

MINUTES

Pullman Police Advisory Committee
Pullman City Hall – Council Chambers
September 10, 2012 at 5:30 pm

The regular meeting of the Pullman Police Advisory Committee was held at 5:30pm on Monday, September 10th, 2012, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 325 SE Paradise Street, Pullman, Washington, with Committee Chair Arlene Parkay presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Arlene Parkay	WSU Staff & Faculty Representative (Chair)
	KNona Liddell	College Hill Alternate
	Mary Simonsen	Military Hill Alternate
	Richard Hume	Pioneer Hill Representative
	Phyllis Stallcop	Sunnyside Hill Representative
	Al Sorensen	Business Community Representative
	Dan Hornfelt	Pullman School District Representative
	Rosemary Fleener	Pullman High School Parent Representative
	Wayne Popeski	Pullman At-Large Representative
	Roger Schaefer	Pullman At-Large Alternate
Absent:	Marcus Crossler	WSU Staff & Faculty Alternate
	Barbara Hammond	College Hill Representative
	Zach Hays	Military Hill Representative
	Greg Wilson	Pioneer Hill Alternate (Vice Chair)
	Kim Barrett	Multicultural Representative
	DaVina Hoyt	Multicultural Alternate
	Luis Cuevas	ASWSU Representative
	Bill Holman	Pullman School District Alternate
Staff:	Chief Gary Jenkins	Pullman Police Department
	Elysia Spencer	Pullman Police Department

CALL TO ORDER Parkay called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. There was a quorum.

MINUTES Minutes from the July and August meetings will be ready for approval at October 8th meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS Chief Jenkins provided the following updates from the police department:
Police Department Update

- Safe Routes to Schools Grant – Still awaiting decision. This grant would fund installation of a walking path near Jefferson Elementary as well as speed radar signs in the area.
- City Council Meeting tomorrow night (September 11) – Discussion will include several parking issues, including:
 - 1) Increasing number of parking permits available for purchase

REGULAR BUSINESS

Police Department
Update (continued)

by downtown businesses in the Riverwalk parking lot (adjacent to Spot Shop).

- 2) Chamber of Commerce proposal to increase downtown parking time limit from 2 to 3 hours.
- 3) Increasing availability of guest parking passes in residential parking zones.
- Follow-up: Traffic Hazard on Arcadia – Chief Jenkins advised that officers were unable to locate this hazard.
- Follow-up: Traffic Hazard at Turner & North – Chief Jenkins advised that the information was passed on to City Engineering Department. Chief Jenkins advised that Engineering advised that there are no problems in that location.

A member asked what the Chamber of Commerce’s reasoning was for proposing the change to the parking time limit. Jenkins advised that they feel the two hour limit is too restrictive, and that it wasn’t attractive to potential customers of downtown businesses. A member asked when the downtown parking was enforced. Jenkins advised it is patrolled regularly Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Jenkins advised that the parking restrictions include weekends, but that the department doesn’t have a person dedicated to downtown parking on the weekends. It was mentioned that that business employees would take advantage of parking on the street for longer times, making things worse for potential customers.

A member asked if there was room for additional parking in the residential parking zone. Jenkins advised that the issue was brought up by residents because they when they had multiple guests over to their house, their guests have to park several blocks away, even if there was an open parking spot near their residence. Jenkins advised that the only residential areas with parking by permit only are all on College Hill.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Lentil Festival Recap

Members reviewed the three comments left in the Committee’s suggestion box at the Lentil Festival. Comments were not available at meeting, but were paraphrased for the group.

- 1) One said something like “good job volunteers”
- 2) One only had a name and number on it. Chief Jenkins contacted the woman, who was confused as to what the box was for. She advised that she would contact us with any comments or concerns in future.
- 3) One referenced dogs being allowed at the festival. Chief Jenkins advised that he forwarded that comment to the Chamber of Commerce for consideration.

Members discussed the Committee’s booth at the Lentil Festival, how things went, and what improvements could be made for next

REGULAR BUSINESS
Lentil Festival Recap
(continued)

year. Some items of note:

- Members discussed how they liked the Committee's new location (next to Heroes & Sports) adjacent to the fire department's location.
- Extensive discussion about the positive and negative experiences with the "beer goggles" demonstration. Some raised concerns about what to do with the demonstration when it began to get dark. Also expressed concerns about needing better communication/coordination with officers about giving breaks and letting Committee members help out more.
- Overall, everyone agreed that the event was a success and would like to do it again next year.

REGULAR BUSINESS
Update on Safety Camera
Project

Jenkins provided an update on the progress of this grant. He advised that the contract negotiations for the camera equipment contracts have been delayed, which means the contracts will not be ready for City Council approval on Tuesday. Since the contracts need City Council approval, this means another two week delay for the project. Jenkins advised that the delays are due to getting language and specifications into the grant that meet federal requirements.

It was noted that the delays are allowing more time for coordination of the new partnership with the WSU Criminal Justice Department class which will be providing student volunteers to actively monitor the cameras during times of peak activity. The students will undergo training on the cameras and at the 911 dispatch center to understand how to accurately and effectively report what they are seeing.

REGULAR BUSINESS
Update on City Budget
Issues

Jenkins advised that at the last City Council meeting, it was determined that the City would use some of the City reserve funds to help balance the 2012 budget. No further cuts or additional layoffs are being required. Jenkins advised that he is preparing to present the department's 2013 budget proposal, which would include provisions to fill all of the positions which are currently being held as vacant.

REGULAR BUSINESS
Citizen Letter – Taxicab
Licensing

Wiley Hollingsworth presented some questions and concerns to the Committee as follow-up to some issues he had raised at the August meeting, as well as in a letter he had previously sent to the Committee, regarding taxicab licensing. Mr. Hollingsworth was given the floor.

Mr. Hollingsworth expressed concerns about Chief Weatherly's apparent attack on taxicab companies in 2009. Hollingsworth advised that at the time, Chief Weatherly stated that the concern originated from the Police Advisory Committee about the physical conditions of the taxis and that he pursued the licensing issue to take

REGULAR BUSINESS
Citizen Letter – Taxicab
Licensing (continued)

care of those issues. However, Mr. Hollingsworth advised that the emphasis ultimately became about licensing requirements and did not actually address the physical conditions of the taxis. Mr. Hollingsworth wanted to know if Chief Weatherly had tricked the Police Advisory Committee into gaining their support for the taxi licensing.

Members clarified that citizens brought concerns about the conditions of taxi services in Pullman to Committee members, who then brought the issues to the attention of Chief Weatherly at a meeting. Members advised that there had been citizen reports of unsafe taxi vehicle equipment, ranging from bad tires to missing interior door handles. Additionally, there had been reports of price gouging, especially of international students, and questions were asked as to why taxis were not required to post their fares. Members had asked about the possibility of background checks or some mechanism to screen taxi drivers, because of the highly vulnerable population taxi drivers serve, including intoxicated subjects and international subjects with limited English proficiency. Committee members reiterated that Chief Weatherly never brought any issues regarding taxis to the Committee, but that it was the Committee that brought the issue of taxi licensing to him. Members reiterated that no taxi company was specifically targeted. It was also clarified that the issue of taxi licensing was originally brought to the attention of City Council, but was dropped. However, after WSU students took up the issue and ASWSU pushed the matter at its joint meeting with City Council as a public safety issue did the taxicab licensing issue take hold and ultimately get passed as a City ordinance.

Mr. Hollingsworth provided a letter that was sent to businesses and taxi companies that he believed was attacking to taxicab owners. The letter was reviewed and determined to not be attacking, but providing information on the new licensing requirements.

Mr. Hollingsworth brought up a discussion at the 2010 joint meeting with WSU Police Advisory Board about the taxi licensing, and the concern of when a complaint is lodged against a taxi company or driver, what would happen, and whether a license could be denied. It was clarified that the current City ordinance states that the license can be denied and that the determination is not based solely upon conviction history only.

Committee members repeatedly asked Mr. Hollingsworth to clarify what his central question or concern or issue was. Mr. Hollingsworth advised that he wanted the clear basis for proceeding with a lawsuit. A Committee member advised that they didn't feel comfortable answering additional questions if a lawsuit was

REGULAR BUSINESS
Citizen Letter – Taxicab
Licensing (continued)

involved. Another member expressed that they believed that taxicabs provide a valuable public service, and as such, they should be subject to certain codes and requirements and safety measures, similar to airlines and other City businesses, and that if Mr. Hollingsworth had a specific part of the ordinance that maybe needs revision, that he bring that to the Committee’s attention. Other members expressed that they did not feel that they could provide Mr. Hollingsworth with any more assistance because they were unclear as to what he actually wanted.

Mr. Hollingsworth switched topics and referenced newspaper articles regarding a SWAT team response when shots were fired at a party hosted by “black kids”, and a few weeks later, the newspaper reported a drive-by shooting by some high school kids, and nothing was done until the next day, and a simple slap on the wrists. Mr. Hollingsworth expressed concerns about racism and use of force in law enforcement. It was eventually determined that the events he was referencing occurred four to five years previously, and no other specifics were known. Members advised Mr. Hollingsworth that they do not receive or review police reports from the police department. Members advised that if someone brings an issue, like possible racism, to their attention at the time, the Committee can then raise those issues to the Chief for follow-up.

Mr. Hollingsworth then suggested that the Committee perform exit interviews with police officers leaving the department. Members clarified the Committee’s role and duty as representatives of citizens in the community. The Committee is to bring the concerns of citizens to the attention of the Chief, discuss them at meetings, and possible bring issues to the attention of City Council. It is not the Committee’s duty to perform exit interviews on exiting police officers.

Mr. Hollingsworth asked if City of Pullman Transit employees would have to go through a background check, because of allegations of sexual misconduct that have been made. He asked that background checks be performed on bus drivers because the buses and the Dial-A-Ride service act in the same role as a taxicab. Chief Jenkins advised that the City of Pullman performs its own background checks through the human resources department. Jenkins referred Mr. Hollingsworth to follow-up with the human resources department with any specific questions he had about the type of background checks performed, as Jenkins was not involved in that process and was not authorized to perform those checks. Members reiterated that they can pass on information, express concerns, and make recommendations, but that they do not have any authority to pass or change City codes, regulations, or practices.

REGULAR BUSINESS
Schedule Joint Meeting
with WSU Police
Advisory Board

Members discussed scheduling and location of special joint meeting with the WSU Police Advisory Board. Several locations were discussed to possibly make the meeting more accessible to the public and the board members.

REGULAR BUSINESS
Committee Elections –
Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations for both Committee Chair and Vice Chair were collected at the August meeting, as well as accepted via email during the interim. The nominations received were:

- Chair – Arlene Parkay
- Vice Chair – Greg Wilson

Greg Wilson had sent the Committee a message advising that he was not opposed to stepping down if someone else wanted to take on the position. Members discussed whether or not the Committee Vice Chair needed to be more involved/more regular in attendance than in the past.

Parkay opened the floor for further nominations for Committee Chair. No additional nominations were received. The Committee voted by written ballot. Chief Jenkins and Elysia Spencer tallied the ballots.

*****VOTE*****

Arlene Parkay was elected to serve as Committee Chair.

Parkay opened the floor for further nominations for Committee Vice Chair. A member nominated Dan Hornfelt for Vice Chair. The Committee voted by written ballot. Chief Jenkins and Elysia Spencer tallied the ballots.

*****VOTE*****

Dan Hornfelt was elected to serve as Committee Vice Chair.

CONSTITUENCIES
POLL

Due to time constraints, Parkay opened the floor to any constituency that had items to bring to the attention of the Committee.

- Parking issue: Concern raised about parking in “no parking” side of street on NE Illinois. When vehicles are parked on both sides of streets, emergency vehicles cannot pass through.
- Parking issue: Another parking problem was cars parked against the flow of traffic, specifically on NE Opal and NE Howard St.
- WSU Game Day Parking: Several people expressed concerns with the parking on College Hill on WSU football game weekends now that the new campus parking restrictions were in effect. It was suggested to have someone from WSU parking services and/or athletic department come to the next meeting to clarify questions regarding parking. Examples of questions included clarification about where to park on campus, where to park off campus, why on campus parking permits are not valid on game day, etc. Chief Jenkins advised that Pullman PD was invited to informational meetings with WSU Parking. Traffic

**CONSTITUENCIES
POLL (continued)**

was diverted to other routes and traffic control ran much smoother than in previous games. Jenkins also advised that there are park and ride locations throughout the city to ease parking problems on campus, and that City and University press releases were issued with the information. Pullman School District posted "no overnight parking signs" for game days.

- Tailgating: A member asked about tailgating and Pullman's open container laws. Chief Jenkins advised that on campus parking lots temporarily become private camp sites when purchased, excluding them from enforcement of the open container laws.

Chief Jenkins advised that aside from the parking problems, the number of police incidents was below average for a game weekend. Unsure if the time of game mattered.

**MEMBER AND
ALTERNATE
SEARCH RESULTS**

Current vacancies on the Committee are:

- Sunnyside Hill Alternate
- Business Community Alternate
- ASWSU Alternate
- Pullman High School Parent Alternate
- Pullman High School Student Representative & Alternate
- Lincoln Middle School Parent Representative & Alternate

Member vacancies were not discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

NEXT MEETING

Special Joint Meeting with WSU Police Advisory Board Monday, October 8, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. Location to be determined, but tentatively scheduled to be held at the Pioneer Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Parkay entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion for adjournment was seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

 MARCUS Crossler for Arlene Parkay
Committee Chair

10/14/13
Date

 _____
Committee Secretary

10/14/13
Date