

City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC)
Regular Meeting Minutes November 3, 2015

Commissioner Deb Conklin welcomed the public at 5:30pm.

Commissioner Jenny Rose moved that proposed agenda be approved. Commissioner AJ VanderPol seconded. Motion approved.

Rose moved that minutes for Special Meeting of 10/14/15 be approved. VanderPol seconded. Motion approved.

Reports on meetings and activities:

Commissioner Scott Richter reported that he had spoken to former Ombudsman Tim Burns and learned that no formal 2014 recommendations had been made but said that there are monthly recommendations included in the public safety committee reports.

Rose reported on meeting with Council Member Allen who suggested that the OPOC take some training on Roberts Rules of Order. Rose is planning on attending the next SPARC meeting.

Commissioner Ladd Smith reported on meeting with Council Member Allen and agreed that OPOC and Council should meet together. Smith plans on attending November 11th training and reported completing OPMA online training. Smith noted that there needs to be orientation for new members. He is also planning on meeting with SPARC.

Vanderpol is working on scheduling a meeting with Allen.

Conklin attended East Central and South Perry Neighborhood meetings and gave reports. She also attended Public Safety Committee meeting and reported that City Council is proposing that staff member position in OPO be upgraded to be qualified to fill in for ombudsman or assist in ombudsman duties.

Conklin mentioned upcoming NAACP Freedom Banquet. She noted that OPO paid for commissioners attended last year, but it is unclear who at the City would grant that approval. Beggs reported that he had emailed budget director to request OPOC liaison on budget issues. Conklin, VanderPol and Rose would like to attend. Conklin suggested Beggs contact City to get approval and he agreed.

Public Forum

Tim Connor, Community Member, expressed concern with Mayor Condon's contention that state law prevents the City from fully implementing citizen independent investigations under Proposition 1. He is especially frustrated that the City doesn't spell out what these conflicts are.

Dave Plemmons, Community Member, would like to second Tim Connor's statement and added that it isn't just the Mayor making this assertion and that some council members have been saying the same

thing up to this point in time. He thinks it is clear that the current ordinance conflicts with the language of Proposition 1 and all three candidates for ombudsman agreed on that conflict.

Conklin reminded commissioners about upcoming 11/11 training on body cameras and virtual reality training.

Report on Coordinator position.

Rose reported that there were 10 applicants and 5 were interviewed. She said that all interviewees were strong candidates. Scott thanked all applicants. Scott recommended that Martha Huseman be selected. Rose also strongly endorsed. Richter moved to hire Huseman conditional on passing reference check with details on compensation to be worked out by Beggs and Human Resources. VanderPol seconded. Smith approves as does VanderPol. Conklin would have preferred more process. Motion passed. Beggs will check references.

Ombudsman hiring process.

Conklin wants to have open discussion but not become an influence on his lawsuit. Conklin doesn't think we can take the chance of hiring Mr. Breeden. VanderPol thought Executive session might be needed but willing to proceed without executive session. Smith agrees with Conklin. Richter hasn't read report. Rose agrees that she doesn't want to hire Breeden for any position. Richter has now begun reading report and does not want to hire Breeden. Conklin and VanderPol discussed potential options. Richter is concerned with Humayun's ability to get a work visa but aside from that thinks he is a very qualified candidate other than visa issues. He feels like with the advent of a new selection committee we should ask for three new candidates. Conklin wants to emphasize that Mr. Humayun is a strong candidate and should be considered. Smith also considers Humayun a strong candidate. Conklin suggested that Humayun could be offered position on condition that he be granted work visa within a defined time period. Beggs explained two work visa options . . .

Richter and VanderPol are leaning towards not offering the job to Humayun and going back to the hiring committee for three more candidates. Conklin stated that there is no guarantee that the hiring committee will provide any better candidates than the previous selections. Smith stated that he is worried that it would take too long to restart search committee process. He wonders if it is possible to have the search committee work on potential new candidates in case Humayun's visa isn't approved. Conklin agrees that is possible. Richter feels like offering the position without a guarantee of work visa is compromising process. Rose asked if there was a reason only 3 candidates were forwarded. Conklin explained that ordinance specified the number 3. Conklin mentioned potential argument that the commission may be required to pick one of original 3 even if they are considered unqualified. Beggs clarified that the immigration lawyer says there should be an answer on TN visa within 60 days. VanderPol suggests that the commission offer the position to Humayun conditional upon his obtaining visa.

Smith moves to offer position conditional upon getting work visa approved 60-70 days after accepting position. Rose seconded. Motion to amend to 75 days offered by Richter seconded by VanderPol.

Motion to amend approved. Discussion clarified that days start after terms of offer are accepted.
Motion passed 5-0.

Interim Ombudsman position.

Conklin reported that Richter has been appointed to selection committee by Council. Mayor has appointed Dennis Hession to the committee. Beggs has contacted the leadership of the Police Guild and Lt. & Capt. Association to get their representatives. Those 4 will pick a 5th member and then select three candidates for interim OPO. Richter announced that HR had provided a binder of 22 applicants for interim position for review. However, the names and materials are currently confidential.

Request for public records.

Beggs explained issue. Rose moved to authorized Beggs to request records. Smith seconded. Motion approved.

Ordinance Review.

Conklin proposed that a committee be formed to work with city council consisting of Beggs, Conklin and VanderPol. No objection from commissioners and Conklin noted that she has authority to form committees.

Special meeting proposed November 18, 7pm by Conklin. No objection.

Adjourned at 7:05pm.

Submitted by Breean Beggs and approved by Commission on December 1, 2015.