

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022– 8:45 am
VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM

In attendance:

Councillor Jason Lum, Co-Chair	Councillor Bud Mercer, Co-Chair
Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP	Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Garrett Schipper, Manager of Building and Regulator Enforcement
Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities	Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society	Holly Ferris, Social Development Coordinator
Joanne Jefferson, Stólō Justice	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary	Peter Lang, Community Member, President, Chilliwack Métis Association

Regrets:

Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety & Social Development / Staff Liaison	Ian Josephson, Fire Chief
Inspector Steve Vrolyk, Operations Officer, RCMP	Joe Koczur, Deputy Director Operations
Collin Rogers, Chamber of Commerce	Brian Foote, Community Member
Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing	Chris Terepocki, Legal Representative
Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, BIA	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Lum 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, May 11, 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, April 13, 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

a) RCMP

Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, RCMP, reported on the following:

1. The RCMP recently purchased two electric bikes (E-bikes) which the Community Response Team (CRT) has been utilizing on their daily patrols in the downtown area. New bike members will be attending an upcoming bike training course.
2. Staff Sergeant Floris will be meeting next week with the new Emergency Room manager at Chilliwack General Hospital with respect to hospital wait times.
3. Staff Sergeant Floris provided comment with respect to the Operations report regarding youth and young adults gathering in the Garrison Woodlot; the RCMP has added extra patrols in the area.
4. The RCMP and Restorative Justice continue to work together with respect to increasing referrals.
5. Two individuals were arrested a few weeks ago with respect to a break and entry in an underground parkade on Young Road. Following the arrest, a search warrant was issued, the RCMP recovered a portion of the stolen property. A third suspect was identified and their photo was featured in the Province newspaper's 'Most Wanted' section in relation to this event.

Co-Chair Mercer provided further comment with respect to hospital wait times.

Co-Chair Lum thanked the RCMP for adding extra patrols to the Garrison Woodlot; he noted the recent media story regarding the swarming attack on a youth.

b) Fire Department

Assistant Fire Chief Bourdon reported on the following:

1. An update was provided on the First Quarter (Q1) Stats:
 - There were 1,130 calls-for-service from January to March 2022, an increase of 303 calls comparatively year-to-date. This is related to an increase in public hazard (197 overhead lines down) incidents due to the ice storm in January.
 - 89% of incidents are occurring in the Firehall 1 (downtown) and Firehall 4 (Sardis) response zones, including 95% of structure fires occurring in the downtown corridor and Sardis area.
 - 73% of structure fires are occurring in residential buildings.
 - There have been 22 structure fires.
 - The Fire Department completed 152 fire and life safety inspections.
 - There were 656 burning permits issued with 29 good burning days.
2. The Fire Department will be providing a Fire Smart presentation to residents in Ryder Lake on May 16, 2022, as part of the Fire Department's prevention initiatives. In conjunction, the Fire Department is also working with some of the Ryder Lake residents with respect to water resource availability.
3. The Fire Department will be attending Yarrow Days on June 4, 2022 and will provide the Fire Smart presentation for Majuba Hill residents.

9. REPORTS (continued)

Co-Chair Mercer requested Assistant Fire Chief Bourdon to clarify ‘good burning days’; Assistant Fire Chief Bourdon provided clarification noting burning is only permitted between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and is only permitted when the ventilation index for the day of the burn is “good” as defined by Environment Canada. The ventilation index must be confirmed each day of the burn (Call 1-888-281-2992 or visit www.chilliwack.com/burning).

Co-Chair Mercer enquired as to whether the Fire Department tracks calls-for-service with respect to which agencies attend incidents, ie: BC Ambulance Services. Assistant Fire Chief did not have the information at today’s meeting, however, he noted the Fire Department tracks the data regarding agencies who attend incidents such as motor vehicle accidents.

Assistant Fire Chief Bourdon thanked Tara Friesen, Manager of Environmental Services for her work on updating the Open Burning Bylaw.

c) BIA

No report.

d) Bylaw Department

1. The Bylaw Department has recently filled a full-time Bylaw Enforcement Officer position and a temporary time-duration Bylaw Enforcement Officer position. The new staff members will start next week and will be participating in bike training. This will ensure additional coverage on evenings and weekends right through until October.
2. The Bylaw Department has received numerous complaints with respect to youth gathering in the Garrison Woodlot and the public space across the street from the Cheam Centre, as noted in the Operations report.
3. There has been an increase in activity such as graffiti and garbage in the Sardis area from McDonald’s to the Vedder Bridge, attributable to the changing weather causing a shift in individuals coming from downtown to other areas. Bylaw Enforcement, the RCMP and Griffin Security have recently moved individuals along who have set up camp under the Vedder Bridge.
4. Bylaw Enforcement Officers are responding to issues along on the Valley Rail Trail corridors behind Rowat Avenue.
5. For the last few weeks, the Bylaw Department has been dealing with an individual who has been moving his shelter unit from the Williams Road and Margaret Avenue area towards the south side of town during the night. The RCMP has been assisting the Bylaw Department to try to resolve the issue resulting in many hours of resources. Outreach workers in the Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS) will be checking on this individual today to see if they can assist him.
6. The Bylaw Department recently purchased an electric bike for a Bylaw Enforcement Officer who works with the Community Response Team, including the RCMP, during patrols in the downtown area. The electric bike enables the Bylaw Enforcement Officer to cover more areas and speak to many individuals.

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

1. May is Speed Campaign month with many events happening all across BC.
2. Ms. Hatch will be attending Brigade Days in Hope with respect to Speed Watch.
3. ICBC is working on a project with Safer City, Speed Watch and the RCMP later this month.
4. A Road Safety speaker from Oregon will be presenting at a local high school today.
5. An update was provided with respect to some recent policy changes regarding recovery costs. This item was discussed at the April meeting with respect to an incident that occurred last summer that has been shared in the media involving a cyclist.

Co-Chair Mercer expressed his concern with respect to licence plate validation decals (decals) that will no longer be required on B.C. vehicles. Co-Chair Mercer anticipates the change will have a negative impact on insurance claims and for RCMP members with respect to losing the visual opportunity to check whether a vehicle's insurance has expired. Co-Chair Mercer provided further comment with respect to the new online service for renewing insurance, and noted there are many people who do not have access to online services and prefer to come into an insurance office to renew their car insurance.

Ms. Hatch noted the new online insurance renewal initiative offers British Columbians a more user-friendly and convenient way to renew insurance policies. An ICBC broker will review your online renewal after you've purchased your policy and reach out to you directly if they have any questions. Ms. Hatch will; however, forward the above-noted concerns along.

Garrett Schipper, Manager of Building and Regulatory Enforcement reiterated concern with respect to unlicensed vehicles parked on public streets. With drivers no longer required to display a licence plate validation decal to show they have valid insurance, BEO's will not be able to recognize if a vehicle is insured resulting in time spent for staff having to query the vehicle with ICBC directly each time the Bylaw Department receives a complaint. This will have a negative impact on parking enforcement across the province.

Co-Chair Mercer queried whether there is any technology available for BEOs' across the province to be equipped with the ability to query insurance status on parked vehicles; staff will review this further.

Joanne Jefferson, Stólo Justice, joined the meeting at 8:30 am.

Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice thanked Ms. Hatch for her follow up with respect to ICBC review of policy with respect to an incident that occurred last summer involving a cyclist. Mr. Haggarty noted he wrote to the local Member of Legislative Assembly but has not received a response back.

f) School District

1. In follow-up to the report of issues with youth in the Garrison Woodlot, there has been minimal activity at Tyson Elementary School, Vedder Middle School and Watson Elementary School; however, the School District will closely monitor these school sites as pathways in these locations can be areas where youth congregate prior to proceeding to the Garrison Woodlot.
2. There was a group of youths gathering at Yarrow Elementary School this past weekend.
3. The School District recently installed a monitor camera and motion lights at the rear of Bernard Elementary School.
4. Trans Mountain is tentatively scheduled to conduct work over the summer months at Vedder Middle School, Watson Elementary School and Unsworth Elementary School.

9. REPORTS (continued)

5. Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities, provided comment with respect to the School District considering connecting some of the youth who regularly camp out at some of the school sites with Restorative Justice.

Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations was unable to attend the meeting; however, provided the following report below via email.

g) Operations

1. *Public Works Supervisory team continues to monitor Fraser River levels as freshet has begun. The Mission Gauge is 2.5 meters as of this morning. The water is now high enough to launch boats in the Greyell Slough Chanel at the Jespersen Boat Launch; Griffin Security opens and closes the Boat Launch area at 6:00 am and 10:00 pm daily*
2. *We continue to experience challenges in our natural areas and dykes with regard to damaged gates. The dyke gate at Industrial way was damaged over the weekend by partiers that refused to leave the area when Griffin Security arrived to lock up. (photo provided) The Griffin Guard chose to lock the gate and leave as a result the lock was cut by the group. Griffin has since been instructed to contact RCMP and Fire non-emergency numbers for assistance in clearing the West Dyke. On Tuesday morning Operations staff discovered the dyke gate and locking post had been ripped out of the ground (see attached photo)*
3. *Bylaw and City Hall have received complaints from Garrison area residents regarding youth and young adults gathering in public spaces the Garrison Woodlot, Tamihi Way frontage and the Park area located across the street from the Cheam Centre disturbing the peace and in some cases vandalizing public and adjacent private property. I have reached out to all of our partners for support with added security, Bylaw and Police presence in the area.*

h) Social Development

1. A funding application for the following has been submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities under the Reaching Home Program:
 - a. Extension of the Community Outreach Integration project operated by PCRS
 - b. Community Homelessness Training
 - c. Wellness Shelter
2. Community feedback is currently being reviewed with respect to gaps in services which will be submitted to the Community Advisory Board meeting next week for further review and discussion.

Discussion ensued with respect to the Integrated Homelessness Action Response Team (IHART), who provides mobile, on-call outreach including mental health supports. A query was raised about whether a member of the public can call IHART directly should they wish to help an individual experiencing homelessness; staff noted any members of the public wishing to assist an individual experiencing homelessness should call the RCMP or the Bylaw Department who can contact the outreach workers through PCRS or IHART.

Garrett Schipper, Manager of Manager of Building and Regulatory Enforcement, noted IHART has made a significant difference with respect to Bylaw Enforcement Officers who can now directly connect with outreach services.

9. REPORTS (continued)**i) Restorative Justice**

1. In April, Restorative Justice provided presentations to four different RCMP Watches with respect to the referral process. As a result, there have been six referrals with one of those referrals involving three offenders.
2. The Restorative Justice Strategic Plan for the upcoming year has recently been mailed to over 350 organizations within the City of Chilliwack.
3. Restorative Justice is planning on hiring a part-time Restorative Community Coordinator and a full-time School Coordinator.
4. With the anticipation of additional staff and two practicum students this fall, Restorative Justice is seeking options for a larger office space.

Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice queried where funding would come from for the two new positions; Mr. Roukema noted funding would come from grants.

j) Stólō Justice

1. The Respectful Relationships Program and Day Treatment Program have begun.
2. First Responders / Sexual Violence Program will begin next week.
3. The Aboriginal Justice Liaison Committee (AJLC) meeting is scheduled for today, Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 10:00 am, Building 8B, 7201 Vedder Road. Ms. Jefferson noted the next AJLC meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2022. Anyone is welcome to attend.
4. Stólō Justice reported positive networking with the Abbotsford Police Department and the Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment with respect to increased referrals to Stólō Justice.
5. There are two new support workers on board bringing the staff count to ten.

Discussion ensued with respect to the areas Stólō Justice services and the representatives who sit on the AJLC.

Holly Ferris, Social Development Coordinator, expressed interest in connecting directly with Ms. Jefferson regarding the programming provided through Stólō Justice.

k) Chamber of Commerce

No report

l) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services

1. Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Service and Constable Qaiser, RCMP will be providing four information sessions over the next four months in the senior community with respect to scams and frauds.
2. Speed Watch reported seven deployments in April; a total of 2,814 vehicles were checked.
3. The Crime Prevention Society is coordinating an anti-graffiti volunteer group to work in unison with the BIA to patrol the community every week and locate and take photos of any graffiti sites. The BIA's painting crew will clean up any of the graffiti sites.
4. Block Watch is currently scheduling upcoming block parties.
5. Tower Road and Bowman Road have recently joined the Block Watch Program.
6. Ms. Wulff is working with Sabine Mendez, Chilliwack Healthier Communities this month with respect to Emergency Preparedness Awareness.

9. REPORTS (continued)

Community Members

1. Peter Lang, Community Member, President, Chilliwack Métis Association provided comment with respect to Chilliwack Métis Association receiving some funding late in the fiscal year which is allowing several programs to be offered. Mr. Lang indicated there is information on Facebook with respect to programs being targeted toward First Nations and Métis families, Elders and youth. One of the programs is a Metis two-session cooking class which starts tonight with a chef from the University of the Fraser Valley.
2. Mr. Lang expressed concern with respect to renoviction and the condition of some rental housing in the community. He provided comment with respect to a situation he is aware of where an Elder is living in a rental housing unit on Lewis Avenue that is in major disrepair. He referred to Prince Rupert’s new bylaw, which was passed recently, outlining basic maintenance standards for rental units and rules around evictions. Failure to comply could result in fines of up to \$50,000. Mr. Lang queried whether a similar bylaw would be considered in Chilliwack.

Co-Chair Lum thanked Mr. Lang for raising the concern with respect to renoviction and rental housing that is in disrepair and is interested in having further discussion regarding this issue.

Mr. Schipper will explore further whether there is any ability, from a Building Code perspective, for the City of Chilliwack to investigate the rental housing property on Lewis Avenue.

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