

MINUTES
Joint Police Advisory Committee Meeting
March 7, 2019, 5:30-7:00
City Hall, First Floor Conference Room

JPAC Members in attendance: Ron Lucas, Chief Powers, Chief Pyle, Jackie Wolf, Karen Dahn, Kim Castor, Toby Stock, Sarah Grace, Chad Barnhardt, Brett Frederickson (for Maria Modayil), Jordyn Zimmerman

Guests: Several members of an Ohio University journalism class.

Announcements

(1) Ron announced that the investigation of what happened to the opossum found badly burned in late February in a parking lot on Congress St. is ongoing. Although torture was initially suspected, and an award was offered for any information about perpetrators, no evidence has come to light to confirm what happened.

(2) JPAC meetings will now begin at 5.

1. Spring Fests

Quite a few people attended Mill Fest but the fest dissipated on its own. The fest culture seems to have changed. **Ron** thanked both police chiefs for helping to change the culture. Parties ended in the late afternoon without protest. **Chief Pyle** noted that by 5:30 it didn't even look like there had been a party in the area.

2. Spring Safety Tour/JPAC BBQ Scheduling

Chad asked for an update on the results of the last tour. **Ron** said the data has not been received yet. JPAC members noted that the safety tour must be held after dark. **Brett**, speaking for **Maria** in her absence, said that graduate students want an off-campus safety tour. **Jordyn** said that Student Senate wants an off-campus safety tour as well; they will share specific locations of concern before the tour. **Chief Pyle** suggested that relevant web forums can solicit safety concerns in advance of the tour each year. **Chief Powers** suggested that JPAC solicit feedback from the

University senates so we know what to look at during the tour in the fall. Citizen safety concerns, on the other hand, inevitably will go to **Ron**. November 7, 2019 has been scheduled tentatively for the fall safety tour. The JPAC BBQ will be held in September or October.

3. Athens Beautification Day Project

The last two JPAC Beautification Day Projects have been assisting graffiti removal. **Ron** suggested doing something more visible this year and suggested installing plantings around the armory. **Karen** suggested native plants that attract butterflies and bees, mostly perennials with some annuals. **Brett** will contact the Undergraduate Plant Biology Interest Group and ask them to partner with JPAC on this project, to be held Sunday April 14. Professor Kim Thompson is the faculty sponsor of the student group.

4. Summer Construction Update

Ron announced that the pedestrian tunnel will not be built this summer. Only one (high) bid was received by the city, so the timeframe for the project has been extended to attract more bids. The project will now begin earlier in the spring, with the main construction in the summer, finishing up in the fall. The University has requested that the spring semester be impacted more than the fall semester. The start date for construction of the pedestrian tunnel has now been set for spring 2020.

5. Round table

Jackie asked about the four speed bumps on Columbia. **Chief Pyle** explained that several neighbors on Columbia requested them and that they are there as a trial.

Kim announced that the annual Take Back the Night march will start at 8 pm on April 4. Exhibits will open at 6 pm in Baker Center Ballroom, followed by speakers at 7, followed by the march. JPAC members are encouraged to attend after the April 4 meeting.