

MINUTES
Police Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, Nov 22, 2022
5:00 – 6:30 PM
City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
DRAFT

Board Members Present: Jamie Pinkham, Chair; Kris Lukens; Danielle Mitchell, via Zoom; Marcus Neabar; Winnie Wilkinson, via Zoom; John Nicholls;

Board Members Absent: Melinda White, Vice Chair;

City Staff Present: Chief Maurice Lamothe, St. Albans Police Department;

Members of the Public Present: Ben Kauffman; program director of Samaritan house John Lavoie
Franklin County States Attorney

1. Call to order 5:06 by J. Pinkham

2. Agenda Introduction & Review

3. Mission Review – D. Mitchell

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

4. Open Brief Public Comment on Agenda Items (limit 2 min. per person)

Questions or comments on agenda? Board and public no

“Road Map” as amended by the City Council

5. Consider approval of September, 2022 Meeting Minutes (D&V)

D. Mitchell made a motion to approve the September 2022 meeting minutes. Second by K. Lukens.

Motion approved with all in favor 5:09 pm

6. Welcome new member Marcus Neabar

Introductions of the board members and attendees

7. Discussion with Samaritan House, Ben Kauffman

Introductions – B. Kauffman is the program director

Tim's House is operated by Samaritan House.

One of the changes in the past couple of months is that Tim's house is now only serving in shelter single adults but is still providing services for families. They can lessen the criteria, take in more people than ever. The old model does not work the same way as it worked with families. They increased staffing and had their first violent staff interaction in 4 years, as well as their first overdose.

They are pleased with relationship with SAPD.

Most of the guests don't cause issues and others have mental health or substance abuse issues.

They have added security and rules that no single staff member can remove someone from the shelter.

B. Kauffman thanks J. Lavoie for his communication during the event of the staff member being attacked.

W. Wilkinson asked what is the mission of the Samaritan House.

B. Kauffman stated the mission is to empower people who are experiencing homelessness in our area to access housing and support.

J. Pinkham asked whether the residence must have a criminal background.

B. Kauffman said there is a grant from the Department of Corrections for a certain number of beds. The residence is first come first serve.

Member of public via zoom asked are people not getting help since things are bad?

B. Kauffman stated that families can get help from Voices Against Violence and economic services who offer motel access. They moved from weather criteria Dec 15-March to a blanket exception. Samaritan house offers services to guests. Spectrum and restorative justice would like to offer more help

J. Pinkham asked if people in St Albans possibly couldn't get help because other communities are being offered the assistance.

B. Kauffman stated the resource issue isn't due to other communities, but from this community.

8. Update on recent SAPD Events & future ones

M. Lamothe stated there have been 26 events since Aug 1st conclude December 31

Some of the events coming up include Stuff a truck, Stuff a cruiser with toys, operation happiness, holiday light tour, escorting Santa for lighting, and the ringing of the bells. This is the busiest time of year for city stuff.

Able to approach during the events on Facebook the best way to see where they will be Autism Care asked to be there

During Truck or Treat, there were roughly 250 bags of candy in first 45 minutes. Estimating roughly 400 people served from six different agencies.

J. Pinkham asked if other agencies would participate in the future?

M. Lamothe answered in the affirmative.

J. Pinkham is going to keep the updates as a standing agenda item

M. Lamothe always looking to raise money for Marthas.

9. Final review of PAB Survey, Jamie Pinkham

J. Pinkham would like to review the PowerPoint, allow City Council to see if first and then released more broadly. The presentation should go before the City Council in January. Survey was sent out at the end of '21, all paper, mailed to every address in the city. The complete data is now available.

Some of the other options for delivery were survey monkey, in person interviews and polls. Mail seemed like the best option. This survey could possibly be done every two or three years.

There were 413 valid surveys.

Some of the areas of opportunities included a deadline for returning the survey, adding room for contact information, creating an input as you go system, and eliminating some of the sub questions to alleviate NA responses.

QUESTIONS:

Would you call the St Albans police department if you felt unsafe or were witnessing a crime

Total Answers: 412 Yes: 387 No: 17 I don't know: 8

There were a lot of qualifying information with the yes answers.

Are you aware of how to provide feedback or file grievances with SAPD

Yes: 196 No: 197N/A: 19

Do you believe your concern is taken seriously?

Total Answers: 405 Yes: 210 No: 59 N/A: 136

Do you feel connected to law enforcement in your community.

Total: 409 Yes:264 No: 131 N/A: 14

Some of the comment trends were for better training and responsiveness, speeding, unaware of complaint process, racial bias among officers, wondering how to highlight the current training, and PD mandatory training.

10. 2023 Committee Focus

The committee would like to highlight good work and make the grievance process more transparent.

M. Lamothe stated there is no movement in getting approval for new crisis worker They have interviewed a handful and no one seemed a good fit and stated they are looking for people with a psychology background and that can communicate with people.

J. Pinkham asked where the board can support.

M. Lamothe stated that it would be getting events out there so different people come out.

J. Pinkham stated she is interested to see what city council says in January and would love to reach out to BEI to say what are they hearing or looking for.

J. Lavoie stated they could look at the roadmap and identify other area where there can be tangible achievement.

J. Pinkham stated she would look at data and formulate it for the community to be able to see.

11. Public Comment – none

12. Adjourn

**D. Mitchell made a motion to adjourn. Second by K. Lukens.
Motion Approved with all in favor 6:11pm**