

Clallam County Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2021

I. Call to order

- i. Alan Barnard called to order the regular meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee at 1700 hours on September 16, 2021. This meeting was held via Zoom.

II. Roll call

- i. The following members were present: Alan Barnard, Steven Blakeman, Rochelle Blankenship, Tom Cox, Charles Meyer, and Barbara Sanford.
- ii. The following staff members were present: Sheriff Benedict, Undersheriff Ron Cameron, Chief Criminal Deputy Brian King, and Admin Manager Lorraine Shore.
- iii. Walter Morton was present as a CCSCAC Applicant.
- iv. There was a quorum established for this meeting.

III. Introduction of CCSCAC Applicant Walter Morton

- a. Walter Morton was introduced and gave a short bio and explained why he was interested in joining the Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Committee. He retired in Sekiu two years ago, is a United States Navy Veteran, and has extensive mediation training and experience. Mr. Morton has volunteered with several non-profit and law enforcement organizations over the years, and is interested in joining CCSCAC to serve his community.
- b. Alan Barnard explained the role of CCSCAC members regarding bringing input to the committee on community concerns. Alan called for a motion on whether to recommend Mr. Morton to the BOCC for approval.

MOTION: Barbara Sandford motioned that Walter Morton's application to the CCSCAC is forwarded to the BOCC for approval. Charlie Meyer seconded.

Unanimously Approved by all in attendance.

IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting

- i. Minutes from the May 20, 2021 meeting unanimously approved with no changes.

V. Sheriff Benedict

a. Budget

- i. Sheriff Benedict met with the Commissioners and CFO and the Sheriff's budget remains the same as last year. Jail revenues are down \$300,000.00 due to COVID restrictions that reduced the number of Department of Correction inmates.

b. COVID Mandates

- i. Clallam County instituted a policy requiring masks indoors, as well as proof of vaccine for bars and restaurants. The Sheriff's office does not enforce the mask policy but will enforce trespassing if a business asks a patron to leave and they refuse.
- ii. If a business does not comply with the mandate, it will be addressed with the Health and Code Compliance departments and is **not** a law enforcement matter.
- iii. There were demonstrations regarding the mandates and those who participated were peaceful and exercised their right to be heard.

c. CCSO Bike Patrol

- i. Sheriff Benedict asked Chief King to address the new bike patrol program. Chief King stated it is a new volunteer program led by Patrol Sergeant Amy Bundy. The program is funded by the Sheriff's Office and a local bike company sold the Sheriff's Office four (4) electric bikes at a discount for use by the volunteers. There are 9 volunteers in the bike patrol program and the volunteers were provided training in a variety of subjects. They were issued jackets and shirts clearly identifying them as Sheriff's Bike Patrol Volunteers.

Alan Barnard has been a supporter of this program and he and his daughter volunteer as Bike Patrol. They have been very active along with a couple of other volunteers. Their mission is to ride the Olympic Discovery Trail and provide a presence and identify issues such as homeless camps. When they identify issues, the volunteers contact the on-duty sergeant. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the volunteers. From January – September 2021, the Bike Patrol Volunteers have logged over 200 hours.

Alan Barnard added that the Bike Patrol has a goal of going out on the trail at least once or twice a week. The volunteers pick different areas of the ODT to patrol each time and their goal is to observe and report back to the Sheriff's Office. As a result of the Bike Patrol, the ODT is a cleaner and safer trail system. Alan said the Bike Patrol Volunteers are ambassadors for the cities and county and they offer assistance to those who need it on the trail. He recounted an incident that he and his daughter (also a bike patrol volunteer) happened upon. A lady had fallen and they provided first aid and comfort to her. She declined medical assistance and was very grateful for their help.

The various parts of the Olympic Discovery Trail that are patrolled are the Waterfront, Diamond Point to 7 Cedars, and West of the Tunnel. Alan said the bike patrol assists in various running events on the trail and their presence is greatly appreciated.

Cox asked what the recruitment consists of for the patrols. Chief King stated that the volunteers were selected from the existing pool of Sheriff's Office Volunteers as they had already been through the background process. The vetting process reduces liability.

Blankenship asked what the time commitment was for the Bike Patrol Volunteers. Alan responded that there wasn't a set time commitment as the volunteers set up patrols when it is convenient for their schedules. This keeps it fun for the volunteers.

Meyer asked if the volunteers have radios. Alan said they are not issued radios and use their cell phones to call Dispatch and the Sergeant. Chief King said he made the decision not to issue radios due to the staffing issues that Dispatch is experiencing. Having the volunteers communicate with the on-duty sergeant helps keep the call volume down in dispatch.

Barnard said the volunteers received training and carry pepper spray if they need it. To date there have been no issues between the volunteers and people they've encountered on the trail. There has not been a need so far to have instant communication with Dispatch.

King said he is trying to get two more electric bikes and additional volunteers for bike patrol.



VI. Undersheriff Cameron – Emergency Operations Update

- a. Anne Chastain is doing well and will hopefully be back in the office by the first of the year.
- b. Justine Chorley was hired on 9/1/21 to fill the vacant Emergency Management position. Justine was a back country ranger in Olympic National Park and has extensive Incident Command System background.
- c. The EOC is busy supporting the Health Department but not in Logistics mode like in the beginning of the pandemic. The volunteers still help supply PPE where needed. The EOC is semi-activated with volunteers working daily shifts in the EOC.
- d. Each Friday at 10am, Dr. Berry gives a COVID update which is available online (Granicus) for stakeholders and citizens.
- e. The EOC is now working on the June 2022 Cascadia Rising exercise which will involve the State of WA and Clallam County. The focus of this exercise is what the county will do four – five days after the earthquake. The previous exercise in 2016 focused on the immediate challenges the county would confront in the event of a 9.0 earthquake.
- f. Undersheriff Cameron is working on the County Emergency Response Plan (CEMP) which should be complete by the end of the year. The plan is updated every five years and is approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The plan gives directions on what responses the county has during emergencies. The state doesn't approve the CEMP but offers suggestions and legal requirements.
- g. The new Emergency Management Operations Center is still being worked on and the State of WA allotted 1.2 million to keep the project going. The conceptual drawing is complete and can be viewed at:
<http://websrv7.clallam.net/forms/uploads/sheriff20210125163519.pdf>
CCSO is working with the City of Port Angeles to include Dispatch and possibly a west side Fire Station. **Sheriff Benedict** noted that there is a lot of discussion needed with the city of Port Angeles.

Barnard asked if the US Coast Guard is going to have any involvement in the new EOC. Cameron said that was unknown at this time and the USCG is a good partner with the EOC. USCG Lt. Walsh spoke with U/S Cameron about the new EOC proposed location at the airport.

Cameron said the EOC in the basement of the Clallam County Courthouse was not designed for earthquake survival. It was originally built as a bomb shelter. The new EOC would be more modern and have better office space. The flow will assist emergency operations and there are several factors for the move. The airport location is built on rock and recognized by FEMA as 1 of 5 airports to deliver supplies in the event of a catastrophic event.

VII. Sheriff Personnel Changes

- a. Retirements
 - i. Support Services Sherry Stout – Retiring 6/30/21
 - ii. Control Room Tech Tim Schwab – Retired 8/31/21
 - iii. Reserve Deputy and Evidence Manager Randy Pieper – Retired 9/1/21
- b. Resignations
 - i. Patrol Deputy Nate Clark – Resigned 7/15/21
 - ii. Corrections Deputy Sean Slowey – Resigned 9/27/21
- c. Promotions
 - i. Corrections Sgt. Don Wenzl to Chief Corrections Deputy – 8/2/21
 - ii. Corrections Deputy Alicia Newhouse to Corrections Sgt. – 8/2/21
- d. Personnel Changes
 - i. OPNET Detective Jeff Pickrell back to Patrol and Patrol Deputy Cody Anderson transferred to OPNET Detective – Effective 1/1/2022
- e. New Personnel
 - i. Kristin Hnat – Support Services Public Disclosure – Hired 6/1/21
 - ii. McLeod Hutchin – Returned from LOA effective 6/4/21
 - iii. Ron Marlett – Radio Technician – Hired 6/7/21
 - iv. Justine Chorley – Emergency Operations Center - Hired 9/1/21
 - v. Randy Pieper – Special Deputy – Effective 9/13/21
 - vi. Cody Brooks – Patrol Deputy – Effective 10/1/21

VIII. Roundtable

Blankenship – All the tribal offices have a great relationship with the Sheriff’s deputies. In August, they banned 19 people from the Casino and Hotel for drug and theft violations. The Casino Recovery Manual is close to completion (similar to the County CEMP).

Meyer – Involved as a CERT member in the Cascadia Exercise and there are multiple agencies that will be involved in the four day event.

Meyer noted that he has seen more homeless in Sequim and asked what law enforcement is doing about it. **Chief King** said that the homeless problem affects all jurisdictions and the *Martin v Boise* case law has impacted the way law enforcement can address the issue. The court ruled that law enforcement cannot remove homeless or enforce laws against loitering in public places unless there are resources or alternatives that they can be given. Chief King noted there are a lot of resources in Clallam County and there is a lot of available bed space in Serenity House. Chief King said the Sheriff’s Office is enforcing trespassing on public property and gave an example of the Deer Park Rest Area. A number of people were trespassing by setting up camps and derelict RVs in the rest area. The Sheriff’s Office took a proactive approach by proposing legislation for that area that would make it a County Park. The BOCC passed the ordinance and it allowed deputies to clean up Deer Park. Chief King said the cities have not been willing to pass ordinances such as banning sleeping in public parks.

Blakeman – said he knew several people who were at the courthouse protests and they gave him excellent feedback on their interaction with deputies and Undersheriff Cameron. They said they were all very professional.

Sandford - said she is involved in two walking groups and they really appreciate the Bike Patrol. It eliminates problems they've had in the past on the ODT. She said the big issue now is the trailhead vehicle break-ins which have led her to stop walking as she is concerned about her vehicle being prowled. **Barnard** said the bike patrols stop in the parking lots as a deterrent. **Chief King** said there are far less vehicle break ins than last year and the recent break-ins were the work of a small group of people who went through Clallam and Jefferson counties breaking into vehicles in parking lots. There has been progress in identifying them and deputies are working the cases. He said the perception is worse than the reality and there are only isolated issues at trailheads. **Sandford** said she really appreciated the information and it made her feel safe enough to use the parking areas again.

Cox - asked if Pickrell was still going to be eligible for the IIT if he is being transferred from OPNET Detective back to Patrol. **Chief King** said he would still be eligible and he would have Deputy Cody Anderson vetted by the CCSCAC for the IIT when he starts at OPNET in January 2022.

Cox also said he heard a lot of good feedback on the way deputies and Command Staff handled the protests at the courthouse.

IX. Public Comments

No members of the public were in attendance

X. Adjourn

Next Meeting – 11/18/2021

Adjourned at 6:35pm

Minutes submitted by: Lorraine Shore

Minutes approved by: