



**Meeting Minutes**  
**City of Sammamish Public Safety Committee**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 22, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Plateau 129**

**Called to Order:**

Deputy City Manager Bon called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Karen Moran – Chair  
Chris Ross  
Ramiro Valderrama

**Staff Present:**

Lyman Howard, City Manager  
Jessi Bon, Deputy City Manager  
Jeff Clark, Fire Chief (Eastside Fire & Rescue)  
Michelle Bennett, Police Chief (King County Sheriff's Office)  
Tammy Mueller, Administrative Assistant

**Others Present:**

Pam Stuart, Councilmember

**Election of Committee Chairperson:**

Councilmember Valderrama nominated Councilmember Moran for Public Safety Committee Chair. There were no other nominations. Councilmember Moran was unanimously elected to the position of Public Safety Committee Chair by a vote of 3-0.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the November 30, 2017 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Public Comment:**

Mary Wictor, 408 208th Avenue NE, spoke about safety lights on guard rails and reporting spills.

- Councilmember Valderrama suggested that the City look into creating magnets for residents containing important reporting numbers within the City.

Madison Nielsen, address not provided, volunteered to participate on the Public Safety Committee and advocated for the City offering a stronger response to crime in the City and protecting against Federal agency overstep.

**School Safety Discussion:**

Chair Moran opened the discussion regarding school safety. City Manager Howard and Police Chief Bennett provided the Committee with background information on the topic. Discussion commenced.

- Staff informed the Committee that the City partners with the schools and offers assistance to address school safety.
- The Sammamish Police Department is working on an active shooter training program and plans to offer live Active Shooter Action Plan (ASAP) training to teachers and students while school is in session. It is each school's decision to accept or decline this training and it can be a controversial topic. The schools have recently given the Police Department permission to use their facilities for ASAP training when school is not in session and students and faculty are not present.
- Staff provided an overview of the School Resource Officer (SRO) positions, based out of Skyline and Eastlake High Schools. The SROs do spend time at junior high schools and, if time allows, elementary schools. Currently in Sammamish, there are two full-time SROs and the cost of these officers is split 50/50 between the City and the schools.
- The Committee requested information from Staff regarding the police partnership with Eastside Catholic High School. Staff informed the committee that the partnership was limited, largely due to limited interest on the part of the school. The Committee requested that Staff reach out to the school again to offer services.
  - The Committee questioned whether or not the City could provide subsidized services to a private school. City staff will follow-up.
- Staff informed the Committee that the Police Department will require additional resources if there is a desire to expand their presence in schools.
  - The Committee requested information on what neighboring cities are doing to address the matter. This will likely be a component of the Police Services Study. Staff will investigate and report back. City Manager Howard reported that he had already reached out to Ron Thiele, Issaquah School District Superintendent, and Traci Pierce, Lake Washington School District Superintendent, to maintain an open dialogue about school safety and inquire as to how the City can offer support.
- The Committee inquired as to whether threat assessments had been conducted for local schools. Staff reported that they are unaware of any in the past year and a half, however the City's Emergency Manager had offered to conduct them should the schools request assistance.
- Councilmember Stuart raised the question of security surrounding portable classroom units. The Committee acknowledged that each school would need to determine their own needs and procedures regarding school safety. The Sammamish Police Department is ready and willing to assist if asked.
- The Committee suggested inviting representatives from the schools to speak at a future City Council. This may be coordinated through a future joint meeting with the School Boards as well.
- The Committee expressed interest in increasing active shooter drills. Staff stated that this is doable, however training exercises of this nature will require overtime for the officers and the current Police Department overtime budget is minimal. It was suggested that this be explored in the upcoming Police Services Study and as part of the budget process.
- The Committee discussed Sammamish being named the safest City in Washington State, the way the crime rates were calculated (UCR versus NIBRS crime reporting data), and the need to continue work toward reducing the number of violent crimes occurring in the City. A future presentation is planned for the City Council to explain the upcoming changes in crime reporting data.

**Future Meeting Topics:**

- Police Services Study – Next Steps
- Emergency Management Work Plan Update
- Revisions to the Fireworks Ordinance
- Request to review policies regarding Councilmembers joining political groups and taking stances on political issues
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**Other Business:**

Chair Moran raised the issue of the City Council's desire to have a resolution addressing the misuse of firearms. A draft of the resolution was provided to the Committee ([link](#)) and discussed.

- The Committee suggested reviewing Kirkland's and Issaquah's policies regarding City Councilmembers remaining non-partisan, not joining political groups, and not taking a stance on political issues.
- The Committee questioned how to make the points in the resolution enforceable or actionable. They suggested remanding it to the Legislative Committee for further review prior to being brought before the full City Council, though with Councilmember Ritchie being replaced by Councilmember Stuart for this special meeting. The committee members would therefore be comprised of Legislative Committee Members Mayor Malchow, Councilmember Valderrama and Councilmember Stuart.

**Next Meeting Date:**

Thursday, April 5, 2018, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

**Meeting Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.