



**COAB Meeting DRAFT Minutes  
Thursday, October 27, 2016  
1900 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Room 2500B (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)  
5:30-8:30pm**

**In attendance:**

Catherine Gardner  
Myrlaviani "V" Rivier  
Rochelle Silver  
Philip Wolfe  
Tom Steenson  
Jimi Johnson (via phone)  
Laquida Landford (via livestream)  
Mireaya Medina (via livestream)

Meeting commenced at approximately 6:00 pm.

**1. Public comment (throughout the meeting)**

**2. Amendment to COAB's by-laws as follows, with the amendments in italics:**

**A quorum of the COAB shall consist of a simple majority of the currently appointed membership, except that persons on approved leave of absences shall not be counted in determining a quorum. In no event shall a quorum consist of fewer than eight voting members. To pass a major action requires a majority vote of the COAB, but not less than eight votes, of the voting members present, provided that a quorum has been established. A major action includes, but is not limited to: voting to make recommendations to the DOJ, City of Portland, PPB, and COCL regarding changes to PPB police and/or practices necessary to meet the requirements of the settlement agreement; voting on comments to the COCL's quarterly reports; and voting to amend the bylaws. To pass a minor action requires a majority vote of the voting COAB members present, provided that a quorum has been established. A minor action includes, but is not limited to: voting to approve COAB minutes; voting to set COAB meeting times and schedules; and voting on other procedural actions.**

***If there are less than 12 currently appointed members, a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the currently appointed membership. For example, if the currently appointed membership is 8, a quorum exists if 5 members are present. If there are less than 12 currently appointed members, a major or minor action can be passed with only the number of votes required for a quorum. For example, if a quorum exists if 5 members are present, only 5 votes are required to pass an action.***

Tom explained the current quorum conundrum of needing to have 8 members to vote. This amendment would allow for five if there are less than twelve members on the board. It would allow the COAB to move forward considering the City's refusal to appoint new members.

#### **Discussion on vote to change COAB Bylaws:**

Rochelle suggested suspending the bylaws completely, but after conversation it was decided not to do that.

Tom said that getting rid of the bylaws entirely may work just fine, but for now he is unsure. He was not partial to either approach.

Philip asked for community input concerning the bylaws.

Joe asked if the City has said anything about the bylaws. Tom replied by saying that the City has abandoned COAB, also citing the lack of City representatives on the Board. Joe congratulated COAB for being independent.

Philip also said that regardless, COAB has a quorum of 8 at this meeting, so it can vote on what it wants.

Dan Handel man from Portland Copwatch said the proposed amendment was valuable, and that Portland Copwatch supports it. To make it clear to not get in trouble- 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> sentences, add phrase except as noted below.

**Friendly Amendment accepted by Tom: add "except as noted below" after 2<sup>nd</sup> and third sentences, so that the "Quorum and Action" section of the bylaws reads (additional text in italics):**

**A quorum of the COAB shall consist of a simple majority of the currently appointed membership, except that persons on approved leave of absences shall not be counted in determining a quorum. In no event shall a quorum consist of fewer than eight voting members, *except as noted below*. To pass a major action requires a majority vote of the COAB, but not less than eight votes, of the voting members present, provided that a quorum has been established, *except as noted below*. A major action includes, but is not limited to: voting to make recommendations to the DOJ, City of Portland, PPB, and COCL regarding changes to PPB police and/or practices necessary to meet the requirements of the settlement agreement; voting on comments to the COCL's quarterly reports; and voting to amend the bylaws. To pass a minor action requires a majority vote of the voting COAB members present, provided that a quorum has been established. A minor action includes, but is not limited to: voting to approve COAB minutes; voting to set COAB meeting times and schedules; and voting on other procedural actions.**

*If there are less than 12 currently appointed members, a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the currently appointed membership. For example, if the currently appointed membership is 8, a quorum exists if 5 members are present. If there are less than 12 currently appointed members, a major or minor action can be passed with only the number of votes required for a quorum. For example, if a quorum exists if 5 members are present, only 5 votes are required to pass an action.*

**VOTE: 102716-2 Amendment to COAB Bylaws**

Move: Tom Steenson

Second: Catherine Gardner

Yes: Catherine Gardner, Jimi Johnson, Laquida Landford, Mireaya Medina, Myrlaviani Rivier, Rochelle Silver, Tom Steenson, Philip Wolfe.

**The motion passed 8-0.**

Jimi, Mireaya and Laquida left the phone connection after the vote.

Kalei asked that a temporary rules document be created with all needed changes while COAB membership is low.

**3. Reorganization of subcommittees: consolidation of Data Systems, Use of Force & Compliance Subcommittee (DSUFCS) and Accountability Subcommittee (AS) to form DSUFCAS**

Tom explained the need for the amendment: Because the COAB membership is so low, there aren't enough people to sit on subcommittees. In addition, there will be fewer subcommittee meetings; time will be spent more efficiently.

V said she's conflicted and wanted to hear from the public. She's worried Accountability would be pushed away. The community wants accountability and needs a platform.

Rochelle explained the history of how subcommittees were structured and how AS split off from DSUFCS. A lot of the same people are in the same committees.

V asked to change the name to lead with "Accountability."

A discussion about how having the meetings consolidated would save money and facilitate better discussion.

Some people expressed concern that if the new quorum becomes 5, subcommittees could run the risk of constituting a quorum of the full COAB.

Reverend Luke suggested the COAB consolidate more of their committees.

Rochelle said that they had previously tried to combine the Mental Health and Community Engagement Subcommittees but couldn't, because the CEOPS met at a police station. In addition, many people thought that MHCRS should remain separate.

Pat said accountability is most important to have in the subcommittee's name — using so many words dilutes the main points of the name and the work the subcommittee does.

Tom said he believes the COAB is not going to be around forever. It's an advisory board and is only allowed to advise, and will never have any power given to make real changes. Board members are trying to recommend a way to strengthen the systems that will be around after the COAB is gone.

Joe asked if they were working to have something in place in lieu of COAB; Tom and V said they were.

Joe said he's worried about the community's voice being taken away. He didn't want people being misled into thinking that COAB can actually do something. People think the COAB has power and they don't. He said the COAB gets media attention so the City is attentive to that, but the board doesn't have much more power or effect than Portland Copwatch or League of Women Voters.

A discussion about calling the consolidated subcommittee the Accountability Subcommittee, with the understanding that the other components (Data Systems, Use of Force & Compliance) will be a part of the work.

**VOTE: Recommendation 102716-3 Consolidation of DSUFCS and AS to form the Accountability Subcommittee (Data Systems, Use of Force & Compliance)**

Move: Rochelle Silver  
Second: Myrlaviani Rivier

Yes: Catherine Gardner, Myrlaviani Rivier, Rochelle Silver, Tom Steenson, Philip Wolfe.

**The motion passed 5-0.**

Rochelle asked if it was okay to have subcommittee meetings now that they are not in recess. She also asked why the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) representatives were not present since it was now an official post-recess meeting. She said that they should be there.

Amy said she would contact them.

**4. Consideration and vote on AS's accountability recommendations**

Tom said the proposed recommendations were created by working with the public, Portland Copwatch, and other community stakeholders. They looked at different cities for their accountability work. Their plan, he said, makes police review citizen-run.

Philip approved of it, saying it goes a long way for accountability.

**VOTE: Recommendation 102716-1 Packet of 47 recommendations on the police accountability system**

Motion: Myrlaviani Rivier moved to pass the whole package of recommendations.

Second: Catherine Gardner

Yes: Catherine Gardner, Jimi Johnson, Laquida Landford, Mireaya Medina, Myrlaviani Rivier, Rochelle Silver, Tom Steenson, Philip Wolfe

**Motion passes 8-0.**

Agenda is finished- Tom added COCL Compliance Report and DSUFCS recommendation as agenda items.

Tom said the COCL did not give COAB enough time to review the draft report because they were in recess and could not meet. Tom stated he did not spend time looking at the report and that he felt COCL ignores what the COAB has to say anyway.

Kalei said she's looked at Seattle's accountability system; it's good and it's integrated.

**VOTE: Recommendation 102716-4 The Portland Police Bureau should develop and implement an instructional system design model ("ISDM") for comprehensive use of force training to provide a systemic methodology to address its training needs. The PPB's ISDM should rely upon and/or incorporate the Seattle Police Department's ISDM for comprehensive use of force training which reflects best practices and which in DOJ v. Seattle was approved by the Department of Justice and its police practitioner expert, Robert Davis, the former Chief of Police of San Jose and former president of the Major City Chief's Conference.**

**Motion to have PPB adopt an ISDM system: Rochelle Silver**

Second: Tom Steenson

Yes: Catherine Gardner, Jimi Johnson, Laquida Landford, Mireaya Medina, Myrlaviani Rivier, Rochelle Silver, Tom Steenson, Philip Wolfe.

**Motion passes 8-0.**

**Discussion about future meetings:**

There was a discussion about having meetings once a month for now rather than twice a month.

Myrlaviani said she'd like to work with community members on how to handle disruptions in meetings.

**Public Comment:**

Luke: Will the subcommittees start meeting again?

- ADUFCS, MHCRS, Executive will meet in November, Philip will contact Jimi regarding CEOPS.

A discussion ensued on who sits on the Executive Committee. Because Myrlaviani will be joining the Portland Commission on Disabilities (PCoD), Philip thought she would be eligible to sit on the Executive Committee. Amy Ruiz noted that under the current structure, the PCoD representative on the Executive Committee is Philip. Tom stated that there is no structure to follow. He said the structure was never approved and is not in the bylaws. He didn't think the COAB was bound by any structure and gets to decide what the Executive Committee Looks like.

Myrlaviani said the real issue is how many subcommittees a COAB member can sit on She felt there shouldn't be a limit. The concern over a COAB member having too much of a voice by sitting on multiple subcommittees becomes irrelevant if that member is focusing their efforts on soliciting community feedback and building relationships with the community. The COAB should loosen its restrictions on how many subcommittees a member can sit on.

Tom said that would require a bylaw change and suggested it be put on the next agenda so the board can discuss and vote.

Amy noted that given the COAB quorum change just approved, the committee might want to consider having a three-member Executive Committee so there isn't a risk of having a full COAB quorum at Executive Committee meetings.

Dan said that subcommittees that have the least public access get listened to the most, such as the Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee (BHUAC), which has developed and submitted a number of recommendations, received feedback from the PPB, and had those recommendations implemented, whereas the COAB has received little to no feedback on the recommendations they've submitted to the DOJ. Dan encouraged the COAB to demand that a BHUAC representative attend a COAB meeting and present their proposed recommendations prior to voting on them in order to receive community feedback.

Dan also said he sent a link of Portland Copwatch's feedback on the report. He encouraged the COAB to look at it and forward recommendations to COCL. He also said the City needs to focus on actively listening to the community rather than being defensive about their feedback.

Kalei noted that the City said they would make history with the implementation of the Settlement Agreement, which got the attention of the nation. Portland came up at the NACOLE conference many times. Interest from Accountability professionals. NACOLE is looking at whether this part of the project, the COAB part, succeeds or fails. She said she sees no way for City or the DOJ to succeed if the COAB fails. She talked about community input and how across the United States, everybody says that the path to trust is with the community. She described how draining it's been for she and her husband to participate in this process: We've watched citizens be systematically silenced. What I want to say to

everybody in this room is that if the City fails you and drives you out of the Settlement Agreement, the whole agreement fails. Where you go after failure?

Myrlaviani noted that things break down when people refuse to build relationships with each other. Making meaning happens in the space between people. It's important that we continue to show up to the table.

Shelly Hall shared her story about her son being shot and killed by a police officer five years ago on January 25th. If you're a victim, you should have access to a free attorney and if you're a loved one, you should receive mental health support.

Luke: Update: Reached out to peer leaders in the Oregon Consumer Survivors Coalition and they will take on the grass-roots, independent voice for advocacy. The Oregon Peer-Delivered Service Coalition through the Mental Health Association will take on the work force aspects of creating jobs for peers. Luke formed an organization called Global Community Designs which could take community-police resolution and peace working. The organization is currently working to get 501c3 status; from there they can focus on getting grants for program development and training.

Joe said, thank all of you for working so hard and hanging in. This is a traumatic time for all of us. One of the reasons you didn't have a demonstration here today is because you treated everybody as human beings and listened to everyone's comments. Whether you agree or disagree is irrelevant; if you listen, you will normally not have a huge demonstration or interruption. Demonstrations and disruptions occur when nothing is happening to address citizen's concerns and people expressing those concerns are treated like children. That's aggravating and it builds up. The people sitting at these tables are all good human beings and treat people well. That's why no one's disrupting things. I'm impressed with what you're doing. I will tell people in the community to come to these meetings. The worst thing for this group is to become isolated from the community. Thank you for your service.

Philip: Thank you for standing up for your beliefs and speaking out.

Rochelle moved to adjourned the meeting.

Catherine seconded.

General agreement to adjourn.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm**