

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, March 20, 2024 – 8:00 am
VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM

In attendance:

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair
Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development	Inspector, Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP
Andy Brown, Fire Chief	Krista Minar, Assistant Fire Chief
Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development	Garrett Schipper, D/Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement
Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Leanna Kemp, Chamber of Commerce
Chuck Stam, Community Member	Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks
Paisley Hammerton, Recording Secretary	Lilly Yakmission, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Corporal, Carmen Kiener, Media Relations Officer, RCMP	Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice
Tanis Bieber, ICBC	Michelle Price, Community Member
Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice

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 20, 2024, 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, February 21, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

9. REPORTS

a) RCMP

Inspector Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP, reported on the following:

1. Working on Traffic initiatives for February and March.
2. March is distracted driving month. Partnering Crime Prevention, ICBC and the City on initiatives. Targeting high traffic areas such as Vedder and Luckakuck.
3. Increase in youth out and about during Spring Break. Have ramped up patrols through areas such as Garrison and Webster Park.
4. February saw an increase in calls for service, 2508 calls, 400 more calls than 2023. Information officers took 358 calls off RCMP members plates.
5. Saw a slight drop in property crime. Increase in assist the general public calls such as unwanted guests and loitering.

Councillor Mercer asked Inspector Kheleh to provide a brief presentation during the next meeting on the Alexa Team Awards.

b) Fire Department

Fire Chief, Andy Brown, reported on the following:

1. Actively hiring a new Assistant Fire Chief of Training and Operations and Fire Clerk.
2. Hiring paid-on-call brigade chiefs for Hall 2 and Hall 4.
3. Third annual youth camp on March 25 – students attending from local high schools.
4. 19 paid-on-call members are graduating on March 27th.
5. Hosted program called “responding to interface fire.” This program is designed to combine wildfire and structural firefighting. Pilot project funded through the Federal Gov. First community in BC to complete this training. 125 firefighters participated from 6 different fire departments.
6. 16 career firefighters are completing emergency management 2 which is a part of the Fire Officer Program.

Assistant Fire Chief, Krista Minar, reported on the following:

1. Mobile food trucks can be inspected through Fire Department. Concerns can be brought forward to the Fire Department.
2. Open burning season starts from March through April.

c) BIA

Trevor McDonald, BIA, reported on the following:

1. Biggest spend for BIA this year has been glass grants. Broken windows are a very big concern downtown.
2. Grateful for the Wellness Centre on Trethewey. Saw a difference downtown when it was closed for a week in February.
3. Continue communication with building owners.
4. Kudos to graffiti teams – 7 days a week graffiti removal.
5. Events coming up: Party in the Park on May 4 and 5. Car show on June 23.

d) Bylaw Department

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

1. Making annual transition from Winter to Spring and Summer. Having challenges around Ruth and Naomi's, the Wellness Centre, and the rail trail.
2. Seeing residual effects of Island 22 encampment.
3. Getting three electric bikes tuned up in order to hit the rotary trail and rail trail.
4. Parks have been pretty good for the last few months but expecting tents to start popping up with the weather getting warmer.

e) ICBC

Tanis Hatch, ICBC, reported on the following:

1. March is distracted driving month. ICBC is working with police and volunteers to help remind drivers to focus on the road and leave their phones alone.
2. ICBC's learn to drive smart manual is now available in 6 language's; English, Farsi, Arabic, Punjabi, Chinese and Vietnamese. These manuals are available online or at a local driver licensing office.
3. Upcoming Think of Me project in partnership with local police and the city for May's speed campaign to help address speed concerns at elementary schools. The project will start as a pilot at three schools and may expand to others based on feedback

f) School District

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

1. Spring Break has officially begun.
2. Working to ensure that people experiencing homelessness are not on school district sites over the break

g) Public Works & Parks

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

1. Operations is completing winter cleanup - sweeping sidewalks, roads, and bike lanes.
2. Dyke inspection is complete – finalizing report.
3. Gearing up for drainage maintenance program – cleaning ditches throughout spring and summer.

h) Social Development

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

1. Emergency weather shelter was open for three nights in February.
2. Average of 180 people in shelters for the month of February.
3. Youth shelter was full every single night.
4. Wellness Centre was closed due to construction for 6 days.
5. Council approved Prevention and Diversion plans for Wilma's and Chilliwack and District Resources Society, case management services for the housing hub to PCRS, and coordinated community outreach.

i) Restorative Justice

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

1. 49 Active files as of end of February.
2. 7 New Restorative Justice Referrals for Month (Feb) from: RCMP School - 3 (1 uttering threats; 2 theft under \$5k), Loss Prevention Officers - 4 (theft under \$500).
3. 4 Restorative Circles completed in Feb (2 VOC/2 CAP) by volunteers
4. 53 Peace Circles in 7 different schools in Chilliwack
5. Community events in February: VOC training, mentor training on March 2, and the GALA Fundraiser on April 6.
6. 40 active volunteers, 120 total volunteer hours in February.

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. Working on hiring a Block Watch Program Clerk. This is a new position, Michelle is working on the framework which includes three phases. Want to work with Leanna and Trevor to enhance the program. Focusing on group business areas such as Southgate and Garrison; covering from Yarrow to Rosedale, not focusing on particular area.
2. 439.5 volunteer hours in the month of February.
3. Speed Watch working with the City, ICBC, and RCMP on speed and distracted driving initiatives.
4. 14 Speed Watch deployments, highest speed was 97 kms/hr on Bradner Lane and Teskey Way.
5. Sent out 62 warning letters.
6. Block Watch is focusing on business watch program. Still busy with the problematic area in Fairfield Island.
7. CPS completed one senior safety presentation.
8. Interviewed 3 new volunteers.
9. Gearing up for upcoming events.

l) Legal Representative

No report.

m) Chamber of Commerce

Leanna Kemp, Chamber of Commerce, reported on the following:

1. Chamber have surveyed members and 4 keys pain points include: digital marketing support, HR – people and retention, legislative advocacy, and public safety. The Chamber has decided to have a meeting for businesses. The idea is to invite speakers from the RCMP, tourism, and community futures. Speakers would have 5-10 to present and then open up for a Q&A. Want to allow businesses to gather resources. Aiming for May 15.

Chair Mercer noted the importance of education surrounding Public Safety.

2. The Chamber is working to create a video series for local businesses. Leanna noted that they will interview several individuals surrounding topics and or content that is valid for local businesses. For example, they interviewed an economist to give tips to individuals and businesses last year. Topics may include fire safety and inspections, supporting the community through disaster, bylaws and enforcement, etc. The goal of this initiative is to provide the community with key messages in 60-90 seconds.

n) Corrections

No report.

o) Community Members

1. No report.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

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

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Mercer, Chair

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