

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
THURSDAY, 2018-MAR-01, AT 3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Members: Councillor Armstrong, Chair
 David Holmes
 David Lemire
 Muir (Thomas) Meredith
 Bruce Parker
 Robert Whitton

 Absent: Alexis Petersen
 Councillor Yoachim (Alternate)

 Staff: K. Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety
 A. Britton, Manager, Parks Operations
 J. Horn, Social Planner (arrived 4:10 p.m.)
 S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
 G. Whitters, Steno, Legislative Services (vacated 4:35 p.m.)
 J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 6(b) – Community Engagement Task Force - correct agenda heading to Direction from Council: Councillor Armstrong re: Safety Concerns Related to Schools and Playgrounds (Discussion from Special Council Meeting 2018-JAN-22) and add delegation from Katherine Rollwagen.
- (b) Add Agenda Item 7(b) – Correspondence from Zoe Ann Larsen, dated 2018-FEB-26, regarding homelessness and derelict buildings downtown.
- (c) David Lemire advised that he would be bringing forward an item under Agenda Item 7 – Other Business, regarding Discussion Regarding Modular Housing Process.
- (d) Councillor Armstrong advised that Alison Evans was in attendance and wished to address the Public Safety Committee as a late delegation regarding Agenda Item 6(b) - Direction from Council: Councillor Armstrong re: Safety Concerns Related to Schools and Playgrounds (Discussion from Special Council Meeting 2018-JAN-22).

It was moved and seconded that Agenda Item 7(a) - Correspondence from Zoe Ann Larsen, dated 2018-FEB-26, regarding homelessness and derelict buildings downtown, be added to the Public Safety Committee Agenda, 2018-MAR-01. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that Agenda Item 7(b) – Discussion Regarding Modular Home Process be added to the Public Safety Committee Agenda, 2018-MAR-01. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that Alison Evans be permitted to address the Public Safety Committee as a late delegation regarding Agenda Item 6(b) - Direction from Council: Councillor Armstrong re: Safety Concerns Related to Schools and Playgrounds (Discussion from Special Council Meeting 2018-JAN-22) with a five-minute time limitation. 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 Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, Thursday, 2018-FEB-01, at 3:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

(a) Community Engagement Session February 28, 2018

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, provided a verbal update regarding the Community Engagement Session held February 28, 2018, and provided a presentation regarding Strategic Plan Update 2016 – 2019 and how it is linked to committee priorities.

Committee discussion took place regarding suggestions from the public surrounding safety concerns from the public safety engagement session and the pros and cons associated with these suggestions. It was recommended that any roadblocks to proposed ideas be explained so that people know why these suggestions were not pursued.

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, advised that once the summary of the engagement session is compiled the Public Safety Committee will be provided a copy prior to their next meeting.

- (b) Direction from Council: Councillor Armstrong re: Safety Concerns Related to Schools and Playgrounds (Discussion from Special Council Meeting 2018-JAN-22)

Introduced by Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety.

Committee discussion took place regarding the following motion that Council requested the Public Safety Committee reword:

"It was moved and seconded that Council direct Staff to:

- identify schools, parks and spaces that experience a high volume of drug paraphernalia, feces, urine, condoms and other associated debris;
- develop resources to address these issues and security issues; and,
- explore the option of implementing a contract with the John Howard Society for needle pick up at Ecole Pauline Haarer Elementary School."

Committee discussion took place regarding the third bullet item. It was noted that the third bullet should be deferred to School District 68. Discussion took place regarding possible motions the committee could put forward to explore working with School District 68 regarding needle pick up and increased security measures around schools within the City.

Delegations:

1. Katherine Rollwagen spoke regarding actions taken to address safety concerns in parks and playground at Pauline Haarer Elementary School, the impact this is having on the perception of the park, and the changes made to facilities at the school.
2. Alison Evans spoke regarding Comox Park, the amount of needles present and other concerns which affect the safety of children.

It was moved and seconded that Rick Hyne be permitted to address the Public Safety Committee regarding Agenda Item 6(b) - Direction from Council: Councillor Armstrong re: Safety Concerns Related to Schools and Playgrounds (Discussion from Special Council Meeting 2018-JAN-22) with a five minute time limit. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Rick Hyne requested that the Public Safety Committee act on facts and not emotional reactions when considering how to assist with homelessness and needle safety.

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, spoke regarding the changing perceptions and education paths relating to drug users and homelessness.

J. Horn entered the Boardroom at 4:10 p.m.

John Horn, Social Planner, spoke regarding a previous attempt to operate an open space type of shelter and the issues that arose from that.

Committee discussion took place regarding the amount of needles being picked up on a daily basis. Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, spoke regarding the amount of calls the fire department received in 2017 compared with 2018. Drug use is a complex problem and is becoming more apparent. Approximately 1200 people within the community are intravenous drug users according to Island Health estimates. It is estimated that 240 needles are picked up per week.

Committee discussion took place regarding the need to prioritize strategies and work with various resources to develop a strategy to deal with the social issues facing Nanaimo.

Committee discussion took place regarding a report from John Horn, Social Planner, titled “Responses to Health, Social, and Safety Issues Downtown” that is scheduled to be presented to Council at the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting, 2018-MAR-14.

The Public Safety Committee requested that Staff provide the committee with a list of current hot spots within the City of Nanaimo.

It was noted that the Public Safety Committee encourages Council to continue to prioritize and consider the report scheduled for the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting, 2018-MAR-14, titled “Responses to Health, Social, and Safety Issues Downtown”.

The Public Safety Committee requested to receive a copy of the report titled “Responses to Health, Social, and Safety Issues Downtown” as soon as it becomes available, and prior to the beginning of the next Public Safety Committee Meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Correspondence from Zoe Ann Larsen, dated 2018-FEB-26, regarding homelessness and derelict buildings downtown

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, spoke regarding the removal of camps and a fire set outside of the former A&B Sound building downtown. She explained that an order has been sent to the owners of the building. The order requires the owner to secure the alcoves, to have a structural engineer ensure the structure is sound, to ensure there are no hazardous materials inside the building, and to keep it secure.

G. Whitters vacated the Boardroom at 4:35 p.m.

- (b) Discussion Regarding Modular Housing Process

David Lemire requested an update regarding the Modular Housing Process after Council decided not to proceed with the Cranberry Avenue location during the Regular Council Meeting 2018-FEB-19.

Councillor Armstrong spoke about the public engagement efforts that Staff are doing to try to gain feedback about the modular housing proposal.

John Horn, Social Planner, explained that his understanding of the criteria for the proposed development has changed, and this changes his interpretation of what type of clients would be housed in the building. There still may be an opportunity to proceed with the Modular Housing Process, but a suitable location has not been selected.

It was requested that the Public Safety Committee be updated if there are any changes relating to the Modular Housing Process.

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

It was moved and seconded that Dean Gaudry, Owner, Greenrock Liquor Store, be permitted to speak regarding licencing of recreational marijuana businesses, with a five minute time limit. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Dean Gaudry, Owner, Greenrock Liquor Store, spoke regarding concerns for the distribution and licencing of recreational marijuana businesses, and suggested that the City use the model that is currently in place for liquor licences in Nanaimo as a template for processing recreational marijuana business licence applications.

Committee discussion took place regarding how current dispensaries could expand with the proposed legalization of recreational marijuana. It was suggested that zoning regulations will need to be reviewed regarding the production and growing of marijuana products.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:00 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER