

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
THURSDAY, 2018-MAY-03, AT 3:30 P.M.

Present: Councillor S. D. Armstrong, Chair
David Holmes
David Lemire
Muir (Thomas) Meredith
Bruce Parker
Alexis Petersen
Robert Whitton

Absent: Councillor Yoachim (Alternate)

Staff: K. Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety
Cpl. D. LaBerge, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, Bike Patrol Unit
A. Britton, Manager, Parks Operations
C. Kuczerski, Bylaw Enforcement Officer
B. Hornby, Bylaw Enforcement Officer – Parking Patroller
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
G. Whitters, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

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

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) 2018 Public Safety Strategic Directions

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, advised that at the April 23, 2018 Council meeting Council approved of the 2018 Strategic Directions of the Public Safety Committee.

(b) The City of Nanaimo's Graffiti Strategy

Barry Hornby, Bylaw Enforcement Officer – Parking Patroller and Chair of the Graffiti Task Force, provided a presentation on the current situation of the Graffiti Task Force in the City of Nanaimo which included the following points:

- Process of dealing with graffiti
- Techniques used to reduce and control graffiti
- Four key components of dealing with graffiti
 - Reporting, Eradicating, Education and Enforcement
- Goal to include graffiti proofing buildings in building codes
- Use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design to deter graffiti
- “Property Maintenance and Standards Bylaw 2017 No. 7242” re: graffiti

Committee discussion regarding:

- “Public Nuisance Bylaw 2003 No. 5648” and a possible change to the fine amount
- Potential of restorative justice for taggers that are caught
- Working with other communities on Vancouver Island and the mainland
- Importance of community support and RCMP involvement
- Supplies for making, writing graffiti are often stolen from stores
- Bylaws are complaint driven
- How to educate and engage the community
- Bringing graffiti concerns to Council
- Youth creating art work to deter graffiti
- Graffiti coating wraps for electrical boxes and buildings
- Opportunity through developers to require wrapping electrical boxes in new subdivisions
- Potential for firefighters to carry graffiti removal kits
- How others companies handle graffiti e.g. BC Hydro, Telus, etc.
- The City's Trash App has a graffiti reporting option
- Contact person for citizens to report graffiti

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee recommend that Council ask Staff to inquire into incorporating graffiti proofing requirements in new developments (both residential and commercial) within the City, by way of an amendment to the building bylaw or other means. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

(a) Cannabis Task Force Update

Robert Whitton provided a verbal update from the first Cannabis Task Force meeting. Topics discussed by the Cannabis Task Force included:

- The City potentially applying current liquor licensing rules to cannabis regulation
- Public consumption and smoking near buildings

- Current marijuana storefront owners concerned about products that won't be allowed to be sold e.g. edibles
- Some communities not permitting any marijuana sales
- Up to each community to decide if it will be allowed
- Production concerns
- Whether or not there is a review process in place for once a regulation scheme has been chosen

4. (a) 2018 Public Safety Strategic Directions (continued)

The committee discussed choosing their top three priorities from the strategic directions.

By unanimous consent Kevan Shaw was permitted to address the Public Safety Committee.

Kevan Shaw spoke regarding needle pickup and the City requesting information from Island Health about the number of needles being handed out, used, then being returned.

The top three priorities selected were:

- Public Disorder
- Emergency Management
- Community Policing Building

Discussion regarding the Community Policing Services Office building took place including:

- Value of the RCMP presence downtown
- Options for the space
- Limits of office's security
- Needing community consultation for future use of the space
- Other potential locations and previous locations of the office
- Bringing back the ambassador program
- Having someone from the library to come speak regarding the issues they're facing
- Partnership with Vancouver Island University hospitality program
- Shuttle for tourists, taken on by businesses
- Footprints Security's use of the building
- Formation of the Opioid Task Force based on money allocated from the province and how to best utilize the task force.

By unanimous consent Kevan Shaw was permitted to address the Public Safety Committee.

Kevan Shaw spoke regarding the ambassador program, options for the Community Policing Services office, a "Living Room" project, and how the problems downtown are negatively impacting businesses.

Committee discussion continued regarding:

- Sharing the Community Policing Services Office (CPSO) space with Island Health
- Concerns about the protection of health records if kept at the CPSO
- The difficulty of working effectively in cross-purpose areas
- The public's need to understand why the CPSO would or wouldn't work
- Importance of the presence of the office providing to the immediate community the perception of safety
- Changing the location of the services offered
- Information going out to public about services offered at the CPSO
- Using the space for meetings

By unanimous consent Kevan Shaw was permitted to address the Public Safety Committee.

Kevan Shaw spoke about other potential options for services to be provided at the building including:

- Graffiti removal information
- Pamphlets
- Storage of needle sweep equipment for downtown businesses
- Downtown business group using it as a meeting space

By unanimous consent the Public Safety Committee decided to address the following items at the next Public Safety Committee meeting:

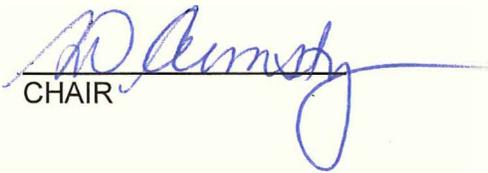
- The final recommendation for Council regarding the Community Policing Services Office
- Discuss their other two priorities: Emergency Management and Public Disorder

6. QUESTION PERIOD:

- Mr. Kevan Shaw re: concerns regarding the future of the CPSO and Council's decision.
- Mr. Robert Whitton, re: Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:30 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.


CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


CORPORATE OFFICER