



Grandparents Against Gun Violence Meeting Minutes August 23, 2021

Our Mission

We work to reduce gun violence to keep all children safe at home, at school and in our community.

President Judy Sherry convened the meeting at 4:10 am in the sanctuary of Colonial Church and on Zoom. She thanked Pastor Aaron Roberts and staff for offering the safe space, for managing our audio and video, and for their wonderful partnership over the years.

Judy referred to the editorial in the Sunday, August 22, 2021 *The Kansas City Star* about the Chief's responsibility to speak up about gun violence.

In a city plagued by gun violence, where [100-plus homicides per year](#) have become the norm, we believe the Chiefs' organization and its top players owe it to the community to take a tougher, more public stance against bloodshed and killings. That means players and coaches, whose voices can make a difference, must take prominent leadership roles in reducing the warfare that plagues city streets.

Judy will write to the Star Board on behalf of GAGV and encourages GAGV members to call or write as well. Judy noted that when people we admire urge us to do something, it is often a turning point.

Judy announced a turning point for this organization. The Communications Committee attended a webinar last spring led by Frameworks, a communications group that does research and then recommends messaging. Seven recommendations were each followed by a series of positive words that we will begin to incorporate in our messaging.

Carol Gee continued the communications report. After viewing the Framework presentation, committee members recognized the need to rethink our messaging, shared beliefs, and possibly our name. Working with Morrie Pitluck they conducted a Zoom focus group. Morrie distilled from the research that this organization cares about making the world a safer place. We focus on promoting safe gun storage, gun training, gun education and gun locks. We work with both local and national organizations to advocate for gun legislation that respects positions of gun owners and non-owners. His recommendation: change our name to

Grandparents for Gun Safety. Stand with Us.

A press release announcing our new name will be sent out following the Heartland Coalition Forum.

Statements also announced:

Vision: All members of our community have the right to feel safe from gun violence.

Mission: We focus on working for solutions, educating the community and seeking common ground reform that respects the rights of gun owners and non-owners alike.

What we believe: By standing together we can add power to our combined voices to make an impact on legislation and gun safety. We invite you to stand with us!

Nancy Oglesby described her work to create an exciting, crisp, modern image and showed the new logo to much applause. T-shirts, polos, hoodies and hats will be available after the forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

The next meeting is Thursday, September 27, 4 pm at Colonial Church and via Zoom.

Reminder:

8th Annual Community Forum

Gun Violence: Strategies to Curb This Public Health Epidemic

Webinar on Monday, October 11, 2021

