

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023 – 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	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP	Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations
Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development
Peter Lang, Correctional Service of Canada	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
Darren Charlie, Stó:lō Justice	Collin Rogers, Chamber of Commerce
Caitlin Weston, Manager of Bylaw Enforcement	Michelle Price, Community Member
Guest – Kim Lloyd, Manager of Wellness Centre, PCRS	Kim Spice, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice
Chuck Stam, Community Member	Donna Maser, Legal Representative
Inspector Steve Vrolyk, Operations Officer, 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, February 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, January 18, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP, introduced new RCMP Members, Constable Chris Parker and Constable Marcus Taylor. The constables both provided brief background information and left the meeting at 8:30 am.

Caitlin Weston, Manager of Bylaw Enforcement introduced two new Bylaw Officers, Brittan Orr and Jag Sidhu. Both provided brief background information and left the meeting at 8:30 am.

5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Sergeant Floris provided a presentation regarding RCMP Strategic Action Planning.

Mayor Popove joined the meeting at 8:25 am.

6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

9. REPORTS

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

a) RCMP

1. RCMP 2022 Year End Statistics:
 - Calls for Service 30, 954 (decreased by 17% from 2021)
 - Domestic abuse decreased by 10% from 2021
 - Overall property crime decreased by 17% from 2021
 - Impaired drivers increased by 100% from 2021 – area of concern for RCMP
 - Incidents with bear and pepper spray decreased exponentially since the bylaw was adopted in 2021. In 2020 there were 273 files recorded with use of bear and pepper spray, 138 in 2021 and 153 in 2022. The bylaw in effect has received nationwide attention with many municipalities reaching out to inquire.
2. Cases:
 - Seven counts of mischief sworn against an individual, the case is currently being presented before the courts
 - Case regarding Mary's on Wellington – individual being charged
3. Community engagement events have begun after a hiatus during the Covid-19 Pandemic
 - Coffee with a Cop to begin in March
 - Polar Plunge
4. Concerns regarding train fatalities are being addressed internally
5. Decriminalization began January 31, 2023. The exemption allows individuals to possess 2.5 grams of illicit drugs. Training regarding the exemption has been provided to RCMP staff. Resource cards have been created by the Provincial Government for RCMP members to circulate in the community.

9. REPORTS (continued)

b) Fire Department

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Bourdon reported on the following:

1. Concerns regarding outdoor fires in the downtown core have been addressed. Fire fighters and staff have been instructed to notify the Chief with each fire they encounter, as well as providing resources to individuals setting the fires. Downtown areas are still under investigation.
2. Open lot vehicle fires have increased on Railway Avenue. Fire Inspectors are working with businesses in the area to secure open lots with fencing to reduce occurrences.
3. There has been an increase in calls for service in the Sardis area, including instances near Lark Road. Discussion regarding how to address the issue is ongoing. The Bylaw Department has engaged with businesses in the area. RCMP has requested a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment to address crime related issues in this particular location. Following that, a meeting will be set up for all agencies involved to discuss concerns and how to move forward.
4. Issues regarding an increase in calls to supportive housing programs are being addressed. Improvements at one location have been made through collaboration between the Fire Department and supportive housing management. A letter has been sent and enforcement measures, including fines and increased inspections, may be required to reduce instances of false alarms and calls for service to one particular property. Engagement between stakeholders will be forthcoming.
5. Five new career firefighters started training through Fire Department Recruitment Camp.
6. Members continue to partner with Bowls of Hope on Wednesday afternoons. Inspectors engage with students at various schools in the community to build relationships with youth.

c) BIA

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

1. Email invites have been sent regarding the Downtown Public Safety Meeting at the Coast Hotel. Each speaker at the event will be available for discussion with attendees.
2. Instances of graffiti have decreased, however, art pieces in the downtown core have recently been targeted.
3. Downtown Core Security:
 - Security cameras arrive February 15, 2023.
 - The BIA is working with all businesses in the downtown core to ensure each area is covered.
 - QR codes will be applied to each building as a communication tool with business owners in the event of an emergency.

d) Bylaw Department

Caitlin Weston, Manager of Bylaw Enforcement, reported on the following:

1. Parking complaints remain steady.
2. Currently seeking coverage for a Bylaw Officer that will begin maternity leave in the coming months; two new positions will be posted as well.
3. Staff will receive training regarding volatile behaviors, self-defense and de-escalation.
4. No bear spray reports; Annual checks are being conducted at local businesses to ensure bear spray is contained in a secure location.
5. Concerns regarding railroad properties are ongoing. CN's policy is to remove individuals, however cleanup of the areas is not addressed and individuals are likely to return. Bylaw staff are working with relevant agencies to deal with these issues.

Councillor Mercer noted that Mayor and Council could advocate to CN.

9. REPORTS (continued)

e) ICBC

Tanis Hatch, ICBC, reported on the following:

1. February is typically a slower month for ICBC
2. Distracted Driving Month is set to occur in March
3. Car seat training sessions will take place in May to fill gaps in reduced provision of this service in the community

f) School District

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

1. Instances of graffiti have increased on School District 33 properties. An individual has been identified and will be dealt with accordingly.
2. Staff are in discussion about making changes to the neighbourhood near Chilliwack Middle School. Brining a soccer team to the area was an idea brought forward to increase positive use.
3. Ongoing concerns regarding an alcove at CSC are being addressed.
4. Engagement with the Fire Department regarding burning at Vedder Middle School and Robertson Elementary is ongoing.

Mayor Popove noted it would be helpful to address the cumulation of garbage in the CSC and CMS school areas. It was noted that students could be tasked with cleanup of this area.

g) Operations

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

1. Road work is ongoing but progress has been slow due to intermittent availability of asphalt.
2. Staff are currently preparing for freshet season.
3. Cleanup of the creek on Creamery Road commenced February 15, 2023.
4. A mini road sweeper has been purchased and will be utilized in the coming weeks.

h) Social Development

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

1. Shelter numbers:
 - Shelter beds- on average 165 out of 159 beds utilized, at full capacity each night
 - EWR – an average of 41 individuals utilize the emergency weather shelter (open six nights due to inclement weather)
 - Youth shelter – an average of six out of nine bed are being utilized at the youth shelter
 - Wellness Centre – an average of 33 people over the first 14 days it was open
2. Reaching Home RFP's, which include funding for Indigenous Housing Facilitator, Prevention and Shelter Diversion, Street Outreach and Indigenous Youth and Youth Outreach close February 22, 2023.

9. REPORTS (continued)

i) Restorative Justice

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

1. There were seven new referrals in January, six from RCMP and one from a Loss Prevention Officer.
2. 39 open files
3. 11 restorative circles
4. 48 volunteers with 150 volunteer hours
5. 26 school volunteer hours / 56 class conversations at schools
6. Facilitation training will be provided to volunteers on February 18, 2023 at the Neighbourhood Learning Centre.
7. Online bike auction is on track to receive \$10,000 for the fiscal year. There is an opportunity to sell in-person in the Spring through a partnership with the Cheamview United Church. Community outreach hours can be done through this program as well.
8. Better Way Celebration fundraising/silent auction event will take place on May 6, 2023

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. Speed Watch: 11 deployments - 3 locations set up at various schools in the community, top speed was 105 km/h
2. Block watch is working on two new areas, Halcyon Gated Community (Sardis) and Fairbanks Cr. (Fairfield Island)
3. Staff are putting together robbery packages for the businesses in Chilliwack which includes doors height strips, brochures on “Robbery Prevention” for business owners “What to do when a Robbery occurs in your place of business
4. April 20th, 2023 is the CPS Annual Volunteer appreciation dinner; invitations will be forthcoming

l) Legal Representative

No report.

m) Chamber of Commerce

No report.

n) Crime Prevention/Education

Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention, noted the importance of creating awareness for youth regarding RCMP mandates. He also indicated that having RCMP recruitment at UFV would be an asset in attracting members to jobs in this community.

9. REPORTS (continued)

o) Corrections

Peter Lang, Correctional Service of Canada, reported on the following:

1. Trends are continuing to decrease, with medium security prison seeing the largest population numbers. Some prisons are looking at shutting down due to the shift of decreased prisoner population, as well as recent federal legislation regarding Bill C-75 which has mandated the judicial system to divert individuals from the criminal justice system.
2. He will be attending a Metis Justice Conference in the near future.
3. The Metis Association is looking to provide information sessions to educate the public on Narcan and nasal spray to reduce, as an overdose response measure.

p) Community Members

Michelle Price, community member, noted The Journey Towards Belonging event to take place on March 16, 2023 at S.A.Y. Lands Office on Chilliwack River Road. Invitation through the recording secretary is forthcoming.

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