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Minutes
Special CRB Meeting
1340 'E' Street - Conference Room
June 28, 1972
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. McClure. She stated the reason for the meeting and then turned it over to Paul Cossette.

ATTENDANCE:

Members in attendance were: Paul Cossette, Ms. Ollie R. Edwards, Erskine Garrette, Doretha Graham, Reverend George McKinney, Oscar Morlett, Marcus Mosley, Ethellynn Neal, Joseph Ortega, Betty Steinback, Jose Villa, Carrie E. Wooden and Paul Francis

Excused: Fred Kunzel and Robert McDonald

Staff: Will Hagler, Wes Whetstone, Andrea Gholston and Connie Fedeli.

Visitors: Robert McKinney- Project Jove, Carol Brown Dave Dixon, LaQuinta Johnson-Model Cities, Lillian Edwards-Model Cities, Melinda Dudley, Arnulfo Quintero, Anthony Regos -PINTO Program, Terry Ahles-PINTO Program, Israel Ryoc-Project Jove and Ralph Mendoza.

BUSINESS:

Mr. Cossette said that he had been called before the Grand Jury to give testimony about the Honor Camp system and the Parole Division of the County. He stated that he would not be able to answer many questions because he had been sworn to secrecy but he did clearify a few matters for the board. He said that Steve Casey's article in the newspaper was accurate and correct. He also said that there was no fued between the District Attorney's office and the Parole Division, but that there are certain people on his staff that disagree with him and they have been contacted by the District Attorney. He stated that there is a big argument going on in the whole criminal justice system as well as the prison and parole system concerning the treatment and rehabilitation of parolees. He raised a few pertinent questions concerning the parolees and stated that he is one of the new breed officers that does whatever is necessary to help a re-entering parolee adjust to society, and that these differences of opinion within the system is what the investigation is all about.

Bob McKinney, director of Project Jove, stated that San Diego has one of the lowest recindivism rates in the State. He said that he has had the complete cooperation of the Parole Division in the past two and a half years he has been heading his program. He stated that in his opinion, there is no foundation for the charges but that the District Attorney is just doing his job.

Mr. Dan Dixon, an ex-offender, stated that "In the 50's, parole officers were right on a guy's case - parole officers were rough." He came to San Diego because he knew he couldn't handle parole in Los Angeles and that since he's been here, he has had " a couple of breaks." He said " I don't think the Grand Jury knows what the community's needs are. I'd like to see community involvement. We need that help from the community organizations and programs."

Mr. Anthony Regos, Director of College Parole Program at San Diego State College stated that " The convict suffers from life style self images and changes. Once he hits prison he changes life styles and his self image. When he comes out he suffers from what is called dual image. He needs someone to help him adjust. The majority of convicts are minorities."

Ralph Mendoza of the Western Behaviorial Science Institute, an ex-convict of some 25 years in penal institutions who has been off parole for 6 months, stated that "Things have changed in the past 5 years. Community involvement has helped tremendously."

Mr. Carol Brown, another ex-convict now employed by the schools, concurred with Mr. Mendoza.

The question of how much it costs to keep a man in prison arose and it was stated that annually it costs $3,500 per man. A new institution would run $15,000 per bed with a total cost of $20,000,000.

Mrs. Wooden suggested that a fund for ex-offenders be set up and it was stated that the Model Ex-Offender program directed by Glen Cornist is already operating and that they need financial assistance. Their fund for parolee's aid is down to $2,000 for the rest of the year. They are housed at 1719 National Avenue and presently have 24 male parolees living there.

Bob McKinney recommended that the voices of protest be heard all the way to Sacramento and that community interest and concern about the support of the Parole Division be raised. Letters should be sent to Ray Copunia, Director of Corrections and all other avenues of protest should be utilized to the fullest extent, i.e., petitions from community residents, open letters to the public, mewspaper articles, etc.

Paul Cossette stated that the community should be aware of the needs of the parolee and that efforts should be directed toward community based organizations. He also said that parolees need social introductions within the community to round out their re-adjustment process.

Mrs. Edwards suggested that a meeting be set up with the foreman of the Grand Jury to discuss the issues.

Kenny Denmon recommended that pressure be put on the local media to broadcast the issue, such as churches, Congressmen and social groups.

It was suggested that the board write the secretary of the Grand Jury and petition for an audience.

IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT THE BOARD ASK FOR AN AUDIENCE BEFORE THE GRAND JURY ON MATTERS DISCUSSED THIS EVENING.

There was discussion on the make-up of a sub-committee for strategy in the writing of letters to the Director of Corrections and such others as warranted.

MOTION WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED TO GIVE STAFF PERMISSION TO USE WHATEVER STRATEGY THEY DEEM NECESSARY IN THE DRAFTING OF LETTERS, PETITIONS, ETC., ON BEHALF OF THE CRB.

Reverend McKinney suggested that the sub-committee include Mrs. McClure and representatives from the law enforcement agencies on this board along with the Director, Mr. Hagler. The sub-committee is made up of the following members:

Fred Kunzel, Erskine Garrette, Ardelia McClure, Will Hagler, Reverend George McKinney and Mrs. Ethellynn Neal.

It was further suggested that the committee have representation from the ex-convicts because of their first hand knowledge of the situation. Mr. Hagler stated that the committee should be composed of board members only but that it would utilize resources of the others mentioned.

Bob McKinney stated that ex-convicts should go to the Grand Jury on their own to keep the validity of such dealings.

Ms. LaQuinta Johnson of Model Cities reminded the board that they can utilize the Model Cities Law and Justice Committee as one of their resources.

Mr. Hagler stated that he will make a presentation before her committee at their next meeting to solicit their support.

Kenny Denmon spoke about the situation at the park on Sundays and mentioned what an excellent job Mr. Hagler and the others have been doing. Mrs. McClure stated that more manpower is needed to canvass the park from 11am until dark. Mr. Whetstone stated that they also plan the same type of activities at Chicano Park and they need input from those who attend it.

Mrs. Wooden suggested that the board get input from the young people who attend the park and invite them to a meeting. Mr. Hagler stated that young people had been asked already but that the board cannot take over the park and recreation department's job. He stated that the board should coordinate activities and ideas with the Mountain View Committee.

It was suggested that this issue be dealt with at a later date because funds for recreation and law and justice are all synonymous.

Mrs. McClure remarked that the park volunteers have succeeded in keeping the San Diego Police force out of the park for the past few Sundays. Mr. Hagler noted that there have been several black officers at the park as citizens who have been very helpful.

NOTES:

Mr. John Jordan, coordinator of volunteer services for Model Ex-Offenders can be reached at 1719 National Avenue - Phone 234-6191 for information concerning activities.

A fund-raiser for Model Ex-Offenders will be held at the Sportsman Club at 5080 Logan Avenue, on July 10th from 8pm - 2am. Donation $5.00 per person.

IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN.