

11.15 Restorative Justice Panel meeting minutes

Panel members: Camille Daniels , Heather Williams, Daniel Mullan, Larry Jorgensen, Heather Reynolds, Holly Hammond

Absent: Will Borchers, Kendall Hicks

Staff present: Commissioner of Accounts Dillon Moran, City Attorney Tony Izzo, Communications Coordinator Jessie House

Camille Daniels welcomes the group

Community members Laura and Quarius help start the meeting with an opening exercise

The exercise asked the audience to choose an object displayed on the floor, each person went around and described why they chose the object

RFQ response discussion, Ives Fenton Counsel ing services strong proposal, board members give their thoughts on the quotes,

In favor of checking the references, Commissioner Moran explains his staff would be sure to do so

Concern regarding the language of the quotes from Ives-Fenton

(Deogenes?) Community member asked how people were going to be chosen to train others. If someone goes to a workshop but does not necessarily have the best intentions, how do we differ from that? Community member also asked if police would be required to engage in training and would their guns be visible? (answer unknown at the moment)

Community member wonders what it looks like to check references. Whose opinion is weighing on who is fit for this? How do you know who to believe?

Commissioner Moran explains these are qualified bidders, they were sought out by the board members.

Holly Hammond explains this is about changing our culture in Saratoga Springs, relationship building, community building, things grow out of the work

Community member shares thoughts on concerns about the quotes being a talking thing not a doing thing

Quarius explains restorative justice becomes this tool or quick fix to throw in to fix everything, he realizes that the action is always ahead of how fast we can understand the process, gaps are filled by the work and the connection, building that sense of community, open that lane that closed leading to actions being made, useful to bring in people for resources and tools, get lost in the existing structure, the thinking doesn't fit into the structure we're trying to mold the thoughts into

Larry Jorgensen echoes Quarius's thoughts, community building, it will take time. Also appreciate the views that things need to get done. Concerns over if quotes are privy to the 50 point plan or also planning down the road, one is narrow, one is broad, will the 50 point plan lead us down the right road? Broad vision sounds good but specificity is also good.

Commissioner Moran explains the City Council's goal is for the 50-point plan to be implemented. Commissioner Moran says he is here for whatever the panel needs.

Camille Daniels refers to the quotes and that one quote might miss the mark and the other provides specific details on what they would provide

Community member shares thoughts on when the AG report comes out there's going to be serious healing, doesn't know how to look at a SS policeman after what she heard they said about her children

Camille Daniels is surprised at the level of participation within this situation, spreadsheet is somewhat empty, only has notes from beginning of when the RJP started from Camille, a lot of work has been taken and work has been done for this panel to be where it is, looking for more effort on the spreadsheet

Heather Williams reiterates that she and Camille feel confident in the people they chose to send the RFQ's out to, explains the setup of the panel, the circle and discussion, the unconventional space and setup, have to figure out what restorative justice looks like for the community

Commissioner Moran explains he will have to take performative steps to extend the restorative justice program

Community member (Barb) explains she doesn't feel seen and heard, first meeting, didn't know where exactly the panel was in the current stage, suggests a review at each meeting for those who haven't been there before (10 mins)

Community member decides to leave, shares it's a hostile place for newcomers

Community member (Barb) felt it was uncomfortable to interrupt while people were talking about things they didn't know about

Community member (first time) also agrees there should be a review period in the beginning of the meeting for new members and people watching on the livestream

Camille, Heather, and two community members clarify a part of the meeting where a community member felt she was disruptive while having a side conversation

Quarius shares his thoughts on how Camille shared her vulnerability, he appreciates it. Clear gap: difficult to share conflicting thoughts and continue the meeting, it's not going to be easy, don't get lost in the BS

New community member is sad that the other new community member left, City Council meetings are unkind, kindness should be spread

Heather Williams shares kindness should start internally, think a second about what to say and how to respond

Laura brings up Dominick Barder? Social Justice Practitioner

Heather Reynolds is glad and frightened about the possibility of more time. Wants to decide on who will be brought in

Commissioner Moran said he would put the proposal before the council at the next city council meeting as soon as the board choose the service, wants to get the tools ASAP, any effort at this has to practical and real, the process isn't comfortable to the status quo and neither is restorative justice, important that police are here and the opposing viewpoint to the police is also here to have the conversation

Daniel Mullan recognizes Heather and Camille's work towards these vendors and feels it is left up to them if everyone agrees to choose and decide one of the two vendors.

Camille Daniels feels Ives-Fenton is the best choice, consensus that this is the best choice.

Commissioner Moran says he and his staff will get this done and put on the agenda for the next city council meeting. Can change the expectation of what the deadline means. A kind of formality for the council's sake might be beneficial?

Camille asks for a memo for Commissioner Moran to out together. He agrees.

We Close the Circle with "It's Good to Be Together"

Meeting is adjourned.