

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
THURSDAY, 2018-JUL-05, AT 3:30 P.M.

Members Councillor Armstrong, Chair
 David Holmes
 Barbara Korabek
 David Lemire
 Muir (Thomas) Meredith
 Bruce Parker
 Alexis Petersen
 Robert Whitton

Absent: Council Joachim (Alternate Chair)

Staff: K. Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety (vacated 5:26 p.m.)
 D. Lindsay, Director of Community Development (arrived 4:18 p.m., vacated
 4:34 p.m.)
 Cpl. D. LaBerge, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, Bike Patrol Unit (arrived
 3:32 p.m.)
 A. Britton, Manager, Parks Operations
 K. Lindsay, Manager, Emergency Program (arrived 4:18 p.m.)
 J. Horn, Social Planner
 J. Vanderhoef, Steno, Legislative Services
 G. Whitters, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Alexis Petersen advised that she would be bringing forward an item under Agenda Item 7 - Other Business regarding the Community Policing Services Office.
- (b) Alexis Petersen advised that she would be bringing forward an item under Agenda Item 7 - Other Business regarding Island Health and Safe Injection Site.
- (c) Robert Whitton advised that he would be bringing forward an item under Agenda Item 7 - Other Business regarding Update re: Cannabis Task Force.
- (d) Robert Whitton advised that the would be bringing forward an item under Agenda Item 7 - Other Business regarding Freedom of Information Request to Health Canada re: Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations.

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 on Thursday, 2018-MAY-03 at 3:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

Cpl. D. Laberge entered the Board Room at 3:32 p.m.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

Councillor Armstrong introduced the new Public Safety Committee Member, Barbara Korabek; the new Community Safety Manager, Cpl. David LaBerge; and, gave an update on the appointment of the Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Jake Rudolf.

6. REPORTS:

(a) John Horn, Social Planner - Recent Homeless Count

John Horn, Social Planner, provided the Public Safety Committee with a verbal update regarding the Homeless Count that was recently completed in Nanaimo.

Committee Discussion took place regarding:

- a strategy to address children at Discontent City and involvement of Ministry of Child and Family Development when Discontent City is disbanded;
- efforts the City of Nanaimo has made to increase affordable housing opportunities;
- a previous attempt at developing affordable housing for the hard-to-house at 1406 Bowen Road;
- timeframes for the Point-in-Time Homeless Count;
- potential for buying and repurposing properties for affordable housing;
- developing a community engagement plan to engage potential neighbours of future affordable housing sites;
- road blocks of the Chase River affordable housing project; and,
- requesting a success story/stories from tenants of the affordable housing at Uplands Walk and other housing projects.

(b) Discontent City

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, provided the Public Safety Committee with a verbal update regarding Discontent City. Her debrief detailed recent events at Discontent City including increased service calls for thefts, fires, violence and drug use.

D. Lindsay and K. Lindsay entered the Board Room at 4:18 p.m.

Cpl. D. LaBerge, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, Bike Patrol Unit, provided the Public Safety Committee with a verbal update regarding Discontent City that included the following points:

- the start and growth of Discontent City;
- people inhabiting the camp;
- the RCMP's approach when addressing issues;
- comments made regarding the addition of a family section in Discontent City;
- current lack of leadership in Discontent City;
- increase of predatory people in the camp including drug dealers and debt collectors;
- some of the incidents that have occurred at the camp, including a stabbing and a drug overdose;
- supervised consumption site use is down by 40 percent;
- request from Island Health for the City of Nanaimo to provide hand sanitizers, and water;
- increase in amount of garbage being removed daily;
- the dumping of sewage down man holes; and,
- how Discontent City has impacted the surrounding neighbours, businesses, and infrastructure.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- collecting affidavits from social workers regarding children at Discontent City;
- using Woodlands School to house homeless and the issues related to this proposal;
- the success of the youth jail due to the supports in place; and,
- the agreement between the City and the first tent city located on the lawn of City Hall.

D. Lindsay vacated the Board Room at 4:34 p.m.

- motivation behind organizers that set up Discontent City and how much involvement they currently have;
- homeless have stated they feel safer together and it is easier for them not having to setup and take down tents and belongings every day;
- safety concerns regarding Discontent City;
- the City of Calgary's approach to tents in their city; and,
- costs for the City of Victoria to clean up their tent city.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Community Policing Services Office

The Public Safety Committee discussed the potential for the Community Policing Services Office including the following points:

- using the space between multiple groups on a rotational basis;
- having a clear focus on community services;
- staffing expenses and unionizing of a position;
- Bylaw using the office some of the time;
- potential for a community and/or arts space;
- Bylaws needing privacy and working from the Service and Resource Centre if they don't have a permanent place at the Community Policing Services Office;
- needing business community's involvement;
- reducing uniforms in the building and increasing community services and supports;
- keeping the Community Policing Services Office as is;
- saving money by shutting the office down;
- possibility of this being a decision for the new Council;
- bylaws having a good relationship with street people;
- the Public Safety Committee receiving mixed messages; and,
- the Public Safety Committee missing some of the variables to make a proper decision.

(b) Island Health and Safe Injection Site

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee invite a representative from Island Health to the next Public Safety meeting to provide their Service Delivery Plan and strategies to address people with mental health and substance use that are living on the streets. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Cannabis Task Force Update

Robert Whitton provided a verbal update regarding the Cannabis Task Force recommendations going to Council on Monday, July 9, 2018.

(c) Freedom of Information Request to Health Canada re: Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations

Robert Whitton provided a verbal update regarding a recent Freedom of Information Request to Health Canada re: Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations.

The committee discussed the implications of medical marijuana grow-ops in residences and a possible requirement to register grow-ops with the City.

K. Fry vacated the Board Room at 5:26 p.m.

8. QUESTION PERIOD:

- (a) Dorothy Houghton re: A presentation during a Council meeting regarding Discontent City.
- (b) Tim McGrath re: Discussion regarding the Community Policing Services Office without involving the Victoria Crescent Association.

By unanimous consent the Public Safety Committee agreed that Alexis Petersen will invite Norma Winsper, Manager, Community Services, Island Health, to a future Public Safety Committee Meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:36 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.


CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


CORPORATE OFFICER