

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting minutes

December 11, 2020

1:11pm-3:10pm

7th Floor Boardroom at 2120 Cambie St & Via Conference Call

Present:

Committee & Board Members: Barj Dhahan (Chair), Patricia Barnes, Allan Black, Merrilee Robson, Faye Wightman, Wendy John via conference call

Board Office: Stephanie Johanssen, Executive Director, and minutes by Ali Huculak, Executive Assistant

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:11pm

1. **Agenda**

The Committee adopted the Agenda for December 11, 2020.

2. **Minutes**

The Committee approved the September 4, 2020 meeting Minutes.

3. **Board member process for individual motion (discussion)**

There was discussion about concerns regarding the process in which a Board member can bring individual motions forward, and whether a 'notice of motion' can publicly be made by a Board member when a very similar motion was just defeated.

The Chair noted that previously it was understood that this is a consensus Board, and it is important to figure out what needs formal motions, or what the Board can do by show of hands and agree on. Currently it states in the Board manual that substantive motions should be made in writing; this is to protect the Board from making rushed decisions without having an opportunity to think about long term negative impacts. The procedure manual does however not state what process to follow. Generally, major changes are discussed at the committee levels first, so that they can do the ground work before presenting the recommendation to the full Board with a motion.

The Committee discussed the best ways to clarify the process with respect to putting forward a substantive motion or resolution. The Committee determined that any substantive motion or resolution has to be in writing and has to be presented In Camera first, then it will be decided to go to the full Board or a Committee for discussion.

The committee discussed ways to remain transparent with respect to motions and resolutions.

Agreed:

THAT if an individual Board member wishes to put forward a motion, it must be done in writing to the Board office and then brought forward during an in-camera meeting prior to public discussion and/or next steps;

THAT Board members shall not make public 'notice of motions' prior to consulting with the Board; and,

THAT the manual be updated to reflect the aforementioned processes.

4. VPD Reporting to Board

There was discussion with respect to Board members requesting reports or additional information from the VPD with the expectation the VPD should be able to provide those reports or additional information immediately. The Board must be cognisant of the resources required from the VPD in gathering requested information.

The Committee discussed having Board members request additional information from the VPD through the Executive Director, and the Board can be made aware of the request, what the information is, and why it is needed, and whether it makes sense for the Executive to be compiling this information.

Committee members discussed requesting a more concise verbal update from the Chief Constable, moving away from outlining individual events, and instead with a focus on concerns, or what the Chief Constable needs from the Board.

5. Policy and Procedure Manual Updates

The Governance committee discussed the role of the Mayor as the Chair, the Board's independence, conflict of interest and code of conduct for Board members.

The Chair of the committee stated the upcoming provincial review will mean changes to Governance, and further changes to the Policy and Procedure Manual.

The Committee discussed the conflict around the role of the Mayor as Chair and how to have neutrality, and Ms. Butterworth-Carr's clarifications around this should be included in the updates to the manual.

The Committee decided that the policy and procedure manual should be updated on an ongoing basis, and not specifically wait for the Police Act reform to be finished.

Ms. Wightman suggested each committee member make a list of the areas they feel are missing and submit it to the Chair of the Governance committee, and then prioritize the list at a future Governance committee meeting.

The committee determined the Executive Director will go back to the Governance Advisor Ms. Patti Marfleet with the changes the Governance committee agreed on, with respect to motions, and have her propose amendments to bring back to Governance committee. The ED will provide

the committee with a hard copy of the policy and procedure manual (as-is) and the committee members will compile and prioritize a list of further amendments to consider in the future.

The committee discussed the possibility of the amendment with respect to motions being made by the January Board meeting in 2021.

6. Review Board eval/competency matrix forms, and initiate evaluation

The Committee reviewed the blank forms for the annual Board and Peer Evaluations.

There was discussion surrounding the necessity of a peer evaluation. The Committee agreed that, especially during this divisive time, Board members need to be supportive of one another and work in unison, as opposed to evaluating each other as individuals.

Agreed:

THAT at this time the peer evaluation should be removed from the Board member evaluation, until further notice; and

THAT the questions on the evaluation regarding the Chair and Vice-Chair be revisited and revised in 2021.

7. Board Meeting presentations – Internal and Community (Discussion)

The Chair stated Community and VPD presentations are very valuable because they allow the Board to hear from parts of the community and from different sections of the VPD to gain a better understanding. The Chair stated COVID impacted these presentations, as the Police Board meetings have moved to a virtual platform.

The Committee stated they find the VPD units presenting very valuable and would like to see it continue. The Committee expressed the need to hear from different community groups to ensure their voices are being heard and understood.

Agreed

THAT the Executive Director request the Board to submit suggestions for Community presentations.

8. Committee Assignments

There was discussion on when to reevaluate the current Committee assignments.

Agreed

That Committee assignments would be revisited in the spring of 2021, and voted on at the April 2021 Board meeting.

9. Structure of Meetings

The ED spoke to the structure of recent meetings, noting they have been lengthy, and it seems that most of the important topics and major decisions are left to the end. The ED spoke to suggestions brought up by Board members, noting the idea to have the Service or Policy portion

at the end unfortunately would not work, as it is part of the public meeting and they need to stay together as part of the logistics behind streaming this meeting for the public.

Ms. Wightman's suggestion of a consent agenda was discussed, as this would save time and leave more time for thoughtful discussion at the Closed in Camera and In Camera portion of the meeting. Ms. Wightman suggested the Board identify each agenda item to determine if an item is for information, for discussion or for decision.

Agreed:

THAT the Executive Director shall liaise with Ms. Wightman to draft a consent agenda for the January meeting, which will then go to the Board Chair for final approval.

10. Other Business

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The ED stated the three new Superintendent will be asked to sit in on Board meetings to foster a closer relationship with the Board.

The Governance committee discussed the relationship between the Chair, the Chief and the Board, noting a good relationship is important to ensure unity and clear messaging and building confidence in the public.

Governance Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm