

**City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC)**

Meeting Minutes October 6, 2015

Commissioner Scott Richter welcomed public to meeting at 5:30pm.

Motion by Commissioner Ladd Smith to approve agenda. Commissioner Jenny Rose seconded. Motion passed.

Motion by Rose to approve minutes for 9/30 special meeting. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Motion by Smith to approve 9.1.15 meeting minutes. Rose seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

Tim Connor, community member, noted that commissioners accepted a flawed selection process when they accepted their appointments. It is too late to take a stand against the flawed ordinance during this selection process. He encouraged the commissioners to offer one of the final candidates the position.

Liz Moore, PJALs, reported that Deb Conklin had sent her a Facebook message that the call-in number wasn't working. Moore thanked the commission for its work to date and approves additional vetting. She said that the Interim Ombudsman should have been appointed months ago.

OPOC Attorney Breean Beggs gave report on candidate search, including fact that Mr. Breeden had declined the offer of the interim position prior to any negotiations on compensation.

Reports on meetings attended by commissioners and their activities (Commissioner A. J. VanderPol arrived to take over facilitation of meeting):

Rose requested information on meetings of interest, especially neighborhood meetings. It was suggested that the City maintains a webpage with the schedule of neighborhood meetings.

Smith reported on attending the quarterly Police Advisory Committee meeting where Assistant Police Chief Dobrow spoke shortly before being appointed Acting Chief.

VanderPol reported that he had a meeting with Department of Justice representatives about the collaborative reform process. Smith, Richter and Beggs also attended similar meetings.

Further discussion on status of ombudsman search:

Rose requested better notification to commissioners since she didn't realize that Breeden had declined interim position. Beggs noted that Breeden had emailed other commissioners directly but hadn't had Rose's email and Beggs had not noticed the discrepancy.

Conklin said that Breeden was effectively only qualified candidate for interim position sent by selection committee.

Dave Plemmons, community member, asked about immigration issues for Mr. Humayun. Beggs explained two options for obtaining green card and relative uncertainty with each option.

Richter said that he was concerned that there still wasn't any ombudsman. He noted that the role of the ombudsman is to highlight problems and thus the beneficiaries of not filling the position was the police department and the administration. He predicted that there would be no interim ombudsman appointed without the OPOC acting and thus it should consider filing a lawsuit.

VanderPol said he wasn't willing to play hardball unless the process of filling the ombudsman position would take longer than 4-6 weeks.

Conklin predicted that taking legal action would take longer than the current process of seating one of the current candidates. She also said she was working with city council to modify the ordinance to create a pool of interim candidates.

Connor requested information from Beggs on seeking a writ of mandamus from the court in a way that might speed up a final court decision if the Commission took court action. Beggs explained options and clarified that he could provide legal advice but could not take legal action against the City.

Beggs offered to check to see whether Selection Committee is considered active or needs to be re-appointed.

Plemmons asked if OPOC had selected a replacement for Adrian Dominguez on Selection Committee.

Moore explained how Dominguez was appointed to committee by City Council.

Beggs explained that OPOC could pass motion asking Council to appoint a specific commission member to the Selection Committee but could not control the selection.

Richter offered to serve on Selection Committee.

Richter moved to request that City Council appoint an OPOC member to the existing or future Selection Committee. Smith seconded.

Rose proposed friendly amendment to specify Richter as the desired appointee. Richter and Smith accepted amendment. Motion passed 4-1.

Richter moved to authorize Beggs and Conklin to work with Human Resources to get candidates for OPOC staff support person. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Submitted by Breean Beggs and approved by Commission on 10/14, 2015.