

SAFER NANAIMO WORKING GROUP
2011-SEP-16

PRESENT:

Councillor Fred Pattje, Chair
Councillor Merv Unger
Sheryl Armstrong, RCMP
Mike Gibson, RCMP
Randy Churchill, Bylaw Services
Wally Taylor, RCMP
Dave Laberge, RCMP
John Horn, Community Planning
Tom Hickey, Community Services
Bill Carter, DNBIA
Bruce Anderson, Community Planning
Gail Honeyman, Recording Secretary

Public Washrooms Downtown

There are no public washroom facilities in the downtown area and this is a problem when the bars close. The RCMP issue a large number of public urination tickets after bar closing hours because there are no alternatives for people. The only facilities are at the two open food outlets in the Victoria Crescent area. The majority of liquor establishments are in the Skinner Street area.

Discussion:

- what are the options
- what is the cost
- is cost sharing possible
- what is available in other cities of comparable size

It was decided that some of the members will get together to pool ideas and put together information. Tom Hickey will coordinate.

Taxi Availability

There are not enough taxis available when the liquor establishments close and this is creating some disorder downtown. Fares are competing for available taxis as there is no established pick-up zone, particularly on Skinner Street. There is also some confusion as some of the taxis are not marked.

Self-regulation of taxi companies is not working and there is a substandard service being provided. A vehicle for hire bylaw was discussed at the request of the hospitality industry and BC Ferries but it was not brought forward. There was some resistance from the taxi companies. It was suggested that the municipal enforcement officer, Boyd Hunter, be invited to a meeting to discuss the bylaw.

Supportive Housing Update

The supportive housing location in the north end has been announced by BC Housing. BC Housing will be taking a leadership role in regard to communication.

Safer will respond to issues arising from the project.

There will be no open public sessions with respect to the north end project. There will be smaller, more focused meetings. There are plans to meet with the strata councils and other neighbours.

Harris House Good Neighbour Agreement Update

There have been no issues with Harris House. The impact on the neighbourhood has been minimal. The fears of the neighbourhood have not materialized.

The meeting terminated at 11:15 am.