



CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1/21/2016

Public Safety Committee

January 21, 2016

Minutes

Committee Members: Councilors Sara Giannoni (SG) (chair); Selene Coburn (SC) David Hartnett (DH)

Additional City Staff: Richard Haesler (RH), City Attorney's Office;

Members of the Public: Mariah Sanderson (from BPHC); John Bossange (Parks Commission) Libby Branch (START, BHS); Rachel Watson (START, BHS); Jill Nye-McKeown (START, BHS)

12:06 p.m. - Call to Order

1. Agenda – Motion by SC. Seconded by SG. Motion passes. Agenda adopted.
1. Minutes—Motion by SC to accept 11/18/15 minutes. SG seconds. Motion passes.
1. Public Forum:

Mariah Sanderson (from BPHC); in favor of ordinance to ban smoking in City parks

John Bossange (Parks Commission); in favor of ordinance to ban smoking in City parks

Libby Branch (START, BHS); in favor of ordinance to ban smoking in City parks

Rachel Watson (START, BHS); in favor of ordinance to ban smoking in City parks



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Jill Nye-McKeown (START, BHS); in favor of ordinance to ban smoking in City parks

Note: the Committee invites these members of the public to address the Parks, Arts & Culture Committee (PACC) on this issue as that is the committee charged with advancing/holding public discussion/input re the proposed ordinance

1. Public Safety Committee Work Session – Discussion

(SG) Committee convened 5 times in 2015 on a listening tour that traveled to the four districts of Burlington and to the downtown neighborhood as well

Discussion to identify topics that the committee deemed important to the community, to discuss the next steps for those topics, and to bring that information back to the full council.

(SC) moves following discussion to have the chair prepare and circulate to the other committee members a report of the findings/results re tonight's discussion; which report in the absence of any objection by any committee member shall be the committee report to the full council.

(DH) seconds

Motion passes unanimously

(See attached report – subsequently filed and submitted with the minutes)

1. Other Business

(SC) Motion - Consistent with our work in identifying neighborhood safety concerns in 2015, the public safety committee hereby resolves to serve as sponsor of resolution: re community oversight of policing

(DH) seconds



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Motion passes unanimously

(DH) reports favorably re Public Safety perspective on the License Committee response to the Zen Lounge issues re the recent homicide there – compliments Chair Tracy and his committee on their attentiveness to the issues

Next meeting 2/18 @ 6 – Room 12

1. Adjournment

(SC) move to adjourn

(DH) second

Motion passes unanimously

MEETING adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Memo

To: □ Burlington City Council

From: □ Public Safety Committee

Date: □ 1/21/2016

Re: □ Committee Report from the Public Safety Committee Listening Tour



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On Thursday, January 21, 2016 the Public Safety Committee met to discuss our listening tour that traveled to the four districts of Burlington and to the downtown neighborhood from July-November 2015. The goal of this discussion, on 1/21, was to identify topics that the committee deemed important to the community, to discuss the next steps for those topics, and to bring that information back to the full council. The list is as follows:

1. Pedestrian/Bike Safety
2. Opiate (and other drug) Addiction
3. Sexual Assault

Pedestrian/Bike Safety

This was a topic that came up frequently during our listening tour. The committee recognizes that there are currently a variety of groups working on pedestrian/bike issues. We decided that we would like to gather more information regarding the work that is currently being done to see if there are any gaps in this work in regards to safety. Our next step on this topic is to bring together people from the groups that are working on this issue with the goal of identifying if gaps exist in the work and then assess if our committee should work to fill those gaps.

Opiate (and other drug) Addiction

This is another topic that our committee consistently heard concerns about during our listening tour. The concerns related to addiction are broad and include but are not limited to: safety of addicts, burglaries and robberies, drug dealing, effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and involvement of youth both in using and dealing drugs. In reflecting on the recent opiate presentation to the full council, the committee believes that there may be interest from the council to learn more about addiction itself. The Public Safety committee proposes that the council hold a work session, organized by the the Public Safety Committee, with the goal of better understanding the nature of addiction.

Sexual Abuse

At this time the Public Safety Committee would like to focus specifically on the sexual assaults occurring in Burlington. The committee has decided that we need more information. First, the committee would like to see data on incidents of sexual assault that have been reported. If there is a change in this data the committee would like to understand possible reasons for this change. In addition, the committee would also like to better understand the working relationship between the



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colleges in the city and the Burlington Police Department to identify any potential improvements that can be made.

Needle Disposal/Sharps Boxes

The committee would like to consider these three topics, as standing topics to check in on at each future committee meeting until deemed unnecessary. The committee would also like to add the topic of needle or sharps disposal as a standing topic. The Public Safety Committee spent considerable time on this topic in 2014/2015 and would like to continue to hear updates on placement of needle or sharps boxes in public restrooms at each committee meeting until deemed unnecessary.

We look forward to council thoughts and feedback.