



FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A SAFE AND UNIFIED COMMUNITY BUILT ON TRUST, ACCOUNTABILITY AND INCLUSION

POLICE ADVISORY & OVERSIGHT BOARD

MINUTES

Meeting: Police Advisory & Oversight Board Regular Meeting

Date: 03.14.2024

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Fargo Cass Public Health (Oak Room)

The Regular Meeting of the Police Advisory & Oversight Board of Fargo Police Department was held in the Oak Room at Fargo Cass Public Health at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 2024.

The Police Advisory & Oversight Board members present or absent were as follows:

Present: Scott Paul, Joanna Johnson, Lucruchia King, Tonya Greywind.

Absent: Todd Spellerberg, David Hogenson, Conrad Thomas.

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Johnson welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

Item 2. Approve or Amend Agenda

Member Paul moved the Agenda be approved as presented. Second by Vice Chair King. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 3. Approve or Amend Minutes

Vice Chair King moved the minutes of the February 08, 2024 Police Advisory & Oversight Board meeting be approved as presented. Second by Member Paul. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Member Paul apologized for some wording used at the February 15th meeting.

Member Paul moved the minutes of the February 15, 2024 Police Advisory & Oversight Board meeting be approved as presented. Second by Vice Chair King. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 4. Public Comment Period

1. Katrina Robinson of the Life Care Unites Foundation, which has an invested relationship with the Arbors. She is looking forward to what's going on to empower and rebuild the community. She would like to know what are we going to do

to help the issues of resources and security for those residents?

Item 5. Questions from Community Members (none this month)

Item 6. Request to amend Fargo Municipal Code 5-0406 (Member Terms) – Nancy Morris – Action Item

There wasn't an end date for terms in the ordinance. Motion is to put an end date of May 31st, which would allow for the election of Vice Chair and Chair if there is any change in the makeup of the Board in June. The suggested wording of the motion is: "I move to recommend to the City Commission an amendment to Fargo Municipal Code 5-0406 to state that the member terms will expire on May 31st, and that appointment or reappointment will occur prior to the selection of the Chair and Vice Chair should those terms be expiring." Member Paul so moved. Member Greywind seconded. All members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 7. Police Department Updates – Sergeant Shawn Gamradt

The working plan sent to the Board is the working plan from the COPS office in reference to review of critical incidents. Chair Johnson asked if it would be made available to the public. Sergeant Gamradt believes it will be made available in the future.

Item 8. Fargo Police Presentation on The Arbors – Lt. Christensen, Sgt. Gamradt

- 6th Ave S to 9th Ave S and 23rd St S to 21st St S
- 8 apartment buildings, 4 parking lots, 1 park with playground
- The property has gone through several owners over the years, which affects services offered and management style
- May 2023 – The Metro Area Street Crimes Unit (MASCU) conducts an enforcement operation (none of the individuals arrested lived at the Arbors). Patrol officers continue to report ongoing issues and try to increase their presence
- April 1, 2023 -August 30, 2023 - Fargo Police responded to Arbors 725 times
- End of August, 2023, Police held a coordination meeting with local law enforcement agencies/prosecutors
 - MASCU, Cass County Drug Task Force (CCDTF), Community Engagement Team (CET), and state and federal prosecutors
 - Identified issues regarding both criminal activity and quality of life issues
- Action plans
 - MASCU – surveillance, arrested wanted individuals, identified areas of concern on property, conduct checks on vacant units, and stop observed illegal activity
 - CCDTF – serve search warrants related to current investigations, develop additional information related to ongoing drug trafficking issues on the property, and work to conduct enforcement efforts related to those investigations
 - CET – work with management, owners group, and residents
- September 2023 – initial enforcement and community engagement
 - Two search warrants served (Narcotics investigations) where fentanyl pills and firearms were seized. SCU & CET work with management and conduct enforcement efforts
- Community Engagement Team
 - Work with management – identified security issues, issues with the cameras, tenant rules (consuming alcohol on grounds, loitering, guests)
 - Work with residents – two liaison officers, food pantry, criminal trespass (how it works- an individual can be trespassed from the property, but they have to be allowed to visit people who invite them to their specific apartment), vehicle registration, moving apartments (some residents needed to be moved due to restraining order issues), build trust, periodic patrol
 - Work with owners group (Integra Property Group) – common point of contact, different programs (community engagement, I.D.L.- Identify Detect Locate)
 - Arrests by CET 7/31/2023-3/6/2024

- 20 arrests – majority for warrants, drugs/para, and criminal trespass
 - Many arrestees are not residents of the Arbors
 - Arrests take the team a few hours to process
- Member Greywind asked if there a background check done in addition to the IDL. Shannon Woodard (Integra Property Group) answered from the audience that there are still background checks, but IDL might show criminal history that would not come up in a standard background check.
- Member Paul commented that his takeaway is that the relationship between police and management is the current focus and asked what’s the next step. Sergeant Gamradt replied, continuing that relationship and education (so that officers understand what things are illegal on Arbors property that aren’t necessarily always criminal on private property).
- Results (July 31, 2023-February 25, 2024) – improved relationship with property management, fewer calls for service, better interactions with police, safer environment for community resources to respond to
- Ongoing efforts include CET continuing to work with management, MASCU collaborating with CET and conducting investigations into locating wanted individuals, CCDTF continuing to work investigations related to drug trafficking in and around the area, patrol officers stop in the area to meet with management and make citizen contacts when possible
- Chair Johnson commented as far as reaching out to residents and creating the relationship, that’s important. The families can be very vulnerable due to being unable to move (financial constraints). She also thinks the education piece is important, as far as what can and can’t be done. She wants to encourage that, and to continue to make police presence known.
- Member Greywind asked if there is a direct line outside of just calling the police for residents to bring forward concerns, such as a way to just drop a tip. Lieutenant Christensen answered that there is a tip line, and the information for that can be found on the Fargo Police Department website. Member Greywind asked if there is a place at the Arbors that makes that obvious. Shannon Woodard informed from the audience that yes, it’s in the office.
- Vice Chair King asked what does the management/owner group have planned to not fall back into the same situation (on quality of life issues). Shannon Woodard answered from the audience: 1. They recognize that they need more staff, so working on increasing staff, including a full time resident service coordinator and three maintenance people and a full time janitor, temporary labor to help groundskeeper. 2. Increase occupancy (to avoid vacant units available for trespassing, etc.). 3. The resident service coordinator will also be working with local resource service providers.
- Dr. Hogan asked about the educational services. Shannon Woodard answered from the audience: A lot of services stopped during the pandemic and it’s hard to get them back up and running.
- Dr. Hogan asked about activities for the children. Shannon Woodard answered that she wants to have community events, planned annual community events, to support the kids. She wants to make sure kids feel safe going to the park nearby.

Item 9. Adjourn

The time at adjournment was 5:57 p.m.