

Community Safety Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 6, 2023, Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

I. Welcome & Attendance – Chair

a. Establishment of Quorum (need 4 members)

b. Call the meeting to order – Chair – 7:07pm

Present: CSTF Members: Barbara Fedders, Wamiq Chowdhury, George Barrett, Madison Hayes, Benjamin and Francis Henderson.

Council: Damon Seils, Barbara Foushee and Sammy Slade

Staff: Richard White and Anita Jones-McNair

Absent: CSTF Member: Ben Gear

c. Cover Discussion Guidelines – Chair

Share all relevant information – be open, honest, and factual.

Be humble – reserve the right to change your mind.

Be an active listener, show openness to the perspective of others.

Be engaging, avoid comments that are polarizing.

Avoid fence-building and dismissive words and phrases.

Try to find common interests, don't get stuck in inflexible positions or personal conflicts.

II. Approval of the February 6, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve made by Fedders, Hayes seconded. All in favor (6)

III. Updates – Staff

a. Mental Health Grant position update

Town Manager White shared there will be a social worker position in the Police Department starting in Carrboro July 1, 2023 funded by Orange County Grant Funds.

b. Comments from the Facilitators

Jones-McNair read excerpts from an email sent by facilitators. The Breakpoint Initiative will no

longer be working with this task force.

IV. Revisit Charge from the Town Council – All

The Mayor asked that task force members review the entire charge and not just the portion of the charge noted in the agenda.

The task force will provide recommendations to the Town Council for additional services to enhance community safety and well-being that rely on prevention and intervention strategies as alternatives to policing and the criminal legal system—including but not limited to community nonviolence and de-escalation training programs; domestic violence intervention and prevention; homelessness prevention; youth-oriented programs and school-based programs that have been shown to increase safety and security; substance use disorder prevention and support; on-call crisis response that would allow certain calls for police assistance to be handled by other trained professionals, such as social workers or crisis counselors; and other related approaches.

V. Acknowledge and lift up the work done by the task force to date – Chair

Task force members reviewed the spread sheet and requested that Jones-McNair reach out to facilitators for additional information discussed at the last two meetings.

Neighborhood Safety - 2	Equitable Responses - 1	School Safety 3	Police Department 4
Walkability (Safe, walkable neighborhoods with proper lighting)	Cops being the primary responders to people experiencing homelessness and mental health crises	Racially disproportionate discipline in schools. (Should we discuss SRO's in further detail)	Diversity of police department being reflective of the people they serve (racially diverse, cultural competence, conscious, aware, not a one size fit all)
Car safety	Perceived vs. real threat (cops responding to threats in an equitable way)		Conscious hiring by our police department (incentivize recruitment)
Women not feeling safe			Reallocating public safety funds and resources into historically marginalized neighborhoods.
Siloed neighborhoods			Both/all approach
Mutual aid organizing amongst neighbors for conflict resolution			

VI. Discussion – All

- a. Map out the remainder of the work and discuss why it is the best path forward
- b. What is needed to complete the charge?
- c. Anticipated time needed to complete recommendations?

This meeting and the next meeting is needed to determine the remainder of the work and timeline to complete recommendations. Members anticipate six additional months, through November 2023 as the finish line – recommendations to the council. (Implementation plan including community) Some of the work/research will be done in between monthly meetings.

Draft of next steps:

- Bring experts to talk with Task force – someone from Durham Heart Program and self-organizing – Devon C and Northside.
- Community engagement for input – survey results that we already have - How do we prompt community for conversations and consider communities already taking care of themselves?
- Community Safety Focus areas- discuss in more detail
- Literature Review – what has worked? How is that going to inform our community?

Jones-McNair asked about community engagement and shared how the town is actively seeking feedback to help inform decisions, etc. The members will talk about at the next meeting.

Fedders wondered if the task force has some flexibility in their charge – does the group have to listen and incorporate the opinions of the community.

Fedders asked if the task force meeting dates can change to March 27th and April 24th, which will help accommodate her schedule? Everyone checked their schedule and was able to accommodate the request. She then had to leave the meeting.

Barrett and Hayes will work further on a draft timeline and Blaisdell will start literature review.

VII. Review police data and other resources – All

Was not covered during this meeting.

VIII. Agenda for next meeting – All

Finalize timeline, next steps and begin discussing information.

IX. Adjourn – Chair

Barrett motioned to adjourn at 8:47 p, Madison seconded. All in favor (5)