukens commented about the “In House” policy, highlighting that the posts highlighting arrests opens the door for shaming. Chief Lamothe confirmed those posts have discontinued. On July 1st of 2020, Lamothe made a change to no longer put out press releases for every arrest. It creates opportunities for shaming which SAPD doesn’t support.
 - **Data** – Jamie Pinkham – Co-Chair Pinkham sent out link for Survey Monkey. Pinkham asked for discussion and a decision on how best to distribute the survey. Historically, there have been suggestions to send via mail, in-person and electronically. The goal is to get information from every lens in the community. There are 8 questions total. Survey Monkey estimates 2 minutes to complete the survey and estimates a 72% completion rate. Member Wilkinson asked about mailing surveys. Member Benton suggests mailing surveys. Chair White and Co-Chair Pinkham will connect with City of St. Albans to request funding for mail.
 - Chief Lamothe invited board members (and community members) to do a ride-along.
- 8) Public Comment** – Zach Scheffler advocated for survey mailing above other delivery service options. Reier Erickson commented on impact being greater than intent; apology and accountability is more important than a lack of ill intent. Erickson also brought up the website still stating George Floyd’s “death” instead of “murder”.
- Member Wilkinson highlighted the value of acknowledgement that voices are being heard and requests for further dialogue.
- Co-Chair Pinkham brought up the suggestion for a larger public comment portion in future meetings where Chief can be present and hear comments first-hand. Member Pinkham expressed interest in wanting this to be an opportunity for listening. Public member Angie Sturm suggested having the Chief present to listen without responding. Public member Jen Williamson suggested notifying the public of which meetings the Chief will be present at during Public Comment portion of the meeting. This will be added as an agenda item in the next board meeting (possibly quarterly).
- 9) Other Business** – Chair White is going to send the Pine Lake documentary to the Board.
- 10) Adjourn** – Member Wilkinson made a motion to adjourn at 6:08. Member Benton seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.