

# VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

## Meeting minutes

Feb 9, 2021

1:04pm-2:54pm

**7<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom at 2120 Cambie St & Via Conference Call**

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### Present:

Committee & Board Members: Barj Dhahan (Chair), Patricia Barnes, Allan Black, Merrilee Robson, Faye Wightman, and VPD Staff; DCC Howard Chow, Drazen Manoljovic, Insp. Suzanne Muir, Supt. Howard Tran via conference call

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04pm

### 1. **Agenda**

The Committee adopted the Agenda for February 9, 2021.

### 2. **Minutes**

The Committee approved the December 11, 2020 meeting Minutes.

### 3. **Annual Community Engagement report - discussion**

Chair Mr. Barj Dhahan provided a brief history on the annual community engagement report, noting five years ago, the Governance committee directed the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) to provide an annual report on their community involvement initiatives. In 2020 the format of the annual report community engagement report was changed to be more accessible and reader friendly. Due to the pandemic, there has been a substantial impact on the VPD's ability to engage in, organize and part take in events.

The committee discussed the possible format for the annual community engagement report, and whether it should be a brief memo or reformatted report.

DCC Chow stated it is important to have a placeholder for 2020 that acknowledges the pandemic, and the limitations it presented. DCC Chow suggested reformatting the report into a shortened 2-3 page that acknowledges COVID, and the previous report.

A Committee member stated something should be done in place of the usual report, and asked if there was a way to wherever possible to show what the results of these activities are. For example, Block Watch participation, are there any results to show that the difference between crime rates before a block watch and after, or between a neighbourhood that has one to a near by one that doesn't.

Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen added that the Citizens Police Academy was historically always offered to Board members, and will be again once the Pandemic is over.

Committee member Ms. Patricia Barnes asked what the community report will look like with the current budget cuts, specifically will elements of it be cut.

DCC Chow spoke to this stating the annual report will be based on the previous year, and won't reflect the budget cut.

The Committee decided with respect to COVID, a condensed version of the report to come forward in June would suffice.

#### **4. Street Check Data Results of Annual Audit**

Committee Chair Mr. Dhahan mentioned that part of concluding the street checks service or policy complaint in February of 2020, the Board committed to ongoing oversight through the Governance Committee. This oversight also includes the annual audit of street check data as outlined as part of the Provincial standard. The Governance committee discussed the draft report.

Mr. Manojlovic briefed the Governance Committee on the draft report.

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Although the annual audit of street check data is mandated by the Province, this report exceeds those requirements and is under the purview of the Governance Committee.

The Chair of the committee stated with respect to the Pyxis recommendations, it would be helpful for the public to provide more of a timeline on when some of these items were to be completed.

#### **5. Black and African Diaspora Advisory Committee – discussion and update**

Inspector Suzanne Muir stated the VPD is working on the terms of reference and noted the VPD has done significant outreach into the Black community.

The Governance committee discussed whether the VPD should keep the Black and African Diaspora Advisory Committee or to replace it with an Equity Diversity Inclusion committee (EDI) that could incorporate a sub committee.

Inspector Muir spoke to a committee members concern noting both SisterWatch and the Indigenous Advisory committee would continue forward, and she feels they can serve the needs of more people with a more intersectional lens, and the Indigenous piece needs to be separate.

The Governance Committee decided that because the establishment of the Black and African Diaspora Advisory Committee was in response to the concerns regarding the Black and Indigenous populations as outlined in the street checks complaint (and there already is an

Indigenous Advisory Committee), as a first step there should be the BADA Committee and then potentially an EDI Committee at some point in the future.

*(VPD LEFT meeting)  
In Camera*

**6. Draft Annual Street Check Audit – discussion**

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The Governance committee discussed Board member Ms. Rachel Roy's motion regarding ending the practice of street checks if the results of the Vancouver Police Department's annual audit into the new street check policy show that racialized groups are disproportionately targeted. The ED will reach out to Ms. Roy to see if she would be providing her motion in writing to the Board for the February Board meeting.

**7. Annual May Strat Plan Workshop Agenda – discussion**

The Executive Director will have the May Strategic Plan Agenda ready to review at the next Governance committee meeting in April.

**8. Board 2022-2026 Strategic Focus - discussion**

Committee Chair Barj Dhahan stated the Board will discuss possible areas of focus at the May Strategic Plan Workshop and stated all suggestions should be emailed to the ED. The ED clarified the areas of focus will be discussed at the May workshop and finalized through the Governance committee and put forward to the full Board for approval towards the end of the year.

**9. E-Comm Appointment**

Former DCC Warren Lemcke is up for renewal in his appointment as the Board's E-Comm representative, a position he has held since 2017, and he has expressed his interest in being re-appointed.

Motion to recommend Warren Lemcke as the Board's E-Comm representative for 2021/2022. The Board will approve the E-Comm representative at the April Board meeting.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

**10. Policy and Procedure Manual – discussion**

Committee Chair Barj Dhahan provided an update on the policy and procedure manual update, as the former Executive Director Patti Marfleet has stepped away from this task. The Committee agreed that with Board member Faye Wightman's extensive experience in Governance, it would

be a good idea for her to work on some of the sections and gradually update the policy and procedure manual, keeping in mind that the Provincial review will impose more changes.

**11. Board Annual report – discussion**

There was discussion on how the Board's annual report would look in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**12. Committee Terms of Reference and 2020 Work Plan**

The Committee members will review the terms of reference and report back to the ED if there is anything they would like clarified.

**12. Other Business**

The Chair of the Governance committee asked fellow committee members to consider a change in the Police Board budget as the demands on the Board office have grown, and include the HR committee in this moving forward.

*Governance Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:54pm*

*\*\*\* Means redacted*