

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, June 19, 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	Jen Hahn, Deputy CAO and Director of HR
Inspector, Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP	Corporal, Brad Rendall, Community Policing, RCMP
Chris Wilson, Assistant Fire Chief	Krista Minar, Assistant Fire Chief
Garrett Schipper, D/Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice
Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention	Scott Funk, Superintendent of Public Works
Justin Mallard, Chamber of Commerce	Mayor Popove
Lilly Yakmission, Recording Secretary	

Regrets:

Tanis Bieber, ICBC	Michelle Price, Community Member
Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks	Andy Brown, Fire Chief
Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice
Leanna Kemp, Chamber of Commerce	Chuck Stam, Community Member

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 19, 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, May 15, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

Inspector, Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP, introduced Constable Choi, Vickland, Welku, and Farahbakchian.

Constable Choi, Vickland, Welku, and Farahbakchian left the meeting at 8:04am.

5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Assistant Fire Chief, Chris Wilson provided a presentation on the Chilliwack Emergency Support Services Team.

Emergency Support Services Program:

- Provincially administered and funded but, delivered locally by volunteers.
- Main intent and mandate are to provide immediate needs to people that are displaced from natural disasters such as fire, flood or earthquakes.
- The program is self-sustaining. There are no mutual aid agreements with other ESS teams, the Province has specially trained teams.
- The Province pushed for modernization, the intent is to improve gaps and provide various different types of supports. The evacuee registration and assistance tool is a helpful tool people can pre-register themselves as an evacuee and obtain supports virtually. The Province also recently announced an accommodation tool where people can source their own accommodation when displaced.
- The ESS team has been in existence for almost 30 years, there are approximately 13-16 volunteers, a Part Time ESS Director and a Part Time Deputy Director.
- We have an arrangement of physical supplies, both stationary caches and two mobile trailers ready to deploy at any moment. Reception Centre group lodging kits ready to go.
- The ESS team created a couple cultural support specialist/community navigator positions funded through the ministry to provide support to Indigenous people during evacuations.
- Typically get between 12 and 15 activations per year, large majority are single family dwelling fires where there are displaced occupants and pets. Not meant for people who have the means or insurance. Assessment is done to make sure they are eligible, we find that 20% of any given population will require ESS supports.
- Activation process: Chilliwack Fire Department duty chief will activate through fire dispatch for response, or through provincial task number, can be on scene within 45 minutes from initial notification.

Achievements:

- In 2017, Chilliwack was the first to activate a regional reception center to help evacuees from out of area, we worked with teams from Hope to West Vancouver. Serviced over 2200 people over 42 straight days of activation.
- Air Assist was born out of Chilliwack. Full tracking spreadsheet and database.
- In 2021, 6000 evacuee contacts through the Lytton wildfires, estimated the business boost to the City of Chilliwack to be over 2 million dollars.
- In 2021, ESS assisted over 1100 evacuees during the atmospheric river flooding event. Chilliwack residents billeted over 500 Abbotsford residents.
- We have had a lot of accolades from evacuees and upper management at EMCR.

Vice Chair Read asked about Indigenous and other cultural supports. Chris Wilson noted they do link up with various NGOs and faith-based organizations. ESS can pull in group supports to either have a virtual contact or physical contact in our reception center.

Chair Mercer recommended delegation to Council.

Assistant Chief Wilson left meeting at 8:23am.

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 monthly stats for May:

- 3001 dispatched files, assigned to members to respond for calls for service. Minimum 10 constables, sometimes less, can get CRT to jump in and help support.
- Information Officers are taking around 25% of calls. These are calls that can be resolved over the phone vs a member assigned and having to attend.
- Crimes against person continuing to drop down 7%, around 81 less files.
- Uptake in fatalities, last year had 2 around this time, this year there have been 7.
- Working with the traffic section to get some more messaging, education, prevention, and enforcement. Speed seems to be a factor, no specific hot spot.
- Staff Sergeant Grant Floris will be taking over for Corporal Carmen Kiener.

Corporal, Brad Rendall, Community Policing, RCMP reported on the following:

- Working with Bylaw on health and safety inspections of derelict homes. Getting responses from out of town landlords.
- RCMP have removed the foliage at end of Rowat with Bylaw and other partnerships. Will be going back to encampments to do a final clean up.

Mayor Popove joined at 8:32

b) Fire Department

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

- Call for Service from January to the end of May: 1919 calls. Puts us on track for comparative year to last year 4600.
- Fire Chief Brown attended the Annual Fire Chiefs association of BC Conference. It was a great opportunity to network with fire chiefs and get a better understanding of what other fire departments are experiencing across the province.
- Hired new time duration inspector, Julia Bartel and our new training captain, Trevor Kirkpatrick.

c) BIA

No Report

d) Bylaw Department

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

- Health and Safety inspections: problem house on Bonavista, house has now been demolished.
- Couple other houses we are keeping our eyes on.
- SRY: was successful in having a meeting with SRY, BC Hydro, CN police, RCMP, Operations and the Fire Department. Discussed issues from Sardis to CN main line. Suggested they should cut the foliage and fencing needs to be done. With latest fatality on tracks, pressure was put on CN. CN was out last week with crews brushing everything back, camps that were in the bushes were dismantled by CN crews. Operations and Engineering are looking at fencing at end of Rowat and a few other locations to eliminate the access to the SRY and CN main line.

e) ICBC

No Report

f) School District

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

- This summer, staff will be on site completing inspections every day. With the public using our properties, SD33 will commence inspections from first week of July until the end of August.

- Wi-Fi will be turned off for the summer.
- Emergency Services have been out at the Learning Center. In case a facility does need to be used, we are able to move things around.
- Community Services is running a youth drop in program on both north and south side of town.
- RAN downtown cleanup crew, great to see them out and it is making a difference.
- Had a meeting with Assistant Fire Chief Krista Minar about Childcare facility inspections as there are a number of new daycares. Working to build relationships with other providers and organizations to streamline.
- Increase in graffiti on the north side of town. Have started identifying youth that are involved in this. Engaging with RCMP and trying to get a handle on this. RCMP can then refer to Restorative Justice if they are suitable.

g) Public Works & Parks

Scott Funk, Superintendent of Public Works, reported on the following:

- Been tasked to clean up Macintosh, parking lot by old ICBC building, Garden Park, and Rowat. Contractors will be putting up a fence and the City is putting another one up at Southern Railway entrance. Same kind of fencing as Yale overpass, it will be galvanized metal.
- 6 bus stop location shelters were smashed. City may want to reach out to them about using different materials.
- Car show this weekend in conjunction with Parks.

h) Social Development

Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development, reported on the following:

- Looking at shelter usage over the previous month, everything is full. Wellness center has 30 beds and those are full. The Wellness Centre beds are assigned and held if they are willing to work with the program. They have seen upwards of 140-153 individuals using the day resource center.
- Preparing for Point in Time count this fall.
- Kim Spice has been promoted to Social Development Coordinator. Looking to fill Social Development Specialist Role Lots of work going in coordinated access program, hope to see that coming into place over the next year. Have funding through Reaching Home. Waiting on amended agreement, hopeful for the same level of funding.
- RAN short closure on June 20th, wellness center will be open.
- Are unable to use the United Church for extreme weather shelter for the winter. Call for service providers to look for spaces available. RAN has a winter shelter with funding through BC housing, only offers 26 beds. Steve offered to speak with a group of pastors.
- Ongoing discussions with Fraser Health and Shelters around discharge planning. Meeting pending with representatives from corrections, it is a priority that has been identified both in the Community Safety Plan and in the Wellness Action Plan, will keep working on this.
- Received news that Joshua House lease is expiring, they will be moving to Abbotsford and Williams Lake.

Discussing ensued regarding gaps in access to programs and supports. Severe shortage of beds and access, local groups are working on second stage proposals.

Councilor Mercer spoke about his time at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in Calgary. Councilor Mercer sat in on a number of panels on homelessness, mental health, drug addiction and the challenges. The strategies which they were contemplating were almost everything the City of Chilliwack has done and has been doing for years.

i) Restorative Justice

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

- 51 active files as of end of May. 1 referral in month of May through LPO, 22 files with 13 mentors
- Month of May - completed 58 P-circles at 3 different schools in Chilliwack.
- Received funding from the School District. Received \$40,000 from Civil Forfeiture.
- In the community: Good Ride Gravel event, launched new location for restorative cycle June 14th, will be a part of the Cultus lake parade July 22nd, and preparing for Halloween Community Carnival.
- In May, Restorative Cycle provided community hours for 3 responsible parties.
- Currently have 41 active volunteers
- Highlight: Had a mentor who motivated their mentee to go to the gym. The mentee now feels ready to go find a job. This program has prepared this individual for a healthy life.

j) Stó:lō Justice

No report.

k) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services (City of Chilliwack)

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

- Block parties are beginning to be scheduled. Bonavista is number one. Block Watch sent out a recruitment letter for Vicars Street and Macken avenue, successful response on Macken.
- Business Watch is completing final draft for new brochure and working to launch program in July.
- Speed Watch had 16 deployments, 93 warning letters sent, 62 to school zone areas, 4 for no stops, 27 were excessive speed.
- Community events: Sergeant Safety Bear at Party in the Park and Old Navy Safety Fair. Car seat clinic at YMCA property, Hoteliers meeting, 3 senior safety presentations at Elim village had 72 participants.
- 496 volunteer hours for May.

l) Legal Representative

No report.

m) Chamber of Commerce

No report.

n) Education/Crime prevention

No report.

o) Corrections

No report.

p) Community Members

No report.

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