

## **Community Safety Task Force Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, February 6, 2023, 7:00p.m.

Bim Street Facility, (Old Carrboro Civic Club) - 108 Bim Street

### **I. Welcome & Attendance** -Meeting called to order at 7:03p by Barbara Fedders - Chair

#### a. Establishment of Quorum (need 4 members)

**Present:** CSTF Members: Barbara Fedders, Wamiq Chowdhury, Ben Gear, George Barrett, Madison Hayes, and Benjamin Blaisdell

Council: Damon Seils, Barbara Foushee and Sammy Slade

Staff: Richard White and Anita Jones-McNair

**Absent:** CSTF Member: Frances Henderson

### **II. Approval of January 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes – Chair**

Motion to approve made by Wamiq Chowdhury, Ben Gear seconded. All in favor (6)

### **III. Comments from the Mayor and Council Liaisons**

Mayor Seils asked that if members had not reviewed the Town of Carrboro Advisory Board Recruitment and Appointment Policy to please do so because that is the document that governs the group. This serves as the onboarding document. Realize there has been recent tension and communication issues and wanted to provide the task force an opportunity to discuss and share concerns.

### **IV. Discussion**

Not everyone is on the same page. There has been a lack of flexibility from the facilitators. The task force wanted to take a deeper dive in the direction of recommendations before bringing in community members. This became a point of tension. Task force wanted one more meeting to brainstorm because the path was not clear even during debriefing. Brainstorm further, confirm and then share. Lack of clarity and direction of the group. Resources available to the group important. Overall, task force not feeling heard or part of this recommendation process.

Pressure of timeline approaching. Unsure of what is next.

Next step is for staff to talk with facilitators and share task force takeaways:

Task force members are interested in seeing greater flexibility, and openness to task force members having input into and more fully participating in the process.

Task force members have felt they aren't welcome to offer feedback about the process. For example, in a recent meeting, when task force members expressed interest in taking more time to review data on police calls for service as a way to hone priorities, it seemed they were being dismissed and shut down and there was a desire by the task force members to bring in a community member who works closely with the community on issues of community safety and justice. That was framed as the members wanting to bring in "academics."

Task force members would like to have a fuller understanding of the process the facilitators are using, and transparency about how each step of the process will unfold. It would be helpful to see a map of the process working backward from the goal. What are the next steps and why? Also do they have thoughts on the scope and format of the report/recommendations. Is there a framework for this or is it driven by the members. If there is a framework, or even a set of options, it would be useful to see that.

Task force members want to feel heard and to know that the value they bring to the process (their experience, expertise, roles in the community) is being taken into consideration.

Some, not All, but some task force members are not confident in continuing with them even for the remaining three months.

Task force members definitely want to include community feedback throughout the process, from identifying priorities onward. However, they expressed concern that underdeveloped priorities and proposals don't offer much for people to react to or discuss.

Willingness to work up to six months beyond original contract to reach end result -recommendations to the Town Council that will promote racial equity in law enforcement and the criminal legal system and enhance the safety and well-being of all Carrboro residents.

Next meeting, March 6

Map of the process working backward from the goal. What are the next steps and why? (Facilitators)

Discussion (All)

Revisit and review police data (All)

**V. Adjourn** – Chair motioned to adjourn at 9:04p, Benjamin Blaisdell seconded. All in favor (6).