

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022– 8:45 am
VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM

In attendance:

Councillor Jason Lum, Co-Chair	Councillor Bud Mercer, Co-Chair
Karen Stanton, Manager of Long Range Planning & Community Safety / Staff Liaison	Ian Josephson, Fire Chief
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief
Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing	Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice
Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP	Garrett Schipper, Manager of Building and Regulator Enforcement
Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities	Joe Koczur, Deputy Director Operations
Holly Ferris, Social Development Coordinator	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, BIA
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society	Brian Foote, Community Member
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary	Tanis Hatch, ICBC

Regrets:

Inspector Steve Vrolyk, Operations Officer, RCMP	Peter Lang, Community Member, President, Chilliwack Métis Association
Joanne Jefferson, Stólo Justice	Chris Terepocki, Legal Representative
Collin Rogers, Chamber of Commerce	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Lum called the meeting to order at 8:45 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, April 13, 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, March 9, 2022, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Co-Chair Mercer noted a poll was taken and the Committee has agreed to advance the meeting time of the Public Safety Advisory Committee meetings to 8:00 am moving forward.

Co-Chair Lum noted he attended a meeting on April 11, 2022 with representatives from 31 Coast Salish communities as they met with Minister of Emergency Preparedness, Bill Blair and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, regarding topics with respect to public safety.

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

9. REPORTS

a) Fire Department

Fire Chief, Ian Josephson reported on the following:

Preliminary 1st Quarter Report Stats:

1. There were 1,118 total calls-for-service; 80% of the incidents in Q1 were in the downtown and Sardis response zones.
2. There were 22 structure fires; 21 or 95% of those fires were in Hall 1 & 4 response zones.
3. 75% of the structure fires were in single-family dwellings; the Fire Department continues to focus its education efforts on residents.

Assistant Fire Chief, Mike Bourdon reported on the following:

4. Fire crews are training and preparing for the wildfire season should they be required to assist BC Forestry Services.
5. The Fire Department will be set up at Hall 3 in Yarrow during Yarrow Days on June 4, 2022, and will be providing information with respect to wildfire preparedness. The Fire Department held this very successful program in previous years; the Wildfire Preparedness program runs from May 5 to October 31 on any given year.
6. The Fire Department has hired a new fire inspector. A brief background was provided with respect to the new fire inspector.

Co-Chair Lum thanked the Fire Department for their report at the Yarrow Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Sergeant Vrolyk and Staff Sergeant Floris joined the meeting at 8:50 am. Sergeant Vrolyk introduced Staff Sergeant Floris, who is the alternate for Inspector Steve Vrolyk with respect to the Operation's Officer role.

9. REPORTS (continued)

b) RCMP

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

1. There is no Analyst Report available for the month of March at this time.
2. An update was provided with respect to the issue of catalytic converter thefts. The Province has implemented updated legislation with respect to scrap metal to include catalytic converters. The RCMP's Property Crime Unit is continuing to work on targeting known catalytic converter thieves.
3. The RCMP recently purchased two electric bikes (E-bikes) which the Community Response Team (CRT) has been utilizing along with Police mountain bikes on their daily patrols. The addition of the E-bikes and Police mountain bikes has proven to be beneficial with respect to concerns regarding the Rail Trail; the RCMP is working closely with the Bylaw Enforcement Officers to address these issues.
4. The RCMP made one arrest due to an alert citizen who reported a mischief incident at a local church.
5. An ongoing investigation has led to the arrest last month of Clayton Eheler.
6. With public health orders lifted, the RCMP is happy to have the ability to participate in pop-up community events and festivals and has been working with the Community Police Office with respect to resuming public engagement. Sergeant Vrolyk noted the RCMP would be pleased to have any information on upcoming community events.
7. The RCMP has been working closely with Restorative Justice in an effort to increase referrals.
8. The last week of April is Volunteer Appreciation Week to recognize and thank all the RCMP volunteers.

Brian Foote, Community Member, directed a query to the RCMP with respect to whether there are specific locations that are being targeted by catalytic converter thieves; Sergeant Vrolyk noted there has been a concentration in the last week of catalytic converter thefts in the Industrial Way area and Chilliwack Lake area. The RCMP noted there is a trend toward the same types of vehicles being targeted and is an inter-jurisdictional issue. The Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment is working with other police agencies regarding this issue.

c) BIA

No report.

d) Bylaw Department

1. The Bylaw Department is transitioning from winter to spring operations. With the change in season, there is an increase in property use complaints such as weed control.
2. Bylaw Enforcement Officers are working with the RCMP with respect to the Rail Trail concerns over the last week, as issues in the downtown start to spread out at this time of year.
3. There have been reports of increased activity along the CN Right-of-Way, particularly between Young Road and the Yale Road overpass. The Bylaw Department has notified the CN Police regarding this issue.
4. The Bylaw Department has been working closely with the RCMP with respect to a few problem houses and there has been some progress made regarding action taken by the Residential Tenancy Board.
5. Interviews are currently underway for one full-time bylaw enforcement officer, a vacant position, and for a time duration bylaw enforcement officer position, an additional posting. Both positions will supplement the evening and weekend bike crews.

9. REPORTS (continued)

Sergeant Vrolyk shared a success story that occurred over this past weekend with respect to how the Integrated Homeless Action Response Team (IHART) assisted an individual access the appropriate services. There are 11.5 new Fraser Health positions associated with the IHART, ranging from clinical nurses to social workers to psychiatric nurses, providing seven days/per week coverage.

Co-Chairs Lum and Mercer thanked Sergeant Vrolyk for sharing this positive situation and will pass along their thanks to Fraser Health. Sergeant Vrolyk will be meeting with Fraser Health in the near future and will also pass along her thanks.

e) ICBC

1. An update was provided regarding the Road Safety Presentation program; in-person presentations are now permitted; therefore, ICBC will be arranging for in-person presentations at local high schools preferably before grad events. A speaker from Oregon will be touring in northern BC and in the Lower Mainland; ICBC will invite the speaker to present at one of the high schools in Chilliwack. Ms. Hatch will inform the RCMP's Youth Squad when these events take place, should they be able to attend.
2. ICBC has introduced a new app, Street Sense, an interactive learning experience that aims to enhance situational awareness by presenting common hazards that can be easily missed when you're on the road. ICBC will be using the new app with youth and has recently received funding for the purchase of Oculus goggles which the students can wear during virtual presentations and put students in the 'driver's' seat in these different scenarios.

Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice, provided a comment with respect to an incident that occurred last summer that has been shared in the media involving a cyclist. Mr. Haggarty queried ICBC's policy and legislation as the cyclist was issued a large repair bill for the vehicle's damage. Mr. Haggarty expressed concern regarding the safety of pedestrians at crosswalks.

Ms. Hatch, ICBC, noted she responded to Mr. Haggarty's previous email with respect to his interest in this incident. A working group has been formed to review current ICBC policy and processes when a vehicle and a cyclist are involved in a collision. Ms. Hatch noted specific details regarding the above-noted incident cannot be discussed due to confidentiality. Co-Chair Lum acknowledged Mr. Haggarty's comments noting he also read about the incident.

f) School District

1. Graffiti has been on the rise, specifically at Chilliwack Central Community School, Bernard Elementary, Unsworth Elementary, and Strathcona Elementary Schools. Large groups (15-20) of youth have been congregating at Bernard Elementary School in the late evenings. The School District has implemented extra security measures at this school site.
2. Griffin Security is still moving a number of individuals experiencing homelessness off of school sites at night.
3. The RCMP's online reporting tool has been working well for the School District when reporting substantial graffiti or thefts.
4. In the last few weeks there have been fires set around doorways; in particular, at Robertson Elementary and Little Mountain Elementary.

Fire Chief Josephson queried whether the fires are being reported to the Fire Department; Mr. Klassen noted the fires were small and were not reported; however, any future incidents will be reported to the Fire Department. Assistant Fire Chief Bourdon requested the times and dates of the fire incidents.

9. REPORTS (continued)

5. The School District is leaving the exterior lights on at Central Community School as there has been increased activity at this site. Since the lights have been left on, there has been a decrease in graffiti.
6. The School District is investigating an incident with respect to a bike thief.
7. Mr. Klassen is meeting with Assistant Fire Chief Wilson next week to discuss summer plans with respect to the Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) potentially being utilized again as a reception center.

Sergeant Vrolyk requested clarification with respect to the fires occurring at doorways at various schools and queried whether the individuals starting the fires are youth or individuals experiencing homelessness who are trying to stay warm; Mr. Klassen noted it appears by the debris left behind, to be individuals experiencing homelessness at Little Mountain Elementary and youth at Robertson Elementary.

A query was raised as to the status of RCMP School Liaison Officers; Sergeant Vrolyk provided clarification with respect to the number and current status of RCMP School Liaison Officers in Chilliwack.

Discussion ensued regarding whether there is a correlation between the large groups of youth congregating at Robertson Elementary and Wi-Fi at that site.

A query was raised with respect to the RCMP's online reporting tool; Sergeant Vrolyk noted the RCMP's online reporting tool available to citizens to report non-emergency crimes, such as mischief ie: property damage under \$5,000, or other concerns that do not require immediate police attendance.

Visit <https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ufvrd/en> for more information.

g) Operations

1. The 2022 Dyke Inspection is complete and has been submitted to the Province.
2. Crews are completing vegetation control throughout the dyke system and will be moving on to clearing vegetation around relief wells on the west dyke.
3. Crews recently assisted the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) by moving the entrance gate at Island 22 to west of the access point of an encampment that is currently occupying space. The camp was located behind the gate which had been tampered with causing the gate to be inoperable, and therefore, disrupting public access to the park.

Co-Chair Lum expressed his appreciation with respect to how quickly Operations staff and FVRD relocated the Island 22 gate.

Co-Chair Mercer left the meeting at 9:30 am.

h) Social Development

1. There have been three funding allocations under the Reaching Home Program:
 - a. Indigenous Housing Support Facilitator
 - b. Housing Support Facilitators
 - c. Community Integration Initiative
2. There have been meetings with community partners with respect to community outreach.
3. There are monthly 'Shop-Talk' meetings held by outreach workers.
4. The Situation Table also known as the Chilliwack Interagency Response Team (CIRT)) is meeting weekly.
5. There have been engagement sessions with community service providers regarding coordinated access.

9. REPORTS (continued)

6. Community engagement took place last week with shelter and service providers regarding prevention and shelter diversion as well as youth outreach.
7. A Good Neighbour agreement is in place with Ruth and Naomi's shelter.
8. There have been community-level meetings with service providers, Bylaw Enforcement, Griffin Security, and the RCMP.

Co-Chair Lum was pleased to hear the above-noted update regarding the funding received. Co-Chair Lum noted the Committee heard Dr. Steve Esau's presentation at the March meeting with respect to the Traverse Program, a youth substance use live-in Treatment Centre, run by the Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS).

i) Restorative Justice

1. Referrals to Restorative Justice have increased in the last month.
2. Restorative Justice has been providing informational presentations at the RCMP briefings in order to streamline the referral process.
3. With the increased referrals and a small number of staff, Restorative Justice is seeking additional funding.
4. The Bike Auction is occurring every month online; there have been 20 bikes per month sold to date. Restorative Justice is asking for more bikes to be donated with proceeds going to a worthy cause.
5. Restorative Justice is working with the School District to have a Restorative Justice representative full-time in schools starting in September 2022.
6. A strategic plan for the next fiscal year starting in May has been finalized. Mr. Roukema will provide the strategic plan to be disseminated to the Committee.

Sergeant Vrolyk provided positive comment with respect to the quick turn-around time from Restorative Justice receiving a referral to resolution is 35 days. Mr. Roukema and his team are working hard to ensure the consequence of the behavior that has led to the referral is being dealt with in a timely fashion.

Darren Charlie attended today's meeting as Joanne Jefferson's alternate and provided the following update:

j) Stólō Justice

1. The Men's Respectful Relationships Program has recently come to an end; Stólō Justice has celebrated graduates from the program and other day treatment programs.
2. Staff are currently working on a new Women's Respectful Relationships program that will begin in May alongside another session of the Men's Respectful Relationship Program.

k) Chamber of Commerce

No report

l) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society

1. Speed Watch reported seven deployments in March; a low number of 12 Speed Watch warning letters were issued.
2. Block Watch is starting to set up this year's scheduled block parties with the easing of public health restrictions.
3. The Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program is gearing up for its yearly safety socials.
4. Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society, is teaming up with Constable Qaiser, RCMP to provide presentations in the community senior residences focusing on scams and frauds targeted at seniors. Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society will also be contacting local banking institutions with respect to setting up information tables inside banks to educate seniors regarding scams and frauds.

9. REPORTS (continued)

- 5. Volunteer Appreciation Week is typically held the third week in April with a luncheon for volunteers. This year’s luncheon has been cancelled this year; however, alternate plans are underway to show appreciation for all the volunteers.
- 6. City Watch volunteers reported two small fires in the community while on patrol; the particulars of each incident will be forwarded to the Fire Department.
- 7. Ms. Wulff requested the contact information for the Yarrow Days organizer in order to set up an information booth.

Community Members

Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice, Community Member, reiterated the comments he previously noted regarding pedestrian/cyclist safety in crosswalks.

Brian Foote, Community Member had no further report; however, noted he was happy to see committee members in person again.

Co-Chair Lum reminded the Committee of the new start time of 8:00 am for future meetings.

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 Lum, Co-Chair