

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

Present: Bruce Parker, Chair
David Holmes
Muir (Thomas) Meredith
Alexis Petersen
Robert Whitton

Absent: Councillor S. D. Armstrong, Chair
Councillor W. M. Yoachim, Alternate
David Lemire

Staff: K. Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety
Cpl. D. LaBerge, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, Bike Patrol Unit (arrived 3:35 p.m.)
A. Britton, Manager, Parks Operations
K. Lindsay, Emergency Program Manager
J. Horn, Social Planner (arrived 3:38 p.m.)
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
G. Whitters, Steno (vacated 4:29 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) Alexis Petersen advised that she would be bringing forward an item under Agenda Item 7(c) regarding reengagement with neighbours about the safe injection site.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

Cpl. D. LaBerge entered the Boardroom at 3:35 p.m.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Committee held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Thursday, 2018-MAR-01 at 3:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Report from Vancouver Island University Re: Public Safety Community Engagement Session

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

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, provided a summary of the report provided by Vancouver Island University regarding the Public Safety Community Engagement Session. The session was held as a modified world café style session, and it addressed issues pertaining to public safety and community engagement. The session was considered a success and provided recommendations and feedback from the public for review and consideration.

John Horn entered the Boardroom at 3:38 p.m.

Committee discussion took place regarding the topics discussed during the Public Safety session. Staff noted that the following topics had been addressed during the session:

- the Community Policing and Services Office;
- the downtown core;
- École Pauline Haarer School;
- the Scout Hut;
- drug overdoses and drug abuse;
- lighting on the streets and sidewalks; and,
- a drop-in for youth at the Community Policing and Services Office location.

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee receive the report prepared by Vancouver Island University Re: Public Safety Engagement Session for information. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion continued regarding the safety concerns associated with the Scout Hut, and the timeline for a proposed drop-in homeless centre.

6. REPORTS:

(a) Verbal Update Re: Status of Cameras in Taxicabs

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

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, spoke regarding the status of cameras in taxicabs. She explained that it is not within the City's mandate to require cameras in taxicabs and there are no bylaws to enforce it. A report will be brought forward to Council at the next Council meeting scheduled for 2018-APR-23.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Homelessness Issues and Garbage Concerns

Introduced by Al Britton, Manager of Parks Operations.

Al Britton, Manager, Parks Operations, provided a summary regarding homelessness issues, and garbage concerns, across the City of Nanaimo Parks and Recreation Department.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Overview of Parks and Recreation staff responsibilities;
- Staff safety relating to aggressive dogs;
- static guard duties;
- increased wire theft; and,
- budget for clean up.

(b) 2018 Public Safety Committee Strategic Priorities Discussion

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

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, spoke regarding this committee's purpose as outlined by Council's direction.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- bylaw operations being complaint driven;
- the graffiti task force; and,
- park ambassadors assisting with graffiti within City parks.

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee ask Staff to provide a report on the use and implementation of the graffiti strategy. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee select the following topics as their 2018 Strategic Priorities:

1. Fire Station Rebuild
2. City Bylaws
3. Graffiti Strategy
4. 2019-2021 Fire Department Service Delivery Plan
5. Community Policing
6. Public Disorder
7. Cannabis Task Force
8. Policing Priorities
9. Emergency Management

The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Reengagement with Neighbours Regarding the Safe Injection Site

Alexis Petersen spoke regarding fear in the community regarding the current safe injection site becoming a permanent feature and the need for open conversations with the public.

G. Whitters vacated the Boardroom at 4:29 p.m.

John Horn, Social Planner, spoke regarding rezoning requirements for the Supervised Consumption Service site. He noted that there are differences of opinion regarding where and how a supervised consumption service should be facilitated. He spoke regarding how Federal regulations are impacting the process. He suggested that there is a need to separate the current Overdose Prevention site from the other negative side effects such as feces and vandalism. He suggests extensive community dialogue about what the plan is. Staff plan to meet with the business community and downtown community about concerns raised last year. He noted that there are two sessions scheduled for discussion regarding the downtown community on April 12, 2018. An afternoon session will be held for merchants, and an evening session for residents. These sessions will be held at St. Paul's Anglican Church at 100 Chapel Street.

8. QUESTION PERIOD:

Alexis Petersen re: Fire Station #1 and how this committee will be involved in the process. Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, explained that Public Safety Committee members will be considered subject matter experts to engage the community.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:48 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER