

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SAFER NANAIMO WORKING GROUP HELD 2009-
MAY-13

PRESENT:

Councillor Fred Pattje, Co-chair
Councillor Merv Unger, Co-chair
Andrew Tucker, Planning
John Horn, Community Planning
Randy Churchill, Bylaw Services
Bill Kiselbach, Bylaw Services
Gary Franssen, Public Works
Jim Plasteras, Parks
Supt. Jeff Lott, RCMP
Cpl. Dave LaBerge, RCMP
Cst. Wally Taylor, RCMP
Cst. Joanne Harrisson, RCMP
Cst. Gary O'Brien, RCMP
Inga Nielsen-Cooper, Tillicum Lelum
Alison Millward, VIHA
Marg Fraser, VIHA
Christina Martens, CMHA
Matt Hussman, DNPS
Sharon Welch, DNPS
Gail Honeyman, Recording Secretary

Christina Martens led the group on a tour of the facility which includes housing, offices for outreach teams, a frozen food dispensary, and administrative offices for CMHA and VIHA.

Wesley Street Process

Copies of the strategy document compiled by Neilson Welch were distributed.

John gave a brief outline of the document. He stressed the importance of team work. The non-profit group who will run the facility has not yet been identified. The request for expressions of interest will likely go out next week.

It is recommended that a notice be prepared informing the neighbourhood of the project. The wording of the document is key. Neighbours must be aware of what will happen. There must be community engagement. It is anticipated that there will be a reaction and the group should be prepared.

Council should be briefed as the project progresses.

The public notice should be prepared and a community engagement team should be convened. This is to be discussed at the next meeting.

Andrew pointed out that the notices are to inform the public of the project. It is not seeking input. John asked what opportunities for input should be given to the public.

VIHA Relationship

John said that the review has not been completed by Nielsen Welch. It was suggested that the group engage the director of VIHA in Victoria.

At present, there is no assurance from the Ministry of Health that they will take part in the operation of the proposed housing facilities. It is essential that these projects have VIHA support. It is suggested that meetings be sought with the Minister of Health. VIHA will have a proposal ready to present. Marg asked that she be kept apprised.

CPSO Update

Wally said that the number of volunteers has increased. There has been an increase in drop-ins to the office. Wally will be stepping away from the CPSO. Cst. Joanne Harrisson will be in the office temporarily until a replacement has been selected. Cst. Gary O'Brien will be supervising the RCMP component of the CPSO.

Sharon said there are currently six ambassadors working out of the office. They are now analyzing the data from the questionnaire that was distributed. It is anticipated that there will be a 12 – 13 page report generated from the data. The CPSO will be conducting a crime free multi-housing seminar in June.

Bill said one of the bigger problems downtown is graffiti. It appears that it is being done by young people. A lot of the graffiti is being done along Terminal Avenue.

Bill also said that there are still problems with the homeless at various locations downtown, mainly in the parks.

Wally said there has been positive feedback from the public regarding police presence downtown. Bill said that the ambassadors and Footprints security are also appreciated.

Buskers Update

Council has authorized a review of the bylaw. The buskers would like more involvement on a cultural level. There will be a meeting with Safer representatives and Parks to discuss. Randy anticipates that the process will take approximately six months. Randy will keep the group updated.

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Security Update

A meeting was held with the Ministry, City of Nanaimo, and business representatives. The Ministry representatives said that Nanaimo has a "best practice" for providing security in the downtown. There is no crossing of boundaries between the RCMP, Bylaw, and private security.

Invitation to SFN

The invitation did not get sent but will be done before the next meeting.

Community Court – Justice Access Centre

The Chief Judge has passed away. He was a champion of community courts. Safer has been active in trying to get a community court/justice access centre in Nanaimo.

Schedule of Meetings

The group agreed to the meeting schedule as presented. The public meetings will be limited to issues which can be dealt with by Safer. Those wishing to appear at the meeting should supply written submissions to Randy the Friday before the public meeting.

Discussions

John said that the GNA for the Harris House Health Clinic is being finalized. There have been no issues brought forward.

Marg said that VIHA Mental Health is now operating from 528 Wentworth and are open from 8:30 – 4:30 daily. Attendance is by appointment.

The meeting terminated at 3:00 p.m.