



APPROVED

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019
7:00 P.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS:

Andy Fanta	Present
Heather Freeling	Present arrived 7:16
Kathleen McCormick	Present
Susan Melke	Present
Herman Humes	Present departed 8:01
Gail Wolkoff	Present

STAFF LIASION:

Police Chief Tony DeGuisti

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Melke moved, seconded by Commissioner McCormick to approve the agenda.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the agenda was approved as submitted.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 20, 2018
- January 24, 2019

Offered By: Commissioner McCormick; Seconded By: Commissioner Humes
Approved: Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – (Freeling)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. DISCUSSION OF THE TOWN HALL MEETING:

- January 24, 2019

Commissioner Wolkoff stated she would like to examine how to better advertise for Town Halls. It is difficult to get input from the community if it is not attended. Commissioner Melke feels the reason the Town Hall was not well attended is this Commission has not discussed what it plans to do. Commissioner Fanta asked if the Town Hall could combine both listening to people in attendance and then the

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commission would discuss those comments. Commissioner McCormick agreed, this commission has not even meshed as a group yet, first the commission should develop how it will achieve its purpose. Commissioner Humes asked why not create a Town Hall that combines a commission discussion and community input. Commissioner Wolkoff asked how the Town Hall would be advertised. Mr. Humes replied the Commission needs to brainstorm to address how to advertise. Commissioner Melke interjected the commission needs to sit down and discuss what it wants to do prior to holding another Town Hall.

Commissioner Melke stated when Council approved this ordinance it was mentioned if this commission wanted an expanded role it could request the ordinance be amended.

Commissioner Fanta stated when he was on the school board the meetings would be widely advertised and minimally attended. If there were an incident meetings would be better attended. His takeaway is to not hold Town Halls during the winter months. If the commission wants to request the ordinance be amended to add additional duties that is a different conversation.

Commissioner Melke stated Ann Arbor passed an ordinance creating a Police Commission but it has expanded powers, and she would like to add it to the next agenda for discussion. She does not believe the information that forbids this commission from expanding its scope is accurate.

Commissioner Wolkoff stated the brunt of the responsibility for advertising the Town Hall fell to Commissioner Fanta. She is not blaming the Chair for the lack of attendance at the last Town Hall, and appreciates what he did. She asked if the Commission is committed to the next Town Hall. She would like to examine other police commissions, but not necessarily Ann Arbor's. Commissioner Melke responded she only wants to examine the Ann Arbor ordinance. Commissioner Fanta stated he misread the opinion of Town Halls. He understood that following the first Town Hall at Parkridge, the commission supported having additional Town Halls. However, from this conversation, he realizes the commission would prefer to put Town Halls on hold and concentrate on the commission's purpose. Commissioner McCormick agreed.

Commissioner Melke asked that the agenda be placed on the website prior to the meeting. Chief DeGiusti stated there is a digital divide in the city, and some residents do not have access to computers. If the commission is concerned with full participation it will need to examine ways to reach those residents. Commissioner Freeling stated fliers were used to promote the first Town Hall. Commissioner McCormick stated she posted several fliers in the community. Ms. Melke asked if the fliers should be posted several weeks out from a Town Hall.

Alex Nuri, a member of the audience, stated the location of the Town Hall was not updated when it was changed to the Senior Center.

Commissioner Melke stated public meetings are supposed to be streamed beginning in spring, but she will follow up with the City Manager. She would like more people to have access to this meeting in order to engage the public.

Commissioner Melke stated she would like the commission to review the Ann Arbor ordinance for discussion. Chief DeGiusti responded there is an issue with collective bargaining. Commissioner Humes asked if the Chief would assist the Commission in reviewing the possibility of expanding its roles. Chief DeGiusti responded in the affirmative, and has already done so with the development of the ordinance creating this body. He added if the Commission request Council to expand its role Council might ask what the commission has done to complete the objectives set out in the original ordinance.

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Commissioner Humes asked for the commission to have a discussion during the next meeting regarding its current roles as set forth by ordinance. Commissioner Fanta agreed, and suggested the commission review its purpose and what it wants to do to achieve that objective. He asked for all commissioners to bring any ideas to achieve this commission's objectives to the next meeting. Commissioner Melke stated she will bring examples of other communities in Michigan that have police commissions. Commissioner Fanta asked that examples be from communities similar to Ypsilanti. Chief DeGiusti stated that will require some research because this is not a common commission. Commissioner McCormick stated this commission should concentrate on its current purpose prior to asking for it to be expanded. She suggested taking two to three bullet points a meeting to better understand this commission's purpose. Commissioner Freeling suggested commissioners bringing action steps to achieve the purposes of this commission. She would appreciate Commissioner Melke bringing information regarding other police commissions.

VII. MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT:

— Chief DeGiusti

Chief DeGiusti provided his monthly report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

~~— April Town Hall Meeting—Ypsilanti International Elementary School~~
~~— Establishment of Future Town Hall Meetings~~
~~— Other~~

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

X. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Frank Stanton stated he is angry with a ticket he received. He thinks the Police Department is doing a good job.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE:

— March 28, 2019

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Melke moved, seconded by Commissioner Wolkoff, to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.