



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2017**

PRESENT: Commissioner Steve Craig, Chair
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Waye Mason
Commissioner Sylvia Parris
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell
Commissioner Ed MacMaster

REGRETS: Commissioner Stephen Graham

STAFF: Chief Jean Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Colleen Kelly, Halifax Regional Police
Kathleen Patterson, Policy and Business Initiatives Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police
Dr. Chris Giacomantonio, Research Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police
Chief Superintendent Lee Bergerman, Halifax District RCMP
Monica Jodrey, Acting Inspector, Management & Admin Services Officer, Halifax District RCMP
Sheila Serfas, Crime Analyst, Halifax District RCMP
Martin Ward, Q.C., General Counsel, HRM Legal Services
Katherine Salsman, Solicitor, HRM Legal Services
Darren Hirtle, HRM Community Developer, Parks & Recreation
Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Board are available online:
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/170223bopc-agenda.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., and recessed at 10:20 a.m. The Board reconvened at 10:35 a.m. and adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. at the Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council meeting space at Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth. The Chair provided introductory comments, welcoming members of the Board, HRP and RCMP staff, and members of the public and the press present.

Commissioner Mancini thanked all for attending, and introduced Darren Hirtle, Community Developer, who will assist the Board and staff with the development of a work plan. Roundtable introductions were held for all in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT – 2017/18

Darren Hirtle, Community Developer, led the group in an exercise, asking each attendee to record the answer the question “What three actions/topics do you think the Board of Police Commissioners should address this year?”

The group then categorized the answers. The categories defined by the group were as follows:

- Policy
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Data & Communication
- Audit & Finance
- Public Consultation
- Issue Specific Actions

The group eliminated any duplication in answers and then voted for their top three priority actions in each category.

The group discussed whether the priority areas identified would create good direction for the Board.

The group discussed public consultation, and the role of the commission, as a way to communicate with the public.

The group discussed the need for the Board to create and monitor their own policy, which is not currently being done, which should be started with a policy on policy.

The group discussed actions identified that are within the current mandate of the Board, others which would fall under HRP operations issues, which are not within the mandate of the Board, and some that will be addressed through the governance review underway by Legal Services. The group also discussed the balance between directing staff and providing strategic oversight.

A recess was taken from 10:20 a.m., with the group reconvening at 10:35 a.m.

The group arranged themselves into three tables, with a mix of RCMP, HRP, Civilians and Councillors at each. Each group took one category of actions, to determine an action plan for each, which included a goal statement, time frame, person responsible, and resources required.

Following this work, each group presented their preliminary action plans for the categories of Public Consultation, Data and Communication, and Policy, copies of which are on file.

Group discussion from the Public Consultation action plan included:

- Discussion regarding creating a two-way conduit for communication with the public at large.
- Identifying stakeholders in justice partners such as the Crown, probation services, etc.
- Being inclusive of all members of the public, taking into account age and technical abilities/means.
- Increasing consultation with the public by including Public Participation on the monthly meeting agendas, having a monthly meeting webcast or broadcast on Eastlink, producing an annual report to the public and holding town hall meetings with Board members present.
- An improved website where the public can provide comments and receive information.

Group discussion from the Data and Communication action plan included:

- Improving consistency and clarity with information provided to the Board.
- With regard to the monthly dashboard provided to the Board, developing a tighter set of monthly indicators and developing priority indicators with analysis.
- Determining an appropriate method for reporting to the Board on operational issues.
- Caution around the need to maintain certain information as private when reporting to the Board on operational matters, such as information on cases not yet before the Court, names of young offenders, etc.
- Reviewing recommendation reports from other agencies to gain information that may be of use to the Board and HRP about policing related matters.

Group discussion from the Policy action plan included:

- Creating a policy on finance and audit, to have financial oversight throughout the year.
- Creating a policy on public engagement; how to go out and gather that information.
- Creating a policy on policy; how the board develops and reviews policy and why.
- Creating a policy on the flow of information from HRP to the Board.
- Creating a policy on board roles and conduct, including public relations.

At this time a member of the public observing the meeting asked to address the group. She indicated that she was the victim of a crime and asked whether stakeholder engagement would include victims. She asked the group to ensure that a feedback loop is closed when it comes to public consultation, and suggested that information such as what training is provided to police officers should be available online for transparency.

Kathleen Patterson, Policy and Business Initiatives Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police, indicated that they would ensure a feedback loop is included in the public engagement policy. She indicated that staff have discussed how to put the policy manual online, redacting certain sensitive operational information, so that the public can have access to that information.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 27, 2017 (regular meeting) & March 1, 2017 (next work plan meeting date)

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant