

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022– 8:00 am
VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM

In attendance:

Councillor Jason Lum, Co-Chair	Councillor Bud Mercer, Co-Chair
Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development	Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations
Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief	Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Corporal Brad Rendall, Community Policing, RCMP
Darren Charlie, Stólō Justice	Brian Foote, Community Member
Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice	Gillian Villeneuve, Director of Planning
Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development	Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services
Reuben Koole, Manager of Long Range Planning	Madelaine Peters, Planner III
Diane Alling, Recording Secretary	

Regrets:

Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, RCMP	Inspector Steve Vrolyk, Operations Officer, RCMP
Chris Terepocki, Legal Representative	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP	Peter Lang, Community Member, President, Chilliwack Métis Association
Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA	Collin Rogers, Chamber of Commerce
Joanne Jefferson, Stólō Justice	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-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, September 21, 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, July 13, 2022, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION**5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION****DP4 guidelines related to gates/shutters/awnings - Discussion**

Reuben Koole, Manager of Long Range Planning provided a presentation and update regarding security shutters, gates, awnings and canopies. In the fall of 2019, the Design Review Advisory Committee received an enquiry with respect to roll-down shutters in the downtown area, and as such, the Committee made a request for further review of the Downtown Design Guidelines. In the spring of 2020, the Design Review Advisory Committee recommended that Council consider directing staff to amend the Downtown Design Guidelines (Official Community Plan) to prohibit security window shutters, to discourage accordion gates and rolling grills, and to encourage the use of interior window bars. It was felt that window shutters did not provide a welcoming experience as it may be perceived that the area is experiencing a high level of vandalism. The Committee was advised that the Affordable Housing Development Committee and the Design Review Advisory Committee were provided with this presentation previously.

The proposal includes a neighbourhood based approach with flexibility regarding the installation of either fixed or retractable awnings and canopies with breaks in coverage, an emphasis on transparent entry way gates that are fixed in place, and can be either ornate or plain, and for commercial use only, and shutters would not be permitted. Window transparency would be emphasized with a preference of glazing treatments, interior bars and gates would be permitted, exterior bars and gates would be discouraged, however, they would not be prohibited. Shutters would not be permitted to cover windows. DP5 and DP6 guidelines would be reviewed to ensure a city-wide approach.

General Discussion

The Committee discussed the following:

- application of the placemaking theory to the downtown core relative to activity occurring during times when pedestrian activity is low;
- importance of ensuring the design of gates and bars is done within a downtown aesthetic;
- interior window bars cause a 'fortress' feel in the downtown;
- concerns regarding a blanket approach to security measures such as shutters resulting in target hardening, the potential of graffiti on shutters, and a suggestion was made for an analysis of site-specific security measures for targeted businesses;
- support for small retailers to install gates, shutters, and awnings designed within a downtown aesthetic;
- roll down window shutters and security of alcoves; and
- Reduced CEPTED reports are required for new or retrofit projects under \$1 million and full reports for new or retrofit projects over \$1 million.

Darren Charlie, Stólō Justice, withdrew from the meeting at 9:40 am.

Reuben Koole, Manager of Long Range Planning, withdrew from the meeting at 9:42 am.

Madelaine Peters, Planner III, withdrew from the meeting at 9:42 am.

6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

9. REPORTS

a) RCMP

Corporal Brad Rendall, Community Policing, RCMP, reported on the following:

1. Concerns have been raised regarding a new encampment located near the Vedder River Brewing Co.
2. BC Transit has requested assistance from the RCMP to help reduce fare evasion on the route 66 bus; the project will start in early October.
3. Bikes are being retrofitted with red and blue lights to increase visibility when on patrol. As a result, bike patrols have been temporarily reduced.
4. Two new rotational members have been assigned to the Community Response Team and will be introduced at a future meeting.
5. Sergeant Krista Vrolyk and Constable Mark Janzen are participating in Cops for Cancer. Corporal Rendall is acting for Sergeant Vrolyk in her absence.

b) Fire Department

Fire Chief Josephson reported on the following:

1. To date, the Fire Department has received 2161 calls for service; 88 percent of the calls were from the downtown and Sardis areas; 18 structure fires in the second quarter resulting in 41 structure fires to date. Ninety eight percent of structure fires occurred in the downtown and Sardis areas, 70 percent of fires are in residential buildings, seven civilians have been injured, more than 400 inspections in public buildings increase from 2021 due to COVID, 30 fire and life safety sessions delivering to approximately 700 residents.

Assistant Chief Bourdon reported on the following:

1. The Annual Fire Prevention Week will take place from October 9th to 15th, 2022 with the theme “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape”. The Fire Safety Fair will take place on October 1st, 2022, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Chilliwack Home Depot. The CN Police, Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement Team, Fraser Brain Injury, Safer City, Operations department, Chilliwack School District, ICBC, and Speed Watch will be in attendance. There will also be an earthquake simulator, fire smart education, the Safety House for children, and the Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society will provide hamburgers and hot dogs.
2. Open burning season was scheduled to start on October 1st but will possibly be delayed due to the provincial government’s ban on category 2 and 3 fires. Once the provincial bans are lifted, open burning season will commence. The City’s website was updated on September 20, 2022.

c) BIA

No report.

9. REPORTS (continued)

d) Bylaw Department

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

1. The number of calls-for-service regarding weed control are down from earlier this summer due to the dry weather. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in parking issues near the Fraser and Vedder Rivers during the upcoming fishing season. Parking issues have already been noted at the Gill Road access on the Fraser River. Bylaw is working with the Engineering Department to install signage.
2. In previous years, Bylaw Enforcement Officers would proactively perform bike patrols on the Rotary Trail during evening and weekend shifts. This year, evening and weekend shifts are now having to focus on issues involving people experiencing homelessness, tents being set up in parks, the rail trail and on sidewalks and are not able to respond to as many parking complaints. It was noted that the same issues occurring in the downtown core are also happening on the southside Vedder Crossing area. Recently met with CN Police to discuss trespass issues on CN property as Chilliwack has the most rail fatalities in Canada on the rail line.
3. The Shopping Cart Bylaw is currently being reviewed.

e) ICBC

Tanis Hatch, ICBC, was not able to attend the meeting; however, provided the following update via email.

1. Ms. Hatch reported that the Back to School and Distractions campaign launched in early September. Speed Watch volunteers, Safer City, RCMP and Bylaw Enforcement Officers were out reminding drivers in school zones to slow down and leave their phones alone. Some drivers were given a “Think of me” hand drawn message from a child in the community from police.
2. The Pedestrian campaign begins in early October and event preparations are underway.

f) School District

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

1. A dedicated staff member was assigned to the north side and south side of the district to clean up sites during summer. Staff were on site starting at 6:00 AM to ensure sites were cleaned before daycares opened and the public enjoyed the playgrounds. Three weeks before the beginning of the school year, staff started reminding people on school property that school was starting soon.
2. Mr. Klassen thanked Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services, and Caitlin Weston, Manager of Bylaw Enforcement, for their assistance in various issues.
3. The concrete barriers at Chilliwack Middle School were removed in mid-September which has resulted in a decrease in issues around the unhoued on site, drug paraphernalia and garbage.
4. The new apartment complex on the west side of Chilliwack Middle School has unsecured dumpsters in the back lane which has resulted in refuse and furniture being left around the receptacles and is now a gathering area for those collecting bottles.
5. There has been a noticeable decrease regarding Issues at Central Park.
6. During the summer, a number of windows were broken at Central Elementary Community School resulting in approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000 in damage.
7. Interactions with individuals experiencing homelessness at Chilliwack Middle school revealed that many travel to Chilliwack from other cities and come here for housing.
8. A number of police files have been submitted online.

9. REPORTS (continued)

9. Premier John Horgan will attend the opening of Rick Klassen field and is anticipated to participate in the Orange Shirt Day Parade on September 30, 2022.
10. Cards for the Ann Davis Society have been distributed to vulnerable women in the community located on School District properties.
11. The Municipal Election will be held on October 15, 2022.

g) Operations

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

1. The Water Course Maintenance program is nearing the end for the year. An extended work requirement was necessary this year due to the atmospheric river event in November 2021. Sediment traps were filled in some of the hillside streams. Some emergency maintenance work was performed in early 2022 but most of the work was done now as it is least damaging from an environmental perspective. Some farmers were able to obtain permits from the Agriculture Land Commission to receive sediment removed from waterways.
2. Bank protection work was done in early September on the south bend of the Vedder River at Crossing Park to repair erosion. The most vulnerable portions of this section were worked on and staff will reapply to regulatory agencies to finish the work in the next fish window in 2023.
3. Operations staff continue to partner with Griffin Security, Bylaw staff, the Chilliwack School District, and the RCMP on issues relating to people experiencing homelessness. Staff are looking to remove the concrete barriers at Rowat Avenue to discourage congregation in the area.
4. There is a large camp along Chilliwack Creek at Brannick Place and staff are working with a landowner to gain access to the adjacent property to allow for cleanup.
5. It was noted that there is an increase in number of people experiencing homelessness within the city particularly in the early morning hours.

h) Social Development

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

1. There are new Reaching Home Program funded projects including weekend outreach through the Pacific Community Resource Society, rental and utility arrears through the Ann Davis Transition Society, and youth specific outreach through the Cyrus Centre who have also partnered with a street nurse and a counsellor from the Chilliwack Youth Health Centre. The team from the Cyrus Centre plan to join the RCMP bike patrols on Thursdays.
2. In July, 153 of 159 of adult shelter beds and 7 of 9 youth shelter beds were occupied and 144 of 159 of adult shelter beds were occupied in August.
3. The City of Chilliwack will be hosting Canadian Alliance of Homeless training programs: 'Homelessness 101' will be held on October 27, 2022, a trauma informed all day work shop will be held on October 28, 2022, Intensive Case Management training will be held in November 2022, and Assertive Engagement and Indigenous Homelessness workshops will be held in early 2023.

9. REPORTS (continued)

i) Restorative Justice

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

1. A new full time Restorative School Coordinator and a part time Community Restorative Coordinator started in mid-August 2022.
2. The School Restorative Response Program started in mid-August at Vedder Elementary, Vedder Middle, and Watson Elementary.
3. Training for thirteen child and youth care workers and counsellors from the Chilliwack School District as well as nine volunteers from Restorative Justice took place at the end of August.
4. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled on October 3, 2022.
5. There were 45 volunteer hours recorded in July and 17.5 volunteer hours in August; 15 new volunteers, three new referrals to the program in July; two new referrals in August; and 21 active files to date.

Steve Roukema noted that more intentionality is being placed under offenders' consequences. Restorative Justice is working to build long-term relationships to assist with education, employment, goals and resources.

j) Stólō Justice

No report.

k) Chamber of Commerce

No Report.

l) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society

Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services, reported on the following:

1. Speed Watch conducted 24 deployments throughout the summer and 93 warning letters were mailed. The back to school blitz took place during the first two weeks of school in September.
2. Two block parties took place over the summer; 77 active Block Watch areas.
3. Crime Free Multi Housing had one CPTED which was an RCMP referral, 43 active Crime Free Multi housing buildings, and five safety socials took place.
4. Drive First with Sergeant Safety Bear took place on Canada Day, an information table was set up for the Rotary Trail Safety Day, presentation on scams and frauds occurred at Vedder Terrace, Waverly 1 and 2, and the Mt. Cheam Lions.
5. There were 396.75 volunteer hours were recorded for the month of July, 426.25 volunteer hours were recorded for the month of August.
6. They will also be attending the Safety Fair on October 1, 2022.

Community Members

No Reports.

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

Co-Chair

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