



MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMISSION FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES - REGULAR SESSION
THURSDAY, May 23, 2024, 1:00 PM.

The Special Commission for Safe Communities convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 1:09 PM, on May 23, 2024. Vice Chairperson Elizabeth German called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Elizabeth German	Vice Chairperson	Present
Cathy Lust	Commissioner	Present
Jay Shannon	Commissioner	Present
Timothy Harris	Commissioner	Present
Ryan Bertrand	Commissioner	Present
Scott Denton	Commissioner	Absent
Aron Klein	Commissioner	Absent
Kaitlyn Selman	Commissioner	Absent

Staff Advisors Present:

Aaron Veerman, Staff Liaison

Public Comment

No emailed public comment was received. No in-person public comment was received.

Approval of Minutes

The following item was presented:

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the April 25, 2024, Regular Special Commission for Safe Communities Meeting.

Commissioner Shannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lust, to approve the Item as presented.

Vice Chairperson German directed the Staff Liaison to call roll:

AYES: Shannon; Harris; Bertrand

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Presentation and discussion by Asst. Chief Veerman on the current status of gun violence in the Bloomington-Normal area.

Since the last meeting, there was one shooting. There was an exchange of gunfire between people in two vehicles on Dogwood Lane. One person was arrested and there is an active warrant for another.

Vice Chairperson German asked if there was any information about motivation behind the shooting. Asst. Chief Veerman replied that there is no information about motivation to share.

Commissioner Bertrand inquired if there were other sources the commission could use to gather local crime data besides the Lexis Nexis online tracker. Asst. Chief Veerman stated there may be something that tracks countywide data; however, that would include the same data Lexis Nexis has for Bloomington. He added any shooting incidents in Normal would usually be consolidated with the Bloomington data that Bloomington Police Department's (BPD) intelligence analyst provides to him.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Presentation and discussion by Chairperson Denton on the recommendations to be proposed to City Council within 6 months per Chapter 2, Section 355 of the Bloomington City Code.

Vice Chairperson German stated that when Commissioner Denton knew he would not be present at the meeting he shared with her that this was on the agenda. Vice Chairperson German asked if anybody had any thoughts about what Chairperson Denton can share with the city council as far as a summary or recommendations.

Asst. Chief Veerman read the code to the commission:

Recommendations to City Council.

(1)

The Special Commission shall present a progress report to the City Council within six months of its formation and shall provide recommendations for actionable items to the City Council no later than 12 months after its formation. The Commission shall thereafter make other progress reports and recommendations at least semi-annually thereafter.

(2)

The Special Commission shall present a report of its final recommendations to the City Council no later than two years from its inception.

(3)

Said reports shall be reviewed and considered by the City Council for further action.

(4)

At the submission of the two-year report, City Council shall determine whether this Special Commission should continue as a permanent commission or conclude its work.

Vice Chairperson German said based on the code, it sounds like the commission is due to provide an update to city council and at the year mark it has be prepared to give recommendations. Asst. Chief Veerman said it sounds like all that is due at this point is a progress report, not actionable items. Chairperson Denton has not yet scheduled presentation of the report to city council.

Commissioner Shannon suggested the commission establish a process for how they will develop recommendations, making sure the commission is giving specific instead of general recommendations, such as what specific resources are needed in the community, and the dollar

amount needed to be set aside for those activities and resources. He requested time be set aside to discuss the recommendations and asked if the commission will need to gather proposals from potential service providers.

Vice Chairperson German asked if anyone knew if there was any type of format to follow regarding giving recommendations that had been used in the past by other commissions. How much detail is needed to give the city council a proposal / recommendation.

Asst. Chief Veerman suggested the commission create a framework with cost estimates to help the city prioritize and have staff work on the details because there is not enough time in the commission meetings to put together a lengthy, detailed report. The commission can present its recommendations to city council, which would then decide which recommendations to take and then assign staff to work out the details on. He noted that previous presenters could be called back to speak again if the commission would like more information about certain programs.

Afterward, a discussion was had about compiling a list of presenters and information already presented to the commission. Commissioner Lust indicated she had a list she had compiled from presentations given at past commission meetings and will provide her list to Chairperson Denton. Commissioner Lust will also provide copies of prior meeting agendas to new Commissioner Bertrand. Vice Chairperson German said she would share a spreadsheet she created of local groups she has interacted with through her work at the YWCA. Asst. Chief Veerman noted BPD is redoing its website and will add a "resource finder" to it.

It was mentioned the need to bring resources to people in a way that is more accessible and approachable; some people in need may not feel comfortable reaching out to certain agencies. Commissioner Shannon noted wording matters in the way services are marketed to the community, i.e. an agency stating it supports "needy families" versus "we are here to support every family".

New Business

Vice Chairperson German said she would reach out area schools and all commissioners were asked to reach out to young people within their networks to identify students who would be willing to share their experiences and perspectives with gun violence at the June meeting. Asst. Chief Veerman requested the commissioners send the questions they wish to ask the students to him ahead of the next meeting.

BPD School Resource Officers (SROs) are scheduled for the July meeting.

The commission said they would focus on getting the last speakers / presentations over the summer, and then focus on what recommendations it will make.

There was another new commissioner added, Christopher Cashen, who has not been sworn in yet.

Commissioner Member Comments

Commissioner Lust said she would send the information she has to Chairperson Denton.

Asst. Chief Veerman said he would add the commissions 6-month progress report to the June meeting agenda for the commission's vote.

Commissioner Shannon asked if the report would be ready before the June meeting or after the June meeting. It was determined the report will be done after the June meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Shannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bertrand, to adjourn.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The Meeting Adjourned at 1:47 PM.

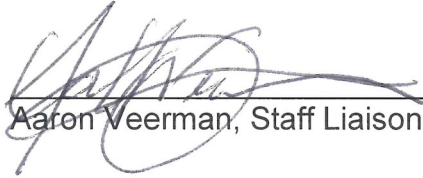
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST



First and Last Name, Chairperson

SCOTT DENTON



Aaron Veerman, Staff Liaison