

MEMORANDUM
Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission
Tuesday, July 26th, 2022

The Regular Session meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

Commissioner members present in person: Renée Miller, Nejla Routsong, Eliza Carey, Jason Michálek, Shelby Ford

Commission members present via Zoom: Kamala Brown-Sparks

Commission members absent: None

City staff present: Stephen Lucas

Public present: Terry Amsler, Sam Dove, Jim Shelton

5:06pm - INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

5:08pm - APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A review of the Commission's regular meeting time was added to the agenda. The revised agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

5:09pm – APPROVAL OF MEMORANDA/MINUTES – Cm. Brown-Sparks moved to approve the minutes from May 24, 2022 and to table the minutes from July 5, 2022. Cm. Ford seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

5:11pm – REPORTS

Co-chairs – Cm. Michálek said the annual report given to the Bloomington Common Council on July 20 went well. Cm. Carey reported on changes to her availability.

Committees –

Conflict Resolution Committee –

- Cm. Routsong said it would be good to get new members for the committee.
- Cm. Miller said she would be stepping down from the Conflict Resolution Committee.

Reparations and Atonement Committee –

- Cm. Brown-Sparks had attended a kick-off event for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) program and had signed up for a team; she said a lot of goals of the CHIP program align with commission goals; she said it was still possible for others to get involved with the CHIP program.
- Cm. Ford said she had been doing more research on Mayor's Organized for Reparations and Equity (MORE) that the committee had suggested to the Mayor; she thought it might be a topic for a commission resolution; Cm. Ford mentioned possible additional public outreach efforts, maybe by the full commission; she mentioned possible voter registration efforts to help get more people involved.
- Cm. Routsong suggested two goals for fall and two goals for spring.

Research –

- Cm. Miller said this committee would not meet in August but would pick back up in September.

Alternatives to Policing -

- Cm. Routsong said the committee hadn't been able to meet; she mentioned information shared by Councilmember Piedmont-Smith on a CAHOOTS program; Cm. Brown-Sparks spoke on efforts to change attendance requirements under the state electronic meeting rules.

Housing –

- Cm. Michálek reported on the response to the Housing Committee's contribution in the Commission's annual report.

Staff – Lucas commented on the Commission's annual report, availability of information on the CAHOOTS program, and an update on Commission membership.

5:29pm - REPORTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Terry Amsler spoke on the topic of public engagement and promoting a broader view of public safety. He mentioned a Steering Committee for Community Voices for Public Health for Monroe County and suggested the work of that group might overlap or be of interest to the Commission. He noted that the Commission might want to look at the Novak Report, an organizational study recently completed by the City, to think through how boards/commissions can be effective.

Jim Shelton encouraged commissioners to interface with the County, read relevant reports, and attend commissioner meetings on the topic of a new jail and other public safety issues that fall under County's purview.

Cm. Miller added that the County's Critical Justice Response Team would be meeting on August 3. Cm. Brown-Sparks said she was looking to get involved with county processes.

5:46 pm – Break

5:52 pm – Called back to order

5:53 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The Commission discussed ideas for a signature program:
 - o Stipend/additional support for Commission
 - o Develop program to bring in additional voices/open dialogue
 - o Town Hall event (part of research?); located at a park?
 - o Voter registration efforts
 - o More access to civic participation – might be more likely to get city support
 - o Event at Bannaker Center – for Juneteenth – getting minority communities to celebrate – show them programming Bannaker Center has to offer
 - Maybe connect with BLM on an existing similar program
 - o History Center – how to do a family tree
 - o Staff to follow up with examples from other commissions; CMs to brainstorm

- The Commission also discussed IU's SMART Program; members of the Research Committee said they could look into the program and report back to see if it was a good fit.

6:11pm – NEW BUSINESS

- Overturn of Roe v. Wade
 - o Cm. Ford – many communities are passing resolutions affirming reproductive rights and doing what they can to support such rights; should the Commission take some action? How best to do so? Cm. Ford to reach out to others involved and to report back.
- Review of Commission's committee structure
 - o Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to dissolve the Conflict Resolution Committee, Reparations and Atonement Committee, Alternatives to Policing Committee, and Housing Committee. Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to amend the motion, such that the Conflict Resolution Committee, Alternatives to Policing Committee, and Housing Committee would be dissolved. The amended motion was adopted 6-0.
- New meeting time – Cm. Miller moved and it was seconded to change the Commission's regular meeting time to the 4th Monday each month at 5:00pm. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.
 - o Cm. Miller moved and it was seconded to cancel the Commission's September meeting. The motion was adopted by roll call vote 5-1 (Routsong).

7:00pm - Meeting is adjourned.

Memorandum prepared by:
Stephen Lucas, Staff