

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022– 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	Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief
Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing	Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services
Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP	Collin Rogers, Chamber of Commerce
Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities	Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Joanne Jefferson, Stólo Justice
Peter Lang, Community Member, President, Chilliwack Métis Association	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary	

Regrets:

Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice
Brian Foote, Community Member	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA
Chris Terepocki, Legal Representative	Inspector Steve Vrolyk, Operations Officer, RCMP

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 8:05 am and provided territorial acknowledgement.

Chair Mercer welcomed Councillor Nicole Read, new Vice-Chair of the Committee, who will be joining the meeting late due to a previous commitment.

Chair Mercer thanked the Committee for all the hard work done in the past four years and noted there are no plans to change the current membership; however, there is interest in expanding the committee. Applications for new community representatives will be accepted from November 14 – December 16, 2022.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee held
 Seconded (Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 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, October 12, 2022, 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

Peter Lang, Community Member, President of Chilliwack Métis Association, joined the meeting at 8:07 am.

Sargeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, reported on the following:

a) RCMP

1. Crimes against persons have decreased in October YTD.
2. Property crime has trended downward YTD, with the exception of bicycle thefts.
3. There were three fatal collisions in our area in October, non-criminal in nature.
4. It was National Senior's Safety Week November 6 – 12, 2022; Sergeant Vrolyk and Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services, have been receiving many requests to provide presentations to seniors. The RCMP provided a presentation earlier this week for over 60 seniors in Garrison.
5. The impaired driving cases are up which reflect more impaired drivers have been taken off the road.
6. The RCMP will be conducting significant impaired driving initiatives through December.
7. A shout out to Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice, for his hard work organizing Operation Red Nose this year.
8. In addition, ICBC and MADD Canada are hosting a crash car event in December.
9. The Integrated Homicide Investigative Team (IHIT) is investigating two suspicious deaths that occurred last week. The RCMP noted there is no threat to public safety with respect to the investigation.
10. The Emergency Alert is happening this afternoon, Wednesday, November 16, 2022; however, it is only a test.
11. 2023 marks the 150th year of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; the RCMP are seeking out a location in the Upper Fraser Valley and a service organization to partner with to host the Musical Ride, an event showcasing the equestrian skills performed by cavalry who are regular members of the force. The RCMP are working on the details of the event. Any service organization interested can contact the RCMP; City staff will also disseminate the call-out through the Chilliwack Healthier Community's weekly bulletin.
12. The Emergency Services Food Drive to raise funds for the Salvation Army Food Bank. They will take place on December 3, 10 & 17, 2022 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at five locations in Chilliwack including all four Save-On-Foods and Safeway. The RCMP, Fire Department and Chilliwack Search and Rescue will be participating.

9. REPORTS (continued)

Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP, provided the following report:

13. A General Duty RCMP Member has the highest number of impaired stats resulting in approximately 50 impaired drivers being taken off the road this year.
14. There are a number of new recruits coming to Chilliwack in the next few months.

Chair Mercer provided comment with respect to revisiting the invitation to a future council meeting to provincial representatives regarding the Civil Recovery of Proceeds of Crime. A presentation to Council was previously planned; however, was cancelled due to COVID.

Chair Mercer provided positive comment with respect to the RCMP's Recognizing Excellence Awards event held November 9, 2022. The closed event provides stories of giving and heroism, not only by RCMP Members but other sectors such as Bylaw and citizens in the community who put themselves at risk to help others. Chair Mercer was very honored to be a part of the evening.

Chair Mercer congratulated Sergeant Vrolyk on her Long Service Award for 22 years of service.

b) Fire Department

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Bourdon reported on the following:

1. 3rd Quarter Stats - the Fire Department responded to 1,155 calls-for-service in the 3rd quarter, 3,316 to date reflecting an increase of 316 calls-for-service compared to this time in 2021. The majority of those calls-for-services were attributed to minor non-dollar loss fires, medical assists and public service assists.
2. Trends reflect 61% of calls-for-service have occurred in the Hall 1 (Downtown) area and 27% in the Hall 4 (Sardis) area.
3. Fire investigations to date reflect 66 dollar-loss structure fires with 94% occurring in the Hall 1 (Downtown) and Hall 4 (Sardis) areas.

Discussion ensued with respect to an uptick in fires recently, particularly in vacant homes; Assistant Chief Bourdon noted the Fire Department is still investigating some of the recent fires. Sergeant Vrolyk noted there has been one arrest made with respect to a structure fire last month on Vedder Mountain Road.

c) BIA

No report.

d) Bylaw Department

1. Issues are increasing on the south side of town resulting in more resources being utilized, not only with individuals experiencing homelessness; but also, with respect to other factors such as numerous small camps that have been abandoned along the river. Bylaw staff have been working to clean up the abandoned camps.
2. The Bylaw Department received numerous complaints this fall with respect to parking issues along the Vedder River and roadways, particularly in Yarrow, attributable to the many fishermen who came to the area. Weekend crews spent most of their shifts managing parking. The Bylaw Department worked with the Engineering Department with respect to installing more visible no parking signage.

9. REPORTS (continued)

3. The Bylaw Department has been extremely busy with ongoing issues along the Valley Rail Trail.
4. With the cooler weather, individuals experiencing homelessness typically migrate back into the downtown core where services are available; however, this has not been the case this year as activity continues to increase in Sardis.

A query was raised with respect to whether there were any issues that the bylaw enforcement officers (BEO's) encountered regarding an encampment that was dismantled located near Brannick Place and Kerr Avenue. Mr. Schipper noted there were no issues when dismantling the camp; however, crews did have to leave items there due to the situation whereby outreach workers were called in to assist. There were approximately 11 dump truck loads taken away. BEO's continue to monitor the area.

Discussion ensued with respect to the parking issues on the roadway this past fall in Yarrow, and whether the illegally parked vehicles were ticketed by the Bylaw Department; tickets were issued to those vehicles parked illegally on the roadway. A query was raised as to whether barricades could be installed along the roadway so as to not block the cycle lanes, but prevent cars from parking illegally on some stretches of the roadway. Staff had enquired with the Operations Department whether flexible barricades could be utilized; however, this type of barricade would not last during winter months when roads are plowed.

e) ICBC

Tanis Hatch, ICBC, reported that ICBC is preparing for the Impaired Driving Campaign which will launch in December.

f) School District

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

1. The School District reported a quiet Halloween as far as vandalism, there was nothing to report. Required the RCMP's assistance only a few times. There were fireworks; however, the fireworks were not in close proximity to any schools; the goal was to keep the groups of youth small and manageable. Griffin Security did a good job responding to issues.
2. There have been no fires on school sites.
3. A Section 177 (No Trespassing) was recently issued.
4. There are some vulnerable female individuals on school sites; therefore, Mr. Klassen will be at the Ann Davis Society later today for a site visit to gain insight into services offered by Ann Davis Society.
5. The School District has made a referral to Restorative Justice.
6. Mr. Klassen has been connecting with different individuals experiencing homelessness who have been on school sites.
7. The School District is working with organizers of the Rotary Christmas Parade as the parade will be starting from Chilliwack Senior Secondary School this year.

Chair Mercer provided positive comment with respect to the new Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt Elementary / Middle School.

9. REPORTS (continued)

g) Operations

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

1. There are ongoing issues with the Valley Rail Trail (VRT) with respect to trying to keep the fence intact which has been challenging, frustrating and expensive. Crews have fortified the fence in some areas including where Chilliwack Creek crosses the VRT south of Airport Road to try to keep individuals off the tracks.
2. Snow fencing has been installed in open exposure areas in the eastern sections of Chilliwack in an effort to keep snow off of north-south routes including Prest Road, Annis Road and Evans Road.
3. Drainage maintenance work is continuing through fall and winter such as berm removal, grading shoulders along rural standard roads to ensure proper drainage.
4. Ongoing road maintenance continues.
5. Staff have taken their refresher training for winter snow and ice maintenance.
6. The fleets have been checked and are ready for the winter weather; dump trucks now have plow blades installed.
7. Crews are completing clean-up after the wind storm that occurred a few weeks ago.
8. The extended summer season has caused a delay in Irrigation line blow outs.

h) Social Development

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

1. Temporary Winter Shelters in Chilliwack

Daytime Shelter:

- a) Wellness Centre – a temporary daytime location at 45951 Tretheway Avenue will provide a culturally safe, trauma informed space with wrap around supports to improve the health, safety and well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Overnight Cold Weather Shelters:

- b) Ruth and Naomi’s Mission will be operating a temporary 20 plus bed overnight shelter located at 46146 Margaret Avenue
 - c) Cheam View United Church - Additionally, Ruth and Naomi’s Mission will provide overnight shelter space at Cheam View United Church on Spadina Ave. This site will include 20-25 beds for overnight use only during extreme weather periods. Hours are from 9:00 pm – 7:00 am.
2. Travelodge – BC Housing has purchased the Travelodge Hotel as a long-term plan to provide safe, supportive housing for those at risk or experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack. There are currently 58 supportive housing units.
 3. A Community Advisory Committee (Reaching Home) meeting is scheduled for next week. There is funding available remaining for this fiscal year (until March 2023).
 4. Housing Hub – There are approximately 60 people currently housed with over 100 individuals on the wait list for housing.
 5. The Fraser Valley Regional District Point In Time Count will take place in spring 2023.

Councillor Nicole Read, new Vice-Chair for the Public Safety Advisory Committee was welcomed as she joined the meeting at 8:50 am.

9. REPORTS (continued)

i) Restorative Justice

Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice, was not able to attend the meeting; however, provided the following report via email. Ms. Stanton read Mr. Roukema's report:

1. There were 5 new referrals in October 2022; 4 from Loss Prevention Officers at Superstore; 1 from Little Mountain Elementary.
2. There were 64.5 volunteer hours recorded.
3. Educating/reminding RCMP officers of Restorative Justice referral process at the 4 Watch briefings.
4. In November, Restorative Justice will have a Mentor training session to prepare for a Mentoring Pilot project that will begin in January 2023.
5. Restorative Justice week is Nov 20-26. Listen for us on Star 98.3 FM, JR country 89.5 FM. Starbucks on Edwards is helping to promote restorative justice with an open house as we partner with the RCMP to discuss restorative justice with those interested: Nov 21-25, 2-3 pm.
6. Classroom Facilitators began in schools mid October with their Peace Circles. Very well received by the 3 active schools: Vedder Middle, Elementary, and Watson Elementary.
7. Operation Red Nose begins Nov 25, 2022. Look for our signs/posters to put up soon. Phone number for the service is 604-391-1112.

Chair Mercer noted he spoke with Mr. Roukema regarding providing an update on the Restorative Justice referral process at the next meeting in December.

j) Stólō Justice

Joanne Jefferson, Stólō Justice, reported on the following:

1. The Aboriginal Justice Liaison Open House took place in October. Community members were encouraged to come to the event and speak with Elders.
2. Respectful Relationship and Day Treatment programs have ended and these programs will resume again in January 2023.
3. There will be an Elders sock-hop in December in place of a Christmas dinner.
4. Stólō Justice was invited to participate in the RCMP Recognizing Excellence Awards event to honour Corporal Chris Gosselin, Indigenous Liaison, who has retired from the RCMP; Ms. Jefferson noted there have been positive interactions with Cst. Gosselin's replacement.
5. Stólō Justice will be working the RCMP regarding the Grand opening of the new RCMP building.

Chair Mercer provided comment with respect to Corporal Gosselin's good work with the RCMP as the Indigenous Liaison.

Ms. Jefferson left the meeting at 9:00 am.

k) Chamber of Commerce

No Report.

9. REPORTS (continued)**l) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services (City of Chilliwack)**

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

1. Speed Watch conducted 10 deployments throughout the month of October and 43 warning letters were issued.
2. A new Block Watch administrative staff member was recently hired.
3. Woodbridge Place was added as a new active Block Watch area.
4. On October 27, 2022, RCMP and Crime Prevention Staff met with Promontory Estate residents with respect to concerns occurring within their gated community.
5. New Block Watch signs have been installed for Beaver Crescent, Quarry Road and Woodbridge Place.
6. Prior to the pandemic setting in, Chilliwack Crime Stoppers agreed on a proposal with the Block Watch Society to share when their new signage was put up in registered Block Watch areas, Chilliwack Crime Stoppers would also have their signage placed under Block Watch signs. This is working out well.
7. Crime Free Multi Housing received a referral from the RCMP to conduct a security assessment on the Eddy, located just over the Vedder Bridge.
8. On October 5, 2022, Ms. Wulff provided a safety presentation to 35 seniors living at the Auburn Seniors Residence.
9. On October 11, 2022 Ms. Wulff provided an internet safety presentation for 12 individuals at Chilliwack Society for Community Living (CSCL).
10. The UFV student is nearing the end of her work experience practicum with the Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society.

A query was raised with respect to the Speed Watch program; a complaint was received by a committee member regarding vehicles driving at high speeds in the Central Elementary School zone northbound towards Fairfield Island. Ms. Wulff noted the Speed Watch program is still in effect; however, there have been some deployments that have been cancelled this past month due to weather. Ms. Wulff noted speed watch will be deployed to the Central Elementary School area.

m) Community Members

Peter Lang, Community Member, President, Chilliwack Métis Association, provided the following update:

1. November 16 is Louis Riel Day.
2. Chilliwack Metis Association has a meeting in the near future with representatives from the Metis Nation Housing Program with respect to a property located on Lewis Avenue. Chilliwack Metis Association is working with the Metis Capital Corporation with respect to the purchase of the property for Indigenous housing.

Mr. Lang enquired as to the committee membership process now that the local election is over. Chair Mercer reiterated the previous information with respect to the current membership of the committee.

Peter Lang left the meeting at 9:07 am.

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

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