

CITY OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SAFER NANAIMO WORKING GROUP HELD 2009-DEC-16

PRESENT:

Councillor Fred Pattje, Co-chair
Councillor Merv Unger, Co-chair
Randy Churchill, Bylaw Services
Tim Davidson, Bylaw Services
Gord Nixon, Community Policing
Wally Taylor, RCMP Bike Unit
Dave LaBerge, RCMP Bike Unit
John Horn, Community Planning
Marg Fraser, VIHA
Matt Hussmann, DNPS
Jeff Ritchie, Parks
Bill Kiselbach, Bylaw Services
Davie Scherr, RCMP Bike Unit
Rob Stitt, RCMP Bike Unit
Gail Honeyman, Recording Secretary

Review of 2009

There was a review of some of the issues dealt with by Safer in 2009:

- housing strategy
- street entertainer review
- bar watch
- Harris House Health Clinic opening
- tour of supportive housing in Vancouver by Councillors and staff
- the announcement of a community treatment team
- the Wesley Street housing project and the selection of the operator

Strategic Planning 2010

- establish a more efficient process for Good Neighbour Agreements. There is presently no agreement with Harris House Health Clinic and the Old City Quarter.
- the Salvation Army is above capacity for meal service. There are no meal services for families. Services need to be established outside the downtown core.
- the CPSO is not always staffed during the day. There are many volunteers as well as RCMP and Bylaw Services working from the office however there is no permanent office staff. It would be beneficial the have someone in the office during the day to coordinate activities.
- Bar Watch continues to be a successful program however not all nightclubs are participating. Those premises attract a rougher crowd which could contribute to more disorder downtown.

It was moved by Randy Churchill, seconded by Dave LaBerge that Safer recommend to Council that incentives be provided to high occupancy nightclubs to participate in Bar Watch by:

- providing funds to purchase the telescope equipment; or
- reduce the business licence fee from \$1100 to \$165 annually

The motion carried.

Value Lodge Nuisance Property

- the property was deemed a nuisance property by Council
- there are new managers for the facility and things are getting better
- long term occupancy of the rooms is slowly being phased out
- the owners are working closely with the City

Parks Matters

- the City of Victoria failed in their appeal of the decision to allow camping in parks. This will have an impact here. The municipality must look for solutions as park spaces must be protected. It was suggested that a report be brought forward to the next meeting.
- there are more instances of indecent acts in parks.

Youth Gangs

- there is some potential for gangs in the city.
- with fewer police officers in the schools, some intelligence is lost
- Nanaimo is a prime recruiting ground for gangs.
- this matter should be part of the group's strategic plan

It was suggested that representatives from the School Board and VIU be invited to be members of the group. It was also suggested that the RCMP crime analyst also be invited to attend.