

City of Montpelier Police Review Committee
Meeting Minutes · May 3, 2021
Video Conference

Committee members present: Alyssa Schuren, Michael Sherman, Lauren Hierl, Abbey Jermyn, Justin Drechsler, Daniel Towle, Jack McCullough, Jen Duggan

Other individuals present: Mary Smith, Morgen Edwards (committee intern), Carol Plante, Mairead Harris, Chief Peete

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair Alyssa Schuren at 4:32 pm.

1. The committee members approved the meeting minutes for April 26, 2021.
2. The Chair invited public comments after reviewing the Committee's charge. Mairead Harris voiced support for reviewing Montpelier's Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP) policy and determining whether changes are warranted. Mairead suggested reviewing the Burlington and Norwich FIP policies.
3. The committee members discussed drafting process for the report.

Justin suggested that the report include a summary of who the committee members are, which members can write themselves. Members agreed. Alyssa noted that she will write the section about why the committee was formed, and Jack and Lauren volunteered to review.

Alyssa clarified that all comments on the various sections of the report should go to the author of that section, who will incorporate all feedback. Alyssa also asked Chief Peete to review the sections as they are drafted and flag any information he believes is inaccurate. Chief Peete agreed to review and provide feedback.

4. The committee members discussed the decisionmaking process for recommendations that will be included in the report.

In response to a question from Jen regarding recommendations the committee has received from the public, Alyssa noted that there is a google doc with a list of recommendations though it is not exhaustive.

Re committee consideration of recommendations, Alyssa suggested that members could begin proposing them to the committee. The member will provide the recommendation and rationale for the recommendation, the members will discuss, and then the members can vote.

The members agreed that decisionmaking will be majority vote and individuals will be allowed to draft a minority opinion.

Several members agreed it would be helpful to have the recommendations and rationale for the recommendations in a brief writing before the meeting so members can consider in advance.

The committee members discussed which recommendations would be ready for consideration at the next meeting:

- Militarization – Alyssa
 - MPD Culture – Justin
 - Fair and Impartial Policing – Lauren (tentative)
 - Downtown businesses and number of officers scheduled – Jack (tentative)
 - Internal Affairs – Jen (tentative)
 - LGTQIA+ or Sex workers – Abbey (tentative)
 - Community Engagement – Dan (tentative)
5. Alyssa suggested that the committee begin having weekly meetings. The committee discussed and agreed to begin meeting weekly beginning May 17. Every other week, the meeting time will be from 5:00-6:30.
6. Lauren provided an overview of the SRO committee's initial recommendations:
- The school district does not continue an SRO position.
 - Recommend the creation of a new conflict resolution policy for the school system to establish clear guidelines of when PD would be involved in campus events.
 - Center trauma-informed practices, restorative justice, student agency in the matter, and work on and inclusion of the diversity equity inclusion policy.
 - Create a community liaison staff position to support students and families struggling with truancy.
 - Increase partnership with community justice centers. The school is evaluating whether the school can cover fees so they do not become a barrier for those seeking access.

Alyssa noted that we told the SRO committee we would accept their recommendations and include them in the report. Chief Peete noted that he does not agree with all of the committee recommendations and feels that there were some things that were not taken into consideration during the committee's work. Dan expressed concerns with adopting the recommendations of the SRO committee verbatim. The committee members discussed possible approaches, including including the SRO committee recommendations but noting that the committee was not part of the process.

7. The committee members discussed several other topics to address in the report, including responding to community trauma and data transparency and reporting. Lauren asked whether we are keeping a list of recommendations so that we do not duplicate efforts. Justin offered to provide a 5-minute overview of report status at

each meeting. Alyssa referenced the list of ideas, Community Ideas and Research List, that people can review: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M6c7j-9ee17PzKjxEtonnF_ULlGrqw9Oo5yd8LXdzRQ/edit?usp=sharing

Alyssa asked that everyone continue working on current practices section and recommendations. Alyssa will circulate a template for recommendations later this week that members can use if it is helpful.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM
Meeting Minutes Submitted by Jen Duggan