

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023 – 8:00 am
VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM

In attendance:

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development
Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP	Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief
Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services	Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations
Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development
Chuck Stam, Community Member	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA
Donna Maser, Legal Representative	Leanna Kemp, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce
Kim Spice, Recording Secretary	Michelle Price, Community Member

Regrets:

Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice
Inspector Steve Vrolyk, Operations Officer, RCMP	Peter Lang, Correctional Service of Canada

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and provided territorial acknowledgement.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee held
 Seconded (Wednesday, March 15, 2023, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee held
 Seconded (Wednesday, February 15, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services, provided an update regarding meetings held with First Nations representatives to discuss recent amendments to the City's business license bylaw to include shopping cart management requirements.

Brian Foote joined the meeting at 8:07 am.

6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

9. REPORTS

Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP and Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, reported on the following:

a) RCMP

1. The Polar Plunge took place, appreciation was shared for those in attendance.
2. OIC Awards will take place March 15, 2023; Garrett Schipper and Caitlin Weston will be receiving an award at this ceremony for their work implementing a bylaw regarding bear and pepper spray.
3. Development of the RCMP Strategic Plan is underway; committee members were encouraged to complete a survey as part of the community engagement piece.
4. Changes to the Mental Health Act allow psychiatric Nurses and Nurse Practitioners to assist in the hospital Emergency Room by providing an initial intake to admit patients for up to 48 hours followed by further patient assessment by a psychiatric doctor. Staff will be tracking statistics to look at how the RCMP are impacted by this change.
5. The ongoing investigation regarding content of School District 33 books did not meet a criminal threshold, as identified in court. RCMP recognize that some individuals may find the material concerning, however they are not considered to have a criminal element.

b) Fire Department

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Bourdon reported on the following:

1. Collaboration with AgSafe BC is ongoing to provide information to dairy producers and the farming community regarding fire prevention and awareness, pre-planning and emergency management, as the Fire Department does not have authority to do onsite safety inspections on farm land.
2. Partnership with Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services to support Block Watch Captains with fire safety training such as the Home Safe Program and Fire Extinguisher Training.
3. Twenty Paid-on-Call Firefighters will graduate from training on March 29, 2023
4. Five Career Firefighters are currently being trained with anticipated completion set for May.

c) BIA

Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA, reported on the following:

1. Provided thanks to those that attending the Safety Meeting on March 1, 2023; minutes will be forthcoming.
2. Twenty security cameras are now operational in businesses/merchants in the downtown core.

9. REPORTS (continued)

d) Bylaw Department

Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services reported on the following:

1. Staffing updates:
 - In the last stages of hiring a LTTT replacement for one Bylaw Officer
 - Two positions were posted for Assistant Managers that will provide supervisory weekend coverage; Bylaw staff continue to provide 11 hours of coverage everyday
2. Two electric bikes have been purchased, for a total of 3 electric bikes in the fleet; these will be utilized in the coming weeks for bike patrol
3. Change in season has shifted focus to spring/summer issues which require more coverage

e) ICBC

Tanis Hatch, ICBC, reported on the following:

1. Distracted Driving Month began in March
2. Deployments through Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services will be ongoing to spread the message of not using a phone while operating a vehicle.

f) School District

Mark Klassen, Manager of Facilities, School District 33, reported on the following:

1. Spring Break will commence next week. Custodial staff have been secured to sweep school properties to ensure they are safe for children and families to utilize during the break.
2. Identification of youth vandalizing school property is ongoing, SD33 staff are dealing with it internally
3. Exterior fire at Imagine High, no serious damage was reported
4. Acknowledgment and appreciation for Holly Ferris and her hard work on the PiT Count was noted.
5. Call for Service to RCMP was made on March 14, 2023 regarding an uncooperative protestor; a section 177 is ready for the next encounter.

Steve Roukema, Executive Director of Chilliwack Restorative Justice and RCMP encouraged SD33 staff to make referrals and report incidents of vandalism when they occur.

g) Operations

Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations, reported on the following:

1. Transitioning to Spring weather clean up; keeping a watchful eye on higher altitude areas to ensure road safety is maintained in colder weather.
2. Staff are currently preparing for freshet season.
3. A mini road sweeper has been purchased and will be utilized in the coming weeks.

9. REPORTS (continued)

h) Social Development

Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development, reported on the following:

1. Shelter numbers:
 - Shelter beds- on average 189 out of 185 beds utilized, at full capacity each night
 - EWR – an average of 42 individuals utilize the emergency weather shelter, which was open for 10 nights
 - Youth shelter – an average of four out of nine beds are being utilized at the youth shelter
 - Wellness Centre – an average of 67 individuals each day
2. Reaching Home RFP's, which include funding for Indigenous Housing Facilitator, Prevention and Shelter Diversion, Street Outreach and Indigenous Youth and Youth Outreach closed February 22, 2023. The evaluation committee met and made funding recommendations to the Community Advisory Board. The Community Advisory Board formalized the recommendations to present at the next Council Meeting on March 21, 2023.
3. The Point in Time Count has concluded. The shelter portion was on March 7, 2023 and the surveys were completed on March 8, 2023. Information regarding numbers and demographics will be provided through the Fraser Valley Regional District in the coming months.
4. Fire Department and supportive housing issues have been addressed and BCH has been notified. Calls for Service have been reduced and Fire Department staff are pleased with how well the situation has rectified thus far.
5. Staff are currently updating the Chilliwack Resources and Services Card to include the Wellness Centre. It will be distributed to service agencies, as well as the Downtown BIA to provide to businesses/merchants, as interest was expressed for them at the Safety Meeting.

i) Restorative Justice

Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice, reported on the following:

1. There were zero referrals in February; staff are trying to increase referrals through engagement with Bylaw, the School District and Downtown BIA.
2. 48 volunteers with 60 volunteer hours
3. School Facilitators conduct Peace Circles with students in 56 classes
4. Better Way Celebration fundraising/silent auction event will take place on May 6, 2023
5. Part-time Community Coordinator position will be vacant and posted in the coming weeks

j) Stó:lō Justice

No report.

9. REPORTS (continued)

k) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services (City of Chilliwack)

Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services, reported on the following:

1. Speed Watch: 6 deployments
2. Staff are currently working collaboratively with ICBC and RCMP Traffic Section on deployments for Distracted Driving Month
3. Working in unison with the Fire Department for Block Watch Parties and Crime Free Safety Socials to provide training regarding fire extinguishers and “Home Safe” program
4. Senior residencies are currently scheduling “Senior Safety/Scams/Frauds” presentations for 2023 and local businesses are scheduling Robbery Prevention training
5. Preparation is ongoing for upcoming community event (ex. Information Table and Sgt. Safety Bear)
6. April 20th, 2023 is the CPS Annual Volunteer appreciation dinner; invitations will be forthcoming

l) Legal Representative

Donna Maser, Legal Representative, reported that there will be a Family Court Users meeting in the coming weeks and encouraged PSAC members to reach out to her if they wish to attend; an invitation will be forthcoming.

m) Chamber of Commerce

Leanna Kemp, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce, reported that she will be attending future PSAC meetings for the Chamber of Commerce.

Discussion with Operations and Bylaw regarding plans for a meeting with businesses in Sardis is ongoing, as it pertains to issues concerning security. Messages from the Downtown BIA will be duplicated and distributed to the Chamber network and merchants in the Southside. Reporting of any criminal incidents will be encouraged as part of the messaging campaign.

n) Crime Prevention/Education

Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention, provided thanks to the Operations Department for the work done in Ryder Lake.

o) Corrections

No report.

p) Community Members

Michelle Price, community member, reminded members of The Journey Towards Belonging event that will take place on March 16, 2023 at S.A.Y. Lands Office on Chilliwack River Road. She also acknowledged the Chamber for being recognized with a Cultural Diversity Award and Tydel Foods for their food security efforts.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

Moved /) That, in accordance with Section 90 (1)(f) of the *Community Charter*, the Committee hold a
Seconded (Closed meeting.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Mercer, Chair