



Grove CID Safety & Security Committee Meeting Minutes
August 18th, 2021 at 10:00 AM
At 4512 Manchester, St. Louis, MO 63110
Via Zoom Video Call

Committee members present: Jessie Mueller, Don Bellon, Antonio French, Jon Shine, Chad Fox

Committee members not in attendance: Fahime Mohammad, Rick Lewis

Others in attendance: Charlie Felker (Free-2-Grow), Chris Saracino (Campbell Security), Jim Whyte (NSI), Rob Betts (TCF), Camryn Bright, Ashley Johnson, Alayna Graham, and Abdul Abdullah (PCD)

1. J. Mueller called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.
2. **A. Abdullah presented:**
 - a. A. Abdullah is going to start convening a quarterly meeting with all the security infrastructure in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood because crime, particularly property crime is up significantly.
 - b. A. Abdullah showed a Ring video of a shoot out on Tower Grove Avenue. He then talked about the impact that this shooting had on the vehicles and homes in the neighborhood. J. Whyte explained the back story of this shootout. He highlighted that there was a passerby driver who ducked, and a shot went through his headrest.
 - c. J. Whyte mentioned that he would like to see new development including cameras.
 - d. J. Mueller asked about the SkyCop cameras. J. Whyte talked about the price and the ability to move these cameras easily. Each camera is a \$53,266.89 one-time cost and will be maintained by the City. J. Whyte agreed to get someone from the police department or SkyCop to give a presentation on the equipment.
3. **Security Updates:**
 - a. C. Saracino presented his report. He believes the rise in crime is a more comprehensive issue. They are in favor of meeting together to come up with a comprehensive plan. He has created a report with statistics that he agreed he would send to J. Mueller.
 - b. C. Felker seconded the need for better communication between security entities in the area. He agreed to share the data of where and how often officers are patrolling.
 - c. A. French repeated his previous request for a contact sheet with phone numbers for patrols and general patrol times. C. Saracino thought he had sent it to J. Mueller, but agreed to send it if he hadn't.
 - d. R. Betts asked if Campbell Security was focusing on the side streets. C. Saracino said they are patrolling one block North and South of Manchester, though there are no QR codes. R. Betts asked how many patrols were out. C. Felker offered the previous schedule. R. Betts urged the Grove CID Board to expand the funding to staff more officers. A. Graham presented the Security budget and mentioned that the patrols were under budget. C. Saracino said that the current schedule was the last that was approved at a meeting

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previously. There is an officer staffing issue city-wide. J. Mueller asked if they could increase patrols in September. C. Saracino said they need specifics of how to increase patrols. A. Graham noted that the Committee is made up of business owners, not security experts. The security entities should be making recommendations when it is time to ramp up patrols based on rate of crime or other external circumstances, rather than waiting for the Committee to give them directives.

- e. A. French expressed his concern about the current security company. He does not see the direct benefit of the current security company. Even with the extra taxes they pay, he still hires more security for his businesses. C. Fox seconded the frustration. He sees some benefit to the visibility of patrols, but in his experience, the officers don't get involved with the crimes that are happening. A. French noted that his criticism has been subtly given the last few meetings, but he wants to be clearer and more direct now that he is not seeing any direct benefit from the patrols.
- f. A. Graham recommended that the security contractors come up with a plan to address the feedback that the committee has given.
- g. C. Fox asked about foot patrols. The Committee had requested foot patrols previously, but hadn't seen any. J. Mueller recommended foot patrols be included in the plan to be proposed.

4. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

- a. A. French motioned to approve the meeting minutes from July 27th, 2021. D. Bellon seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

5. Events

- a. J. Mueller wanted to make sure to give a reminder to the security contractors about the events coming up. A. Graham noted that the Moonlight Ramble is August 21st and the World Naked Bike Ride is August 28th.

6. Security Management RFP:

- a. A. Graham noted that she included the RFP that went out along with the proposal that was received. She called for Q+A for the Committee to Free-2-Grow.
- b. D. Bellon motioned to push back discussion until the next meeting. A. Graham asked if C. Felker is comfortable continuing month-to-month until the Committee makes a decision. D. Bellon made the suggestion to hire a consultant to patrol the streets and assess the security infrastructure. A. French noted that he disagreed- they know they are unhappy with the current contractor and they don't need a consultant for that.
- c. C. Fox noted that they have discussed the issues over and over again, so maybe they need to send some specific demands. A. Graham reminded the Committee that this was done a few months ago with an evaluation that was sent to Campbell Security.
- d. A. Graham noted that there would still be a quorum without D. Bellon if the Committee chooses to continue the conversation.
- e. The Committee had no questions for C. Felker on the proposal. They requested C. Felker and C. Saracino hop off the call so that they can have a candid conversation about the proposal.

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- f. J. Mueller noted that she tried to explain to the Board what has been going on with the security infrastructure, but that has been difficult with C. Felker and C. Saracino on the Board meetings. She asked for the support of the Committee on how to move forward.
- g. A. French clarified the process of replacing security infrastructure if that's what they decide to do.
- h. C. Fox clarified the roles of the Campbell and Free-2-Grow, as well as who the previous providers were.
- i. A. Johnson volunteered to help put together a presentation to give recommendations to the Board. She suggested that the Committee vote on official recommendations at the next meeting.

7. Other:

- a. The Committee set their next meeting for September 1st to vote.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM.

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