

**City of Chilliwack**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, June 21, 2023 – 8:00 am**  
**VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM**

**In attendance:**

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair
Inspector Darren Pankratz, RCMP	Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development
Garrett Schipper, D/Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Andrew Pipke, Senior Road Safety Specialist	Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks
Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Leanna Kemp, Chamber of Commerce
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Donna Maser, Legal Representative
Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA	Michelle Price, Community Member
Chris Wilson, Assistant Fire Chief	Jaimie Tocher, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:**

Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP	Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing
Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention	Peter Lang, Correctional Service of Canada
Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief
Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice	Chuck Stam, Community Member
Superintendent Davy Lee, OIC, RCMP	

**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, June 21, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved / ) That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee held  
 Seconded ( Wednesday, May 17, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**4. DELEGATION**

Inspector Darren Pankratz, RCMP informed the committee that the delegation had not yet arrived, they could be held up, so Chair Mercer proceeded to reports.

**5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

**6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS**

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**9. REPORTS**

**a) RCMP**

Inspector Darren Pankratz, RCMP reported on the following:

1. The UFVRD Strategic Planning process - community engagement is now complete after 7 meetings, while targeted stakeholder engagement meetings are still ongoing; the hope is to be finished in early July. The data will then be collated for further review; so far concerns specific to Chilliwack are social issues, people experiencing homelessness, traffic discussions, and property events.
2. The Chilliwack RCMP's Open House on June 10 was well attended, with over 600 people.
3. The RCMP Musical ride is coming June 29<sup>th</sup> for their 150-anniversary tour.
4. Staffing update – the Chilliwack Detachment has now been identified as a division staffing priority which will assist them in filling a few key positions that are needed, and bring them up to the regular Lower Mainland and Provincial staffing averages.
5. A Community Safety support event was held for the residents of Knight Road. It was an informal meeting, with open invitation and about 6-8 attendees, with victim services also attending. A similar meeting was also held with leaders from the neighbouring Skowkale First Nation.

**b) Fire Department**

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Wilson reported on the following:

1. Fire crews attended 358 incidents in May, which is trending a bit lower compared to yearly totals; there were 42 non-reportable fires (21 of those being grass, brush, bark mulch), and 7 structure fires reported.
2. Wildfire risk continues to grow provincially, but precipitation has assisted recently.
3. Emergency management preparedness - 7 new Information Officers have just finished training.
4. The June 8 fire on Vedder Mountain road.

**c) BIA**

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

1. Visit to Chilliwack from the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Sheila Malcolmson, with MLA Kelli Paddon, members from Ruth and Naomi's representatives, Chilliwack BIA members; a tour of the downtown area with the street cleaning team which resulted in a great turnout and good conversations. The provincial grant of \$125,000 will help fund the street-cleaning team through Ruth and Naomi's for the entire next year.

2. Rotary Tour of the downtown, showing the new 1881 development had a great turnout.
3. Downtown Chilliwack BIA Annual General Meeting is at 5:30 pm, Thursday June 22 at the Coast Hotel.
4. The Downtown Chilliwack BIA Village Classic Car show is on Sunday June 25, with the expectation of a great turnout.

**d) Bylaw Department**

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

1. Recruitment – interviews are completed and there will be a full contingent of bylaw staff soon, to ensure 7 days/week coverage
2. Areas of concern including the south side bottle depot, Brannick road, former Canadian Tire site, and downtown parks
3. Bylaw worked with RCMP and the school district to address concerns in Garrison area. One business has reported shoplifters. Cllr. Mercer suggested that Chilliwack Crime Prevention services could maybe assist, so they will proactively reach out to the owner
4. Recent concerns have come up about the Sportsman Motel, from Cheam elementary school and the school district.
5. Issues regarding car haulers parking on Yale Road and unloading cars onto the roadway have come up recently, this causes traffic congestion and potential unsafe conditions; a fine was issued recently to a car hauler and staff are now working with the RCMP Traffic section to see if they can assist

**e) ICBC**

Tanis Hatch, ICBC, reported on events this summer re: impaired awareness

**f) School District**

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

1. Thanking school liaison officers for the work they do supporting schools and staff, they have done a fantastic job; very appreciative of relationships between members of the committee, and the open communications between members which aids everyone in resolving issues.
2. School district will have staff out during the summer, Monday – Friday, checking playgrounds, fields, etc for debris, garbage, ensuring spaces are safe. A number of incidents re: vandalism on school properties have been filed through the online police reporting

**g) Public Works & Parks**

Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks, reported on the following:

1. General maintenance is occurring, as we are past the freshet now there is no flood danger; staff are focusing on road safety, patching potholes, looking after vegetation, roadside mowing, with the drainage maintenance program now starting as well.
2. Information was requested regarding interactions on trails between horses, pedestrians, e-bikes, complaints are down on main section of Rotary trail, the biggest trouble area is Peach Creek which prohibits horses and bicycles, crews recently installed new bold signs with flags, current feedback has been good with a notable difference in the amount of issues.

**h) Social Development**

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

1. Shelter numbers for May 2023:
  - Shelter beds – on average 153 out of 181 beds utilized;
  - Youth beds – on average 4.5 out of 9 beds utilized;
  - Wellness Centre – on average 77 people visited daily.
2. On May 31, 2023, 26 beds were closed, so the month-to-date numbers for June:
  - Shelter beds – on average 147 out of 152 beds utilized,
  - Youth beds – on average 6 of the 9 beds utilized,
  - Wellness Centre – on average 95 people visited daily.
3. Two training sessions were held, one by The Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute regarding de-escalating potentially violent situations, and, another by A Way Home Canada regarding Indigenous Homelessness training, that had 32 participants.
4. Staff noted that the Wellness Centre continues to be a very well utilized service. Staff have been working with Fraser Health to develop a plan for the Wellness Centre beyond this year.
5. A Consultant has been working with Staff to assist with issues around Trethewey. With similar issues happening across Canada, there is a need to brainstorm what communities can do, and the steps they can take to strengthen communication, support and response to these situations.
6. Inspector Pankratz noted that there has been an 18% increase in mental health calls for service to the RCMP, with an overall increase in general call volume of only 8%; showing that the mental health related calls to the RCMP have increased disproportionately to general calls for service.

**i) Restorative Justice**

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

1. Restorative School program - 58 class sessions in 4 schools in the month of May; continuing partnership with school district next year; expanding to different schools (grade 4 and 6 classes), teaching restorative values, how to deal with conflict and communication skills.
2. There were 8 new referrals in May from the RCMP, theft, uttering threats, mischief, total of 36 active files – 17 are with mentors to help them to get integrated into community.
3. There were eight restorative circles held in May - 3 Victim-Offender Conferences, and 5 Community Accountability Panels.
4. 110 restorative circle volunteer hours, with 48 active volunteers, and a total of 116 total hours.
5. Soft launch for Restorative Cycle bike shop was on May 27<sup>th</sup>, and Sept 9<sup>th</sup> will be the big launch; have just hired a bike mechanic to keep the flow of bikes coming in and out.
6. Participated with RCMP open house on June 10, as well as one coming up in July with Superstore for an awareness/BBQ, starting to plan for Operation Red Nose in the Christmas season.

**j) Stó:lō Justice**

No report.

**k) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services (City of Chilliwack)**

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

1. 4 senior safety presentations
2. Participated in the Community Support event on Knight road.
3. Safety fair at the mall with Sgt. Safety Bear, an RCMP member, and a vehicle.
4. Two information tables at two of RCMP's strategic plan events.
5. Participated with the fire hall in the Home Safe training (Block Watch and crime free multi-housing).

6. Speed Watch did 15 deployments, 2x3 strike projects, total of 14 tickets, 8 tickets on Giesbrecht Road, 6 tickets on Keith Wilson Road; 310 warning letters sent out, potential fines total \$56,778.
7. Block watch – new areas are Fairbanks and Halcyon Meadows, adding car seat education training to block parties; Teskey area showing interest in Block watch.
8. Speed Watch – Jinkerson Park area had received some complaints regarding the playground areas, staff will schedule some speed watches in the area.
9. Spray paint program – to cover graffiti on garbage cans downtown, good program and volunteers also enjoy.

**l) Legal Representative**

No report.

**m) Chamber of Commerce**

Cllr. Read spoke on behalf of Leanna Kemp, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce; who attended via Zoom but was on the road.

1. Thanked the City on behalf of the business community, for the de-escalation training on June 12<sup>th</sup>; there were 36 people in attendance, had small yet impactful takeaways, felt value in that program.
2. Will be reaching back out to the policing team to see how Chamber of Commerce can be more proactive, with the businesses in and around the former Canadian Tire site.

**n) Crime Prevention/Education**

No report.

**o) Corrections**

Mr. Lang sent his regrets for the meeting, but also sent an email of concern regarding a rally planned for July 1 at Salish Park. Cllr. Mercer advised the City cannot discriminate against any group, unless it is hate speech or a breach of federal statute. RCMP and Bylaw are aware and will be present where required.

**p) Community Members**

Michelle Price, community member, reported on the following:

1. Glad to hear of speed watch in Jinkerson Park.
2. Thanked the School District and RCMP for their involvement in the high school graduation celebrations, keeping grads safe, great communication to parents.

**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

  
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Councillor Mercer, Chair