MINUTES
SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING
TRAINING ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL
455 WALLACE STREET, NANAIMO, BC
THURSDAY, 2018-AUG-02, AT 3:30 P.M.

Present:	Councillor S. D. Armstrong, Chair David Holmes Barbara Korabek (arrived 3:29 p.m.) David Lemire Muir (Thomas) Meredith Bruce Parker Alexis Petersen Robert Whitton
Absent:	Councillor W. M. Yoachim
Staff	L. Fletcher, Operations Support Officer, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP K. Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety K. MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner (arrived 3:35 p.m.) S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:26 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

(a) Councillor Armstrong advised that Dave Lawrence, Vice President, Victoria Crescent Association, was in attendance and wished to address the Committee as a late delegation regarding Agenda Item 7(b) - Discussion re: Community Policing Services Office.

It was moved and seconded that Dave Lawrence, Vice President, Victoria Crescent Association, be permitted to address the Public Safety Committee as a late delegation with a five-minute time limitation. The motion carried unanimously.

David Lemire requested that Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, meet with the various advisory committee members as a group.

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee recommend that Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, meet with the various advisory committee members as a group. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, as amended, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting held in the Board Room, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC on Thursday, 2018-JUL-05, at 3:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Korabek entered the Training Room at 3:29 p.m.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Councillor Armstrong to provide a verbal update re: Discontent City

Councillor Armstrong provided a verbal update regarding Discontent City and asked Karen Fry, Fire Chief, to provide further details.

Karen Fry, Fire Chief, spoke regarding the following:

- difficulties regarding enforcement of the fire safety order and differences between the 1 Port Drive tent city and the previous tent city located at City Hall;
- Court hearings were held in July requesting 3 items;
- the Fire Commissioner of BC submitted the request for the fire safety order not the City of Nanaimo;
- the Judge has ordered that a fire safety order be imposed and is currently reserving his judgement regarding whether to impose an eviction notice or not;
- the Fire Chief cannot force action;
- the fire safety order will be going back to court on August 13th for an enforcement order;
- currently engaging with BC Housing and Island Health; and,
- a health order has been placed on the site.

Councillor Armstrong noted that Child Protection Services BC and Snuneymuxw First Nation are involved.

L. Fletcher, Operations Support Officer, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, spoke regarding recent events at Discontent City and noted the following:

- the injunction falls under the Supreme Court Civil Rules;
- RCMP's perspective is public safety for people at the site and in the surrounding community;
- they are working with other organizations and attending the site on a daily basis;
- the population of Discontent City continues to evolve and change;
- the bike patrol have dedicated a lot of time and resources to that location;
- there has been commentary regarding a potential protest march this Sunday and the RCMP are aware of this event and are engaging with the organizers.

Kirsty MacDonald entered the Training Room at 3:35 p.m.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- history of the Sons of Odin within Nanaimo;
- progress being made to identify a piece of property for modular housing;
- media releases regarding the proposed protest;
- disclosure required when the City is the primary purchaser of property;
- what planning is being done if Discontent City remains through the winter;
- contaminants in the land at 1 Port Drive;
- how did Maple Ridge enforce their action plans; and,
- how to achieve compliance with the orders.

(b) Discussion re: Community Policing Services Office

Delegations:

1. Kevan Shaw, President, Victoria Crescent Association, spoke regarding the Community Policing Services Office (CPSO) and noted the following:

    - keeping the CPSO building open;
    - types of garbage found around the downtown area;
    - recent altercations on the streets in the downtown area and concerns for personal safety due to drug use and mental health issues in the area;
    - open drug use and intoxication is becoming a common event;
    - physical attack recently on a local shop owner;
    - adding resources to the CPSO office;
    - Footprints Security has moved their office to the parkade;
    - does the City monitor what Footprints Security guards are doing;
    - does not believe it is a problem having social workers sharing the CPSO building with bylaw officers; and,
    - staffing the CPSO building.

Committee discussion took place regarding garbage found near the A&W downtown.

2. Dave Lawrence, Vice President, Victoria Crescent Association, spoke regarding the Community Policing Services Office and noted the following:

    - supplies for charity organization being stolen from his building;
    - CPSO building being kept open with RCMP officers located there; and,
    - creating a task force for mental health.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- the union being involved in staffing the CPSO building and issues relating to police officers located at CPSO building;
- frequency of meetings between Island Health, RCMP and Bylaw Officers;
- need to communicate more to the community about what is being done;
- possibility of asking Council to hire more police officers;

- bylaw officers have voiced some concerns about having outside employees within their workplace when handling confidential information;
- concerns that individuals with mental health will not want to use the resources of the CPSO building if they know there are RCMP and Bylaws at the location;
- baring any physical changes to the building the bylaws staff would like to keep the building as status quo;
- aggressive and volatile individuals within the downtown area;
- a uniform presence around the area helps to address the concerns of the community and visitors;
- what community issues would be solved within the CPSO building? Many current issues are better handled directly on the street rather than inside a building;
- could the entire bylaw division be moved to the CPSO building? One of the issues with this is some members of the bylaw department need to be involved with other departments located within the Service and Resource Centre;
- what is the unmet need and what is the value on the CPSO building; and,
- is the CPSO building addressing the issues.

Dave Lawrence, Vice President, Victoria Crescent Association, asked if the bike patrol was a downtown unit. It was noted that the RCMP Bike Patrol is not assigned to the downtown area. Many people are upset that money and manpower is not being shared amongst areas and claim that the focus has been only on the downtown issue.

L. Fletcher, Operations Support Officer, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, noted that the RCMP have had an unprecedented level of criminal code offenses and they would not be opposed to hiring more RCMP officers.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- rotating employees between RCMP and Bylaw within the CPSO building;
- working group addressing issues with Discontent City;
- the CPSO building becoming a mental health facility;
- examples of other housing alternatives; and,
- name of the CPSO building being changed to Community Safety Office.

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee recommend that Nanaimo Mayor and Council continue to fund the CPSO building, on an annual basis, and change the name of the building to Community Safety Office. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- what are the expanded roles of the CPSO building;
- need to determine what the community need is now and going forward;
- explore the value of this unused facility;
- staff needing to discuss options and concerns relating to a change at the CPSO building; and,
- fire safety being a priority at the CPSO building and discussions with Vancouver Island Health Authority, regarding the use of the CPSO building for mental health purposes.

It was requested that discussion regarding a plan for expanded roles of the CPSO building be added to the October Public Safety Committee meeting agenda.

(c) Correspondence dated July 24, 2018, from Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association re: Needle Problem

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- City parks department looking into this issue; and,
- City Social Planner working with the Departure Bay community.

6. QUESTION PERIOD:

- Kevan Shaw re: downtown business members wanting to attend meetings.

Committee discussion took place regarding the motion to ask Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, to meet with the various committee members.

It was requested that licencing of Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR) be included on the next Public Safety Committee meeting agenda, scheduled for 2018-SEP-06, for committee feedback regarding potential safety related issues for the community.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:44 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER