

OPARB
Minutes of
Wednesday, July 16, 2014 Meeting
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Joe Hawe, Member - P
Liz Holohan, Chair - P
Al Marks, Member – P

Donald Felder, Member – P
John Levytsky – P
Michael Pendleton, Consultant – P

*(Absent = A, Present = P, Excused = E, * = by phone)*

1. Approval of agenda and minutes

The agenda and minutes for Wednesday July 2, 2014 were approved.

2. Status – Report & Hearing

OPARB was invited to the July 16, 2014 Public Safety meeting. There Director Pierce Murphy presented the Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) Closed Case Report for January to March 2014. In it he outlined the number of officer misconduct complaints that were investigated by OPA during this period. The Board was largely satisfied with the presentation of materials. Various members expressed their appreciation of Mr. Murphy's unbiased support towards openness. Under such conditions, there was interest in dramatically increasing the number of case requests for review. It was also suggested that they reach out to OPA, in order to fully understand the full spectrum of their responsibilities.

In response to the Seattle Police Monitor's Third Semiannual Report, the Board expressed concern in the total number of arrests that were made. The numbers seemed rather low. Whether this was a depolicing issue or an omission of Type 1 offenses was something they were curious about, as was the Council during the Public Safety meeting. In any case, all parties will continue to watch if continued training resolves current issues or if the numbers point to a more troubling trend.

3. Strategic Plan

The Board had an opportunity to examine a draft version of the 2014-2015 Strategic Plan. Members were encouraged to look at the big picture with how the accountability system is working as a whole. The need for OPARB to educate the community on various technicalities in disciplinary process, was another item that was brought up. For example a case may represent a violation of policy but

not a violation of law. Including this in as part of the Strategic Plan would help keep the community from feeling injustices had been done. The members discussed various other revisions, but ultimately kept the text as is for now. With this rough outline, members were assigned parts to focus on within the Strategic Plan.

4. Status – New Members

Claudia D’Allegrì’s resignation was officially recognized. As a result there are now two openings within OPARB. The board discussed the basic qualifications and to let anyone who might be interested know of the positions. If anyone should be interested, they should contact Councilmember Harrell’s office.

5. Old Business

During the July 2, 2014 meeting, OPARB worked on a letter concerning their role as a group. This letter was sent out July 11, 2014 to various city officials as well as to the media. Board members viewed it’s submittal as a way to let people know that OPARB has consistently worked in a just manner. With that being said, there was concern that there had been little reaction up until that point. OPARB decided that if needed, they should offer an avenue of clarification if any of the points presented were confusing in any way.

6. New Business

The Board expressed strong interest in updating the OPARB website. As it does not reflect the current membership, adding new photos and personal biographies was something that is desirable. Updating other parts of the site was also discussed. With the Board making so many professional updates, a website that reflects what OPARB is currently doing for the community is something that the members would like to see.