

CITY OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SAFER NANAIMO WORKING GROUP HELD
2010-JUL-22

PRESENT:

Councillor Merv Unger, Chair
Councillor Fred Pattje
Randy Churchill, Bylaw Services
John Horn, Community Planning
Gord Nixon, Community Policing
Brian Denbigh, Public Works
Cst. Wally Taylor, RCMP
Andrew Tucker, Planning
Tom Hickey, Public Works
Bill Kiselback, Bylaw Services
Cpl. Dave LaBerge, RCMP
Tim Davidson, Bylaw Services
Sgt. Sheryl Armstrong, RCMP
Marg Fraser, VIHA
Bill Carter, President, DNBIA
Kevan Shaw, DNBIA
Jeff Ritchie, Parks

Introductions:

Councillor Unger called the meeting to order and introduced Sgt. Sheryl Armstrong, NCO/ic of Community Policing; Bill Carter, President of the DNBIA; and Kevan Shaw of the DNBIA.

Supportive Housing Update:

The Ministry of Housing has announced \$26,000,000 in funding to fulfil the commitment to building housing units in Nanaimo. There are currently two projects in progress – Tenth Street and Wesley Street.

The plan is to move all projects ahead simultaneously. The projects at Quarterway, Dufferin Crescent (Townsite), and Hillside Avenue will now move forward.

It is recognized that social housing will have an impact on a neighbourhood. It is the City's intention that social housing and social services be spread throughout the City.

Issues at the Balmoral were discussed. Due to problems with funding, there is no staff on site overnight.

Townsite/Hospital Area Update:

A neighbourhood meeting was held recently to discuss issues. RCMP, City and VIHA were in attendance. The neighbours were generally accepting of social housing but some wondered why there is none in the north end.

There is not a lot of public disorder in the area but it is in transition with a lot of rental housing. There are some crack houses and some stress in the area is already being experienced.

Staff generally park on the residential streets around the hospital. This has a huge impact in the neighbourhood. The neighbourhood association should contact VIHA to discuss the situation.

Community Policing Move to the CPSO

The community policing office at Oliver Woods is not well utilized and the volunteers would like to be more active. At present the CPSO is sometimes locked during the day. The move from Oliver Woods will allow the office to be open for longer hours. Volunteers could work on new programs downtown such as Block Watch.

Graffiti Task Force

The task force has been in existence since 2005 and has members from throughout the community. The task force sponsors an annual clean up.

The City has maintenance programs to remove graffiti from the infrastructure and try to do it immediately. Hydro only removes profanity but will supply paint to residents to remove the graffiti. Graffiti clean-up kits are available at no charge at the CPSO.

Education is an important factor in graffiti control. A graffiti brochure is available. The RCMP and the City are working on collecting data and photographs of the graffiti so that profiles can be done on the taggers. Graffiti clean-up kits are available at no charge to clean up tagged property.

Vandalism Task Force

A task force was formed to deal with rising vandalism incidents. Construction sites have been the subject of theft and arson. There are also numerous thefts of copper wire.

There are many things that can be done including school programs, realty watch, bait tool boxes, etc. It has been recommended that building contractors connect with Safer for assistance in addressing their concerns.

Bar Watch

The majority of the nightclubs downtown use security scanning equipment. The use of the equipment has helped in calming public disorder. The businesses using the equipment should be recognized.

It was Moved and Seconded that the Safer Nanaimo Working Group recommend to Council that those businesses who have installed the security monitoring equipment be granted a one-time reduction of their (\$1,100) business licence to \$165. The Motion carried.

The meeting terminated at 11:30 am.