

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, November 15, 2023 – 8:00 am
VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM

In attendance:

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP
Corporal Brad Rendall, Community Policing, RCMP	Kim Spice, Social Development Specialist
Inspector, Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer	Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention
Garrett Schipper, D/Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Krista Minar, Assistant Fire Chief	Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice
Scott Funk, Superintendent of Public Works	Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services
Justin Mallard, Chamber of Commerce	Michelle Price, Community Member
Tanis Hatch, ICBC	Paisley Hammerton, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair	Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development
Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice	Ian Josephson, Fire Chief
Andrew Pipke, Senior Road Safety Specialist	Chuck Stam, Community Member
Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA

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, November 15, 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, October 18, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

Round Table introductions were made, with the introduction of the new Assistant Fire Chief, Krista Minar.

Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, introduced a new RCMP Member, Constable Joseph Gilderdale, and Inspector Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, who both provided some brief background information.

Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services, introduced Assistant Bylaw Enforcement Manager Liam O’Neill, and new Bylaw Officer Michael Bailey, who both provided brief background information.

Constable Gilderdale, Liam O’Neill, and Michael Bailey left the meeting at 8:09 am.

5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

9. REPORTS

a) RCMP

Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP, reported on the following:

1. Had additional members join the Detachment this month.
2. Taking on another 5-year member who is coming over laterally from North Vancouver.
3. Go-live was on November 6th for the Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Team. The team has already completed a number of interventions as well as apprehensions which have reduced the wait time in the hospital. The RCMP is already seeing the benefits of this program.
4. 24 members marched in the November 11th Remembrance Day parade throughout the community.
5. The Property Crime Team located a stolen car in Abbotsford and arrested the driver. The individual has been charged with auto theft.

Councilor Mercer inquired as to whether the RCMP could have a member of the Integrated Crisis Response Team speak to the PSAC Committee at a future meeting.

b) Fire Department

Fire Chief Ian Josephson reported on the following:

1. As of last quarter, the Fire Department had 1329 calls for service. Increase in 133 calls from last year.
2. Continue to have public service alarms activated and fire incident responses as primary calls.
3. Approximately 89% of incidents in the Fire Hall 1 and 4 response zones.
4. Onboarding 21 new POC recruits.
5. The Fire Prevention Team continues to keep safety inspections up.
6. Training has been very active.
7. Reviewing the new BC Disaster Emergency Management Act and re-occupying the EOC Building
8. Looking at addressing the Fireworks Bylaw in 2024.

c) BIA

No Report.

d) Bylaw Department

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

1. There was an increase in fireworks on Halloween; they were found to be sold outside of Chilliwack's jurisdiction. Bylaw Enforcement Officers worked until about 11 pm on Halloween night. There were a lot of calls for fireworks on school property. Will work with the Fire Department to review the Fireworks Bylaw.
2. There have been a few problem houses that have been taken to council for a remediation order. All the houses have demolition permits.
3. There are five problem properties on Mary and School Street that have been visited by the Fire Department. Demolition permits have been issued for the houses.
4. Coming out of fishing season on the Vedder River.
5. Focusing efforts on the rail trail and problem areas in Sardis and downtown.

Mayor Popove joined the meeting at 8:23am.

Discussion ensued regarding a problematic house on Walden Street. Garrett Schipper confirmed that there is a demolition permit for that particular property. Additional questions were asked regarding problematic properties and the permit process.

e) ICBC

Tanis Hatch, ICBC, reported on the following:

1. Will be reaching out to local high schools regarding the high fail rate for graduated licensing programs in the Fraser Valley. Offer a free presentation with a Driver Examiner for grade 9 and 10 students. Would like to expand presentations to new B.C. residents as well.
2. Reaching out to schools about the Road Safety Speaker Program. Every year, ICBC has a speaker attend schools to speak to grade 11 and 12 students about making safe driving choices.
3. Preparing for the impaired campaign.

Councillor Mercer inquired about campaigns regarding holiday-impaired driving projects. Corporal Rendall confirmed that the BC Highway Patrol will be performing road checks during the holiday season.

f) School District

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

1. School District was busy during the weekend leading up to Halloween and the night of. One garbage can was set on fire, though there were no broken windows or graffiti. Mark Klassen, Manager of Facilities, phoned to thank Supt. Davy Lee for the increase in RCMP member presence.
2. Other the last month there have been two school break-ins, two dumpster fires, a garbage can fire, and three fires under covered areas.

Discussion ensued regarding fires under alcoves. It was noted that with temperatures dropping, there has been an increase in small fires.

g) Public Works & Parks

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

1. Cleaning up after the large rain storm that occurred a few weeks ago. The storm caused a lot of flooding and damage in some of the parks. Little Mountain Park from Swallow to Chartwell has been closed, the water overwrote the banks and eroded the stairways.
2. Crews are prepping for winter. The brine truck has been out actively brining the priority routes and hillsides.
3. Snow fence installation is ongoing.
4. Getting ready for the Christmas Parade to ensure route is clean and brined if necessary.

h) Social Development

Kim Spice, Social Development Specialist, reported on the following:

1. October shelter update – adult shelter numbers were at capacity; youth shelter was almost at capacity and the Wellness Centre averaged about 100 people per day.
2. The Public Safety and Social Development Department is hosting training through the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness on November 28th and 29th for Assertive Engagement. December 12th and 13th for Trauma-Informed Practice.

i) Restorative Justice

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

1. 12 new Restorative Justice referrals in October from: RCMP (9 for mischief), one theft under \$5000, one RCMP school referral, and one from a Loss Prevention Officer (theft under \$5000).
2. Of 29 active files, 17 have mentors to ensure they reintegrate into the community in a healthy way.
3. Completed two restorative circles during the month of October.
4. 47 different classroom conversations at six different schools in October.
5. The United Way after-school program at Central Elementary continues to run on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
6. November 20-26 is Restorative Justice Awareness Week. Hampers for Hope occurring on November 25.
7. 95 volunteer hours, 18 school hours, 52 active volunteers with a total of 113 hours in October.

j) Stó:lō Justice

No report.

k) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services (City of Chilliwack)

Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services, who was unable to attend:

1. Initiated a New Block Watch area in Fairbanks Crescent.
2. Crime-Free Multi-Housing hosted four different safety socials. Total of 39 registered Crime-Free Multi-Housing buildings.
3. Speed Watch had a total of 8 deployments. Working with Andrew Pipke, Senior Road Safety Specialist, on the three-way stop on Fairfield Island at Menzies and Hope River Road.
4. Still attending local chief's home games twice a month with Sargent Safety Bear.

5. Participated at the Health and Safety Fair at Little Pebbles Daycare.
6. 351 volunteer hours in October.
7. Working on a project for snuff out scams. Significant for vulnerable senior populations.

l) Legal Representative

No report.

m) Chamber of Commerce

Justin Mallard, Chamber of Commerce, reported on the following:

1. 69 people responded to the Public and Business Safety Survey. It was noted that the highest impact businesses are facing is loitering, trespassing, open drug use, and hazardous waste (needles and human waste).
2. Many businesses are unaware of local initiatives.
3. Businesses near the old Canadian Tire are noticing an increase in activity. RCMP have made a number of arrests on this property. This location is complicated as it is made up of three separate properties.

Discussion ensued regarding education for local businesses, especially for businesses on the south side.

n) Crime Prevention/Education

No report.

o) Corrections

No report.

p) Community Members

Michelle Price, Community Member:

1. New community bus for seniors.
2. There have been 2 fires on Mary Street in the last month. This is the first time the Fire Department has been involved.
3. Experiencing an increase in aggressive individuals coming into Chilliwack Community Services.
4. Hosting a multicultural gathering on November 16th to highlight various cultures.
5. Staff toured new Paramount Building. Most likely moving in April of 2024.

Councilor Mercer asked Michelle Wulff, Crime Prevention Services, and Corporal Brad Rendall about the rezoning project at the intersection of Mary Street and Ontario Avenue. Councilor Mercer asked both parties to create a short-term solution for various concerns from residents.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Update from RCMP in December on Car 67.

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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