



Public Safety Committee Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2010
Time: 2:15 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Chair:

Councillor Steele

Absent:

Councillor Martin

Staff Present:

City Manager
Chief Superintendent MacRae, Surrey RCMP
City Solicitor
City Clerk
Fire Chief
GM. Engineering
Deputy City Manager
Manager, By-law & Licensing Services
Manager, Transportation
Deputy City Clerk

Present:

Councillor Bose
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Rasode
Councillor Villeneuve
Mayor Watts

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by Mayor Watts

Seconded by Councillor Hunt

That the minutes of the June 21, 2010 Public

Safety Committee be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

**1. Mark Nelson, President
Crescent Beach Property Owners' Association**

Council referred to the Public Safety Committee the request from the CBDP Committee to appear regarding an alternate emergency/disaster access and egress for the Crescent Beach community.

Mark Nelson, President, Crescent Beach Property Owners' Association (CBPOA) provided a presentation relative to managing the risks of trains in the Crescent Beach community. Mr. Nelson indicated that the purpose of the presentation was to speak to Corporate Report R168 and staff's recommendation for the City to not pursue the provision of an emergency access road under the wooden trestle bridge located at Crescent Beach Marina.

The delegation provided an overview of the CBPOA and the area of Crescent Beach, noting traffic to the area as a popular destination has increased along with the volume and nature of train cargo. The issues relative to emergency access and disaster access were highlighted, noting that on average there are over 300 call-outs per year to this area.

A number of stakeholder discussions were held, including meetings with Mayor Watts, RCMP, Fire Services, Transport Canada, BNSF and Ambulance Services. Mitigation efforts to date have included a stopped train protocol, Surrey Emergency Program, and Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Program. The CBPOA provided comments pertaining to the Corporate Report R168 entitled "Emergency Access to Crescent Beach Neighbourhood" (File: 7130-01; 8710-01) stating that the report does not address environmental issues, injury or cost of life and impacts to business.

Mr. Nelson provided the following recommendations for Council's consideration:

- The City to manage both the "emergency and disaster risks;"
- The City to pursue the provision of an emergency access road under the wooden trestle bridge located at Crescent Beach Marina; and,
- The City to hire a third party to conduct a "disaster risk assessment" that will identify, quantify, recommend and cost out solutions.

During discussion, Council raised the following points:

- Potential for a water-borne solution may be problematic due to limited dredging;
- Although trains have been taken down to four days, delays on average are now 15 minutes;
- Requirement for a grade separation to respond to lengthy delays;
- Concerns and impacts of possible derailment(s); and,
- Lobbying the BNSF to rebuild the wooden trestle bridge to accommodate an emergency access road.

Staff advised they anticipate reporting back to Council in the near future and would meet with Mr. Nelson and the CBPOA to review their proposed strategy.

Delegation left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

2. RESCHEDULED - GVTAPS to present Transit Station Policing Strategy

Representatives of GVTAPS were not in attendance to provide a presentation regarding the policing strategy in relation to the transit stations in Surrey. Representatives of GVTAPS requested to appear at the next scheduled PSC meeting. Council referenced a recent newspaper article about the prevalence of drug crime taking place at transit stations and emphasized the need to review the current transit policing efforts.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

There were no items of outstanding business.

D. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business raised.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. **Corporate Report R168
Emergency Access to Crescent Beach Neighbourhood
File: 7130-01; 8710-01**

At the Public Hearing meeting of July 26, 2010 Council passed the following resolution: "That Corporate Report R168 be referred to the Transportation Committee and the Public Safety Committee to review alternate access opportunities to Crescent Beach." (Note: Refer to Item B.1 for further information.)

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence from Cari Turi, Area Director, New Westminster Area Community Corrections, Correctional Service Canada, regarding the proposed location for the Surrey Parole Office at 13777-103 Avenue.

In response to a Council query, staff clarified that the proposed location of the Surrey Parole Office at 13777-103 Avenue would be in addition to the already existing parole office in New Westminster. Further, staff noted the proposed location is within a commercial, non-residential area.

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve

That the correspondence be received as

information.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

Fraser McRae, Officer in Charge, along with Sgt. Julie Moss and Cst. Gerard Kopperud were in attendance to provide a presentation on Surrey Detachment's Unsolved Homicide Unit (UHU).

Sgt. Julie Moss provided a presentation pertaining to a specific "cold case" investigation in order to provide insight into the exhaustive and detailed work conducted by the Surrey Detachment Unsolved Homicide Unit. With 69 unsolved homicides, a review was undertaken to identify the problems, reasons and to devise strategies regarding investigations. Sgt. Moss stressed the obligation to the victims and their families, and the importance of focusing on the unsolved cases.

The case of Victor Fraser was profiled. Mr. Fraser was found murdered in 1998 and at the time there was insufficient evidence to pursue charges on a prime suspect, who was convicted of a second murder in Regina. The investigation was reactivated in 2007 due to the prime suspect's pending release in Regina.

In establishing a new investigation, the following work was undertaken:

- a complete review of the files,
- establishing contact with previous witnesses and canvassing for new information; and,
- at times undertaking an undercover operation targeting suspect(s).

In the case of Victor Fraser's unsolved homicide, an undercover investigation was undertaken that involved 60 scenarios between April and September 2009 in Ontario and Quebec, and 46 different undercover operators. On September 18, 2009, during a scenario in Montreal, the suspect admitted to killing Victor Fraser and was subsequently arrested and charged with Second Degree murder.

In terms of numbers, Sgt. Moss noted that in 12 years, the unit has employed four core investigators and one primary undercover operator, resulting in three requests for charges to be approved.

2. Fraser McRae, Officer in Charge and Inspector Dave Attfield were in attendance to provide a presentation on Surrey Detachment's Strategic Priority - Neighborhood Safety.

Inspector Attfield provided an overview of the Neighborhood Safety initiative aimed at addressing the perception of crime and the concerns of community residents relative to safety. Inspector Attfield noted that the issue of safety is difficult to measure. With more visible police presence and implementation of the neighborhood safety patrol areas, the aim has been to increase the residents' overall feeling of safety.

In 2009, key locations were highlighted where increased police presence via foot patrols was implemented. Between February and December 2009, 600 patrols were conducted. Based on the nuisance crime index where calls are classified based on the issue as perceived by the complainant, there was an 18% decline in the severity of calls between 2008 and 2009. Inspector Attfield noted that in addition to area and park patrols, further target areas such as schools, banquet halls, licensed establishments, and derelict residences will also be patrolled.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be scheduled in early 2011.

H. OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

1. MOTION TO HOLD A MEETING IN A CLOSED SESSION

It is in order for Public Safety Committee members to pass a resolution to closed the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(f) of the *Community Charter*, which states:

“A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (f) law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;”

a Closed Public Safety Committee Meeting will be held at City Hall, 14245 – 56 Avenue, Surrey, B.C. in the Executive Boardroom on Monday, November 1, 2010 at conclusion of the Open PSC meeting.

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Hepner
That pursuant to Section 90 (1)(f) of the
Community Charter, which states:

“A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (f) law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;”

a Closed Public Safety Committee (PSC) Meeting will be held at City Hall, 14245 – 56 Avenue, Surrey, B.C. in the Executive Boardroom on **Monday, November 1, 2010 following adjournment of the open PSC meeting.**


Carried


J. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Gill
That the Public Safety Committee meeting
do now adjourn.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 3:49 p.m.


Jane Sullivan, City Clerk


Councillor Steele, Chairperson