

**Task Force Agenda**  
**Ashland Police Task Force Public Forum**  
**Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021**  
**Virtual (Go To Meeting)**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/907852205>

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chelsea List, Angela Stroud, Anne Whiting, Bizikines “Dylan” Jennings, Bob, Brandon Marten, Caller 02, Claire Morud, CS, Dan Goghin, Deb Lewis, Essie Leoso-Corbine, Gary Newman, Jackie Moore, Jade Livingston, Kate Siegler, Kit Van Stella, Laura Nagro, Marina Lechecki, Rick, Riley, Sandy Dragon, Sarah Jackson, Sascha, Stacy Craig, Melodie Phipps

Opening – Mayor Lewis began the meeting at 6:32pm

Dylan Bizhikiins gave prayer

Cheyenne– gave an overview of task force and meeting rules

Task force members introduced themselves and Cheyenne read through meeting rules and no one in attendance at the meeting had any objections to the points she had read across that will make the meeting a safe and productive space for all.

Dylan began his presentation. Presentation will be distributed to those who request the slides to be sent to them.

Esie spoke on connections, to their own language and the policies. She also discussed the Sandy Lake Tragedy and how it is a part of Minnesota history that they tried to hide, how they tried to kill the Indian and save the man. She explained that Bad River is going back to being food sovereign state, to cut down on health problems and go back to how the tribe used to function. Esie also talked about her experience at boarding school. She began school there in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and had a good experience there and met lots of people, but she had no contact with her family, she didn’t speak to them until Christmas time. An elder once said to Esie “When we became civilized we forgot how to talk to each other.”

She taught her children and she was taught to not call the police and that goes all the way back to learning that distrust because they weren’t looked at as human beings, they were just seen as a way to make money. They were seen as bad slaves because they knew the territory and would just take off and not work. They didn’t understand the concept of money just the concept of trade. They understood the practice of only taking what you need, no need for abundance and that stays true to today.

Trauma can be felt by anyone just even talking about these ideas and concepts can be traumatizing.

Brandon Marten gave the presentation on what APD is doing and how they are using new tactics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Angela Stroud talked about how white trauma is just different than other races trauma. The resources and experiences are just different. White families have histories too but think about how they are situated in comparison

Angela Stroud: I know that officers are feeling embattled, but the critiques that are being shared--locally and nationally--and the move toward justice is critical. How can we build community with police officers while also working toward greater justice?

Melodie Phipps: I can't tell you how elated I am for this dialog we are talking about our neighbors and our community and building community I'm just thrilled that this brilliant history was presented to us in a wonderful way. I saw this new police station as a sign for a restart and let's work together for our neighbors and change up the police department. There is now an increased amount of communication and talking about wellness and treatment.

Kit Van Stelle: I enjoyed Dylan's presentation and one suggestion would be to focus on and expand on the slide he had regarding Ojibwe resiliency. Perhaps some of those cultural resiliency factors should be considered by the task force as a way to educate APD. Focus on the strengths.

Cheyenne Otto-Defoe: Maybe working towards defining what community policing looks like for the complexity of our community specifically. Any changes made to the structure of policing in Ashland need to be made in a way that fits our community. Of course keeping in mind the limits of federal and state law.

Anne Whiting: I appreciate the forum and always appreciate Esie and Brandon's comments and slide presentation. With budget cuts and not having enough money the PD department is stepping up and saying how we can make this better, how can we work together? It's not an easy answer and we need to think about

Stacy Craig asks group: What does community policing mean to you?

Brandon Marten: Interacting with kids in the schools building relationships with them, play games with them and give them stickers. As a police officer he actively included them in their conversations, listening to the complaints and what the issues were. The PD officers weren't just trying to fix their problems they were listening to what their problems were.

Eslie Leoso-Corbine: Wrote a book on community policing and her idea of community policing is exactly what Brandon is talking about. Creating a trust between officers and community members. An idea she was pushing in Odanah and Bad River was to get children to think of becoming police officers. Make kids want to grow up and be officers. This would allow for a more effective communication between Native people and Native officers. They would be able to make a connection quicker and be able to make that community policing easier. Letting children know that yes you can be a police officer you don't have to be the one getting arrested.

Drug Usage? – Stacy spoke on comment about illicit drug and alcohol use.

Melodie Phipps: Drug usage seems out of control and she looks to the police as peace makers and control makers and what they are doing is not working. We as outsiders don't see what's going on in the PD and what they are doing to help with the epidemic. We can't have genocide by drugs.

Edith Leoso: This is the same discussion that has been going on for decades. Community policing should have an aspect of education greater than the police, it needs to extend to the PD bosses, the mayor,

commissioners, etc.... There are many things about diversity that haven't changed, not one person of color is on the city of Ashland website. There is still no diversity showcased in the City of Ashland. What a rude awakening for someone who is just moving here thinking it would only be white people. Is the City of Ashland ashamed of POC? Don't be ashamed of us – have diversity have people of color getting together. Have block parties etc. have people get to know each other, have the police come out and get to know everyone. Neighbors are looking out for neighbors, and we don't really know each other.

Stacy Craig: Closed the meeting at 9 pm

Future listening and meeting dates will be posted on city website and Facebook

#### FUTURE LISTENING SESSIONS

Wed. August 25th at 6:30 PM at the Ashland Bandshell

Thursday, Sept. 9 10 AM Vaughn Library

Thursday, Sept. 23 at 6:30 PM at Bretting Community Center