

Law and Justice Council

June 26th, 2019

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Benton County Commissioners Conference Room

Present

Jerry Hatcher – Benton County Sheriff
Ken Hohenberg – Kennewick Police Chief
Andy Miller – Benton County Prosecuting Attorney
Brent Gerry – West Richland Mayor
Ben Majetich – West Richland Police Chief
Curtis Smith – Richland Police Lieutenant
Paul Parish – City of Kennewick Council Member
Ray Kofoed – Citizen Representative
Brian Ace - Executive Director Boys and Girls Club Benton and Franklin Counties
John Bruce – Richland Police Chief
Dave Giles – Prosser Police Chief
Rusty Morris – Citizen Representative
Andy Sawyer – Department of Corrections
Jason Erickson – Benton County Lieutenant

Meeting Convened at 1200 by Jerry Hatcher

Previous Meeting Minutes

Approval of last month's meeting minutes

- Motion by Brent Gerry
- 2nd by Ken Hohenberg

Guest Speaker

Brian Ace – Executive Director Boys and Girls Club (BGC) Benton and Franklin Counties

- Discussed impact of Public Safety Tax (PST) on Kennewick BGC and community
- PST allowed BGC to be proactive in community rather than reactive
- \$100,000 Initial Furnishing of Clubhouse
- \$200,000 annual grant for gang prevention and intervention
- High percentage of teenage demographic
- Supports diverse community
- BGC has been able to spend more time doing intervention with youth
 - Shared examples

Ken Hohenberg

- Commissioners played big role in helping create Kennewick BGC

Jerry Hatcher

- Expressed appreciation for the good work BGC provides to community

Brent Gerry

- Nourishment program?
 - Brian Ace explained funds provided by USDA program to help supply snack and meal

Message Campaign

Share positive stories and accomplishments with community that were made possible through PST. How do we do that?

Jerry Hatcher

- request positive stories be given to the Law and Justice Council (LJC) to use in media campaign to be used on Law Enforcement Facebook/Web pages, County and City Facebook/Web pages, follow up stories with local media
- Commissioners are waiting for ideas from LJC for how to spend some of the surplus money

Ken Hohenberg

- Use BGC as a model of positive stories, KPD hired a young man who was mentored by BGC
- agrees presentations are good idea, start preparing to do them beginning next year
- Show public how money has been used within each jurisdiction
- There were programs identified and recommended by LJC that would be paid for by the county. Recommend looking at other programs that can be paid for by community that benefit the multiple communities

Ben Majetich

- Send out monthly media release that can be shared on all agency pages

Andy Miller

- Lauren DPA position funded by PST
- Veteran's Court PST
- agrees with Majetich's comments about monthly media release

Curtis Smith

- Do a five year status report (Hatcher identify categories with Crime Analyst) provided by each agency

Paul Parish

- use media to help push message

Brent Gerry

- Utility billing inserts, regional chamber, rotary club presentations
- National Night Out, use positive PST stories at the event to promote PST
- Needs have changed, formula of necessities have changed, funding source and allocation of funds need to change – Hohenberg allocation of funds established by state law

Brian Ace

- If counties/cities turn in positive message to Shyanne and then do a media press release – Not presenting just to Benton County Webpage

Citizen members of Law and Justice Council

Jerry Hatcher

- Identify number of citizens to be on council (minimum of three citizens)

- Interested citizens
 - Al Weiner
 - Rob Francis
- Letter of interest, interview them, or just submit list of interested members to the commissioners? Create process for citizens to apply?
- Media release regarding looking for citizen members of LJC
- Previous/Currently listed members
 - Fred Brink
 - Jefferson Coulter
 - Kevin Kennedy
 - Dr Rusty Morris

Andy Miller

- suggests keeping number fluid and creating a diverse body
- Public Defense needs to be a part of LJC
- recruit diverse, committed citizens who want to be members

Ray Kofoed

- Critical to identify the right persons, who are committed to LJC, and have appropriate assignment

Brent Gerry

- Important not to get too large

Ken Hohenberg

- We need members to make LJC priority

Identify current and future needs to be funded out of PST – Tabled for next meeting

- Metro Drug Task Force

Unscheduled Business – None

Adjourned 1:01pm