

**City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020– 8:45 am
Held Electronically**

In attendance:

Councillor Jason Lum, Co-Chair	Councillor Bud Mercer, Co-Chair
Superintendent Bryon Massie, OIC, RCMP	Jennifer Kooistra, Director of Corporate Services
Staff Sergeant, Jeff Scott, RCMP (Alternate)	Ian Josephson, Fire Chief
Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, RCMP (Alternate)	Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief
Garrett Schipper, Manager of Building & Regulatory Enforcement	Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations
Mike Sikora, Social Development Coordinator	Nicole Webb, Chamber of Commerce
Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice	Mike Weightman, ICBC
Brian Foote, Community Member	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Amanda Macpherson, Restorative Justice	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice
Peter Lang, Community Member	Brian Foote, Community Member
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary	

Regrets:

Kyle Williams, BIA	Corporal Brad Rendall, RCMP, Community Policing
Chris Terepocki, Legal Representative	Inspector Davy Lee, RCMP

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Jason Lum called the meeting to order at 8:45 am.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee
Seconded (held on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 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, March 11, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

5. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

9. REPORTS

a) RCMP

Superintendent Massie reported on the following stats:

1. Calls-for-service were trending down in April (2719) compared to March (2798). However, when compared to January (2636) both months reflect an increase. Overall, it is reflecting a year to date decrease of 11 % in calls-for-service.
2. Crimes against persons were down 4% overall in a year-to-date comparison. The month of April (140) reflected a decrease from the previous 4 months.
3. Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence files have increased by 23% year-to-date; however, April (67) has shown a decrease from previous the months of February (83) and March (77) in events reported to the police.
4. Reported property crime was higher in April compared to January through March; however, year-to-date is trending down by 25%.
5. Superintendent Massie introduced Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, who is joining Corporal Brad Rendall as one of the team leaders for the new Community Response Team based out of the Community Policing Office. The Community Response Team will provide a strong presence in the downtown core and will be working with merchants and residents regarding community issues. The team's start date of April 1, 2020 was pushed back due to the current COVID-19 situation. Two RCMP team members began in early May and, on June 1, 2020, two more RCMP members will join the unit.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the RCMP has seen an increase in service calls specific to the pandemic; the RCMP attempt to educate and provide information regarding provincial health orders; however, there have been files opened for complaints regarding non-compliance of social distancing. The RCMP will provide updated statistics to Council at the May 19, 2020 Council meeting.

Staff Sergeant Jeff Scott, RCMP, alternate for Inspector Davy Lee, reported on the following:

6. During our initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic some support section RCMP members were pulled from their regular duties to provide extra resources on general duty. Those RCMP members have now started to return to their regular posts and mandates.
7. Business continuity plans were developed for this challenging time and, as such, a plan is underway to gradually re-open the front counter at the RCMP office. This will see the gradual return of business and service levels to normal.
8. The Seasonal Policing team is up and running and the RCMP will determine if adjustments are required after the May long weekend.
9. The RCMP is seeing instances of homelessness spreading into more rural areas such as Cultus Lake and up Chilliwack Lake Road.
10. Depot remains closed; however, plans are to reopen after June in a limited capacity. Chilliwack is not expecting any new recruits expects until at least fall 2020.

9. REPORTS (continued)

b) FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Ian Josephson reported on the following:

1. The Fire Department has experienced major changes in the last two months regarding training and dispatch protocols due to COVID-19. Fire Department response to incidents are typically related to human activity; however, there has been a significant decrease in calls due to people staying home.

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Bourdon reported on the following:

2. The Fire Department ceased all inspections due to COVID-19; however, inspections have started to slowly resume in middle schools, high schools and recreational facilities. There have been challenges regarding entrances being blocked off as a result of retailers providing appropriate social distancing measures; however, staff have been receptive of fire safety protocols and have done a good job overall.
3. Fire crews will slowly return to their regular shift duties and training.
4. During the pandemic, the Fire Department began doing drive-by birthday parades throughout the City. There have been 26 birthday party parades booked to date and there will have been 40 parades by the end of May. The parades have been very well received by the public.

c) BIA

No report

d) Bylaw Department

1. The Bylaw Department has reported an increase in calls during the COVID-19 pandemic attributable to a Provincial Order under the Emergency Program Act that gave municipal bylaw officers the ability to support the enforcement of the Provincial Health Officer's Orders. The calls regarding COVID are slowly decreasing as folks become accustomed to the public health orders. The Bylaw Department anticipates an increase in calls during the phased approach to reopening.
2. The Bylaw Department recently posted two new Bylaw Enforcement Officer (BEO) positions, the applicants have been shortlisted and the interview process is nearing completion.
3. The Bylaw Department is continuing with downtown visibility patrols.
4. This past weekend the Bylaw Department was inundated with complaints regarding parking issues at access points along the Vedder River in Yarrow. Gates at some of the access points were blocked by vehicles; therefore, restricting emergency vehicles from accessing the sites. The Manager of Building and Regulatory Enforcement is meeting today with key stakeholders to explore solutions, anticipating increased complaints during the summer. The Bylaw Department is procuring additional signage for these areas and will be working with towing companies throughout the summer.

Co-Chair Lum expressed thanks to the bylaw staff for their on-going efforts regarding this issue. It was noted signage at the access points is being ripped down and residents living near the access points have made complaints of increased vandalism in their areas.

Joanne Jefferson left the meeting at 9:19 am.

9. REPORTS (continued)**e) ICBC**

1. May is High Risk Driving month targeted towards drivers, motorcyclists, pedestrians and cyclists; however, ICBC reports crashes are down attributable to less vehicles on the road due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Speed watch volunteers have not been out in the community during this challenging time; however, ICBC staff have been trained to perform the volunteers' duties temporarily and have been received with support. ICBC continues to monitor crashes and considering auto theft initiatives.
2. Mike Weightman passed along condolences regarding former RCMP Staff Sergeant Jerry Falk's passing. S/Sgt. Falk worked along side of ICBC for many years.

f) School District

1. Mark Klassen, SD 33 expressed his thanks to the Fire Department for recent school site inspections.
2. There has been an increase in homelessness activity at school sites during the day. The School District continues to work with the RCMP and Griffin Security regarding this issue.
3. The School District is preparing for some children to return to classrooms on a part-time, voluntary basis beginning June 1, 2020.

Staff Sergeant Vrolyk enquired as to which school sites are a concern; it was noted AD Rundle, Chilliwack Senior Secondary School (CSSS), Chilliwack Middle School (CMS), Bernard Elementary School and G.W. Graham Secondary School has had increased challenges recently. The School District has also noted concerns at Little Mountain Elementary School (LTM).

g) Operations

1. The Operations Department has made changes over the last few months to some parks and trails in Chilliwack to help encourage physical distancing including implementing one-way directional signage for areas that present social distancing challenges such as the stairs at Promontory and on some of the narrower trails.
2. In follow-up to the Vedder River access points; Operations staff will be installing 'local traffic only' signage at Wilson Road and will continue to work with the Bylaw and Engineering Departments regarding additional towing signage.
3. Dyke brushing has been completed in preparation for the freshet which has begun. The annual Dyke Inspection report has been submitted to the province and the City of Chilliwack's plan has been updated.
4. Regular dyke maintenance is on-going.

h) Social Development

1. Social agency resources have increased due to the community response to COVID-19.
2. The City has taken the lead in coordinating weekly meetings with various agencies regarding available supports in the community.
3. Evergreen Hall has been set up as one of five facilities secured in the Fraser Health Region for a temporary pandemic isolation location, as per direction from the province, funded by BC Housing and managed by Fraser Health. There has been a minimal number of people admitted to the isolation location to-date; all have tested negative for COVID-19 and have returned to shelters. The Travelodge Hotel in Chilliwack has been used for rehousing transition.

9. REPORTS (continued)

- 4. There were approximately 110 individuals accessing shelters in March.
- 5. Reduced washroom access has resulted in increased use of outside space for this purpose. The City of Chilliwack has received funds to allow for management of the Central Park washrooms, which will allow people who are homeless (and any others who wish to use it) to use the washroom. The washrooms will be managed and secured by Griffin Security. The washrooms are open daily from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm until the end of September 2020.
- 6. The City of Chilliwack was successful in their application to Canada for Designated Community status. As a result, the City will receive \$1.7million over the next four years to distribute into the community to support projects and initiatives that reduce and manage homelessness according to the directives of the program.

i) Restorative Justice

- 1. Referrals from the RCMP have decreased recently. One referral will be carried out via Zoom in the short term.
- 2. Restorative Justice continues working on programs, protocols and looks forward to an increase in referrals.

j) Stólō Justice

No report

k) Chamber of Commerce

- 1. The Chamber of Commerce has actively been working with several local businesses in finding clear direction and appropriate guideline requirements to reopen. Some of the challenges include not being able to attain as much detail for smaller businesses; the Chamber of Commerce continues to share any available information with merchants and connect them to other businesses that can share pertinent information.
- 2. The Chamber of Commerce has been involved with the Chilliwack Economic Recovery Network (CERN) and the Chilliwack Give-A-Thon which are just a few of initiatives to help local businesses.

Co-Chair Lum noted the City of Chilliwack will continue to take direction from the province regarding when in-house advisory committee meetings will be able to resume again.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

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

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Lum, Co-Chair