MINUTES
OPEN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY HALL TRAINING ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET
THURSDAY, 2017-JUL-06 AT 3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor I. W. Thorpe, Chair

Members: David Holmes
Rick Hyne
David Lemire
Fiona MacInnes
Muir (Thomas) Meredith
Bruce Parker
Alexis Petersen
Robert Whitton

Absent: Councillor J. A. Kipp
Councillor W. M. Yoachim

Staff: B. Anderson, Manager of Community & Cultural Planning
R. Davidson, Manager Bylaw, Regulation and Security
J. Horn, Social Planner
K. Lindsay, Emergency Program Manager
Supt. C Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP
J. Vanderhoef, Steno
K. Gerard, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Public Safety Meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

(a) Change wording of Agenda Item 4(a) – Adoption of Minutes as follows:

"Minutes of the Open Public Safety Committee Meeting held in the Board Room, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC on Monday, 2017-MAY-04 at 3:30 p.m."

(b) Add - Agenda Item 7(a) - Appointment of Vice Chair and reorder.

(c) Add Delegation from Kevan Shaw to Agenda Item 6(b) - Other Business.

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 Open Public Safety Committee Meeting held in the Board Room, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC on Monday, 2017-MAY-04 at 3:30 p.m. be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATION:

(a). Responses to Social Order Concerns

Rod Davidson, Manager of Bylaw, Regulation and Security, John Horn, Social Planner and Bruce Anderson, Manager of Community and Cultural Planning, gave an update on the Responses to Social Order concerns which included some of the following short and long term goals.

- 2 new needle drop boxes located within the downtown area: Robson Street and Esplanade Street;
- Negotiations with the John Howard Society to provide newly released inmates of the Nanaimo Correctional Centre employment through the Urban Clean-up program; and,
- Time frames regarding the new needle drop boxes and Urban Clean-up program commencing within the next 2 weeks.

Committee discussion took place regarding the summer rush of homelessness and aggressiveness of panhandlers, the Urban Clear-up program and whether the rail companies been contacted to assist with the clean-up.

Rod Davidson, Manager of Bylaw, Regulation and Security, gave an update regarding Medium to Long Term goals which included:

- Enhanced security presence downtown;
- Two daytime patrollers;
- Communication with business owners, service providers, homeless individuals and residents looking for feedback, suggestions and opinions on the long term goals for the downtown area;
- RCMP, Bylaws and bike patrols working together and sharing information;
- Begin working with School District 68 to assist in the clean up and security of the area surrounding 421 Franklyn Street;
- Review of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design – create a street environment where crime is less likely to occur; and,
- Researching and reviewing the previous Ambassador program which was successful in the downtown area.

Committee discussion took place regarding welfare cheque issue dates and the effect on the disturbances in the downtown core.

Committee requested Staff provide the Public Safety Committee with documentation in regards to Public Safety Initiatives from other communities.

Bruce Anderson, Manager of Community and Cultural Planning, provided an update on the Medium to Long Term goals which included:

- Gathering information, statistics, opinions and suggestions which Staff will then report back to Council on their findings;
- Looking at the larger social disorder issue, it's causes and what is the best course of action;
- Staff will identify and assess responses from business owners, stakeholders, residents and local homeless individuals; and,
- Staff will then report back to Council and seek direction for the future.

Committee discussion took place regarding the infrequency of meetings, scheduling of meetings and the committee's priorities regarding the Community Policing Office and Social, Safety and Security in the downtown area.

Supt. Cam Miller, OIC, RCMP Nanaimo Detachment, spoke regarding the numerous priorities of the RCMP and offered to come to a future meeting to update the Committee on other issues and priorities.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Appointment to Vice Chair

Committee discussion took place regarding nominations for a Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

It was moved and seconded that Bruce Parker be appointed Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Delegation

Kevan Shaw, President of the Victoria Crescent Association, spoke regarding:

- Large increase in street people, drug use, aggressiveness, threats and assaults in the downtown area;
- The Victoria Crescent Association has helped with issues like this in the past;
- The VCA, residents and business owners do not want the Community Policing Office to close down;
- Desire to see the Ambassador program re-instated;
- Request for help dealing with these issues;
- Fear within this area of the community;
- New street lighting being installed;
- The addition of downtown security is already having a positive impact; and,
- Hoping that the downtown community can assist with long term solutions by the end of September.

It was moved and seconded that the Committee receive the delegation, Kevan Shaw for information. The motion carried unanimously.

7. QUESTION PERIOD

a. Mr. Kevan Shaw re: need to work together to see progress on downtown issues.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded at 4:53 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

J.W. Thorpe
CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Sheila Harris
CORPORATE OFFICER