



Public Safety Committee Minutes

1E - Committee Room B
City Hall
13450 - 104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017
Time: 1:00 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chair: Mayor Hepner
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor Starchuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Woods

Absent:

Councillor Martin
Councillor LeFranc

Staff Present:

City Clerk
City Manager
City Solicitor
Director Public Safety Strategies
Fire Chief
Chief Superintendent, OIC, Surrey RCMP
Manager, Bylaw Enforcement and Licensing Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Public Safety Committee –November 28, 2016

It was Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Woods
That the minutes of the Public Safety
Committee meeting held on November 28, 2016, be adopted.
Carried

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGIES

**1. Item No. P001 Public Safety Strategy - Update 4
File: 7450-30**

The following comments were made:

- Staff noted that Council formally endorsed the Public Safety Strategy in September 2016 and that since that time there have been a number of informational events associated with the launch of the program.
- In order to meet the goals outlined in the Strategy, staff is working with key stakeholders and partners to ensure the implementation of all 35 initiatives contained within the report are actioned and reported publically.
- The core Working Group is comprised of representatives from every City department and has collaboratively developed Terms of Reference (TOR).
- The Working Group is specifically charged with seeing that the 35 initiatives are met and that the direct impacts of the program are measured in both a quantifiable and meaningful way.

- The delegation noted that in the spring of 2017 a series of informational events will be conducted in each of six town centres; the sessions will be a shared endeavor with representatives from the various partners in attendance; specific event details are currently being finalized.

Staff noted the Mayor and Council will be updated on the success of the town centre events; the intent is to have them completed by May 2017.

It was Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
 Seconded by Councillor Woods
 That Committee Report No. Poo1 be received
 as information and that the Public Safety Committee endorse the Public Safety Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Plan, attached as Appendix I to the report.

Carried

2. **Item No. Poo2 Update on the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention**
File: 7450-30

It was Moved by Councillor Woods
 Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
 That the Public Safety Committee:

1. Receive Committee Report No. Poo2 as information;
2. Endorse the City of Surrey's active engagement in the new inter-municipal exchange program funded for the next three years by the National Crime Prevention Centre; and
3. Endorse the BC/Alberta/Yukon Regional Development Workshop to be held in Surrey on March 10, 2017.

Carried

3. **Item No. Poo3 City Centre Response Plan – Status Report 1**
File: 7450-30

The Chief Superintendent McDonald noted that the Surrey Outreach Team (SOT) went full time in January of this year. The program was started 1-month early due to the November spike in overdoses and to address the extreme cold weather.

- Since the program has gone full-time, the RCMP has observed a decrease in overdoses and an increase in response times.
- The benefit of the early start is that partnerships among key-stakeholders were established earlier than anticipated; BC Housing has recently joined and is looking for long term housing solutions.

- There have been successful interventions and the opportunities to intervene with on the strip. Additionally, there are a number of individuals who have been directed to other services and have had success in terms of receiving housing and treatments options.
- In terms of risk, fire safety remains an issue on the strip has proven to be problematic during inclement weather.
- An advertised clean-up was conducted on the strip on January 20; the teams working the site were successful in relocating tents back to the preferred (and safer) 10-metre separation setback; staff also helped to secure alternative lighting and heating options for residents.
- The 135A Street residents were advised of the clean-up with a week's advance notice that there would be pressure washing; staff noted that, 3200 pounds of garbage were removed from the strip.
- There is still an issue with sanitation which must be addressed as there are significant challenges in that regard, and there have been complaints from both businesses and residents in the area. Staff noted that the intent is to be sensitive to 135A Street residents in order to improve their circumstances and make their environment safe and somewhat sanitary; however, they do not want to give the perception that living on the strip is a permanent solution for anyone.
- Integration with partners has been successful; however, staff noted that a longer term approach is needed in order to address the lack of social housing. The "one bed at a time" approach has had success but a larger solution is needed.
- In response to a question from Council, staff noted there is a sense of community on the strip; individuals are there due to life circumstances and for the homeless residents who have resided in the strip area for a lengthy period of time, there is a sense of community.
- Council noted that they are encouraged by the report and noted that the outreach team summary was interesting. The challenge in the long-term is moving people into housing and it is something that will not be solved overnight, it requires a long-term approach; however, the report provides something that gives "traction" to moving forward.
- Staff noted that the Emergency Command Centre is parked in the Legion parking lot, and having senior officers on site has helped to increase the level of security.

- Staff noted that there are certain portions of the population that are entrenched and they may not choose shelters; the predominant population on the strip is male.
- There is an average of 30 - 50 tents. Not all the tents are occupied, and sometimes tents are used for storage. Storage tents have been removed and people are encouraged to utilize the lockers that are provided. Unoccupied tents are removed after 24 hours, each morning there are patrols with bylaws and it is constant.
- The delegation noted that patrols are conducted on a regular basis and that if RCMP members working the strip are not vigilant the size of the camp will "creep" and 135A Street residents will take advantage and add-on to the size of their individual dwelling spaces.
- Additional services have been issued since December. There are additional overdose prevention measures; workers are working 12 hours per day. Outreach nurses are provided if there are overdose peaks and there are individuals in the area Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACCT) who can be called in as needed.

Shovita Padhi, Medical Health Officer, was in attendance before the Public Safety Committee to provide an overview of Supervised Consumption Services and Expanded Substance Use Treatments in Surrey in relation to the City Centre Response Plan.

- An expansion has occurred of the opioid treatment centre and there has been success there. There is demand from people who want to stop using illicit substances; the aim is to get them into stabilized housing to get them into recovery. The majority of the individuals who engage in seeking help are couples and if they have embedded support it makes it easier.
- The Health Minister announced that \$16 million in funding had been allocated to establish new treatment programs in addition to the province's previous announcement of \$43 million dedicated to combating the overdose crisis in BC. Council noted that there should be a push by Fraser Health to attain funds to support of the overdose issues in Surrey.
- Mayor Hepner asked for information between the overdose occurrences now and in previous months. The delegation noted that November 2016 was by far the worst month with the highest peak, in December it tapered, and January 2017 has decreased as well.
- The delegation noted that the program has been effective and the synergy achieved has made people optimistic that individuals can be taken off the street into subsidized housing and integrated back into society.

- Council asked for clarification regarding the overdose deaths and if they involved individuals who were prescribed substitute therapies. The delegation noted that an "in-depth" analysis was not conducted; however Fraser Health is working with Provincial counterparts to conduct a more in-depth analysis.
- In terms of causality, the aim is to find out more about each overdose victim at an individual level, i.e., explore if they were previously engaged in the system, had a history of illicit drug abuse; conduct further research into their personal backgrounds, examine if they had jobs, what their family history was and whether or not they were socially isolated. In order to truly address the crisis it is important to also delve into who they were as individuals and the social programming they may have taken advantage of.
- The delegation noted that by fully understanding who the individuals were, and what their circumstances were will help to solve the issues and provide valuable data.
- Staff noted individualized plans are created for each individual entering the system. BC Housing has an assessment tool and it will be monitored as people move forward, getting to that point, will take a bit more work.
- Staff further noted one of the big benefits of a coordinated approach to assessing individuals is to provide a better understanding of the unique circumstances of each client so that planning appropriate to individual needs can take place
- Council requested clarification in terms of overdoses and how Fraser Health can look at the population in the context of what we can do to filter the information surrounding deaths in terms of understanding what we are doing well and what we can do better. Additionally, the baseline for the system should be examined for individuals who have been moved from the streets, into programming.
- Council noted that the numbers / trends might be difficult to explain. The delegation noted that with other municipalities within the Fraser Health region the denominator changes because individuals have died and the numbers may not be fully reflective of that.
- In terms of indicators to mark success, a lot of thought has given to how success is measured. Additional time is needed to measure the full success in terms of how many people are in long-term therapies or in recovery. The delegation noted that more answers in that regard can be provided within the next few months.
- The RCMP noted that most of the reporting has been around social issues; however there have also been significant arrests with search warrants in various locations and seizure of goods.

A representative from BC Housing was in attendance to speak to the housing component of the City Centre Response Plan. The following comments were made:

- The Chair requested clarification from BC Housing in the management of the homeless numbers and what work is currently being done to address the dire need.
- The delegation noted that a vulnerability assessment tool will be used; BC Housing is in the process of moving couples elsewhere within the housing continuum. Currently there are 9 couples located on the "strip" and the best efforts will be made to relocate them into a more permanent setting. The delegation also noted that the Guildford Shelter will be a co-ed operation with 40 units.
- In response to a question from Council the delegation noted that the Green Timbers project is moving forward and that the Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking an Operator was issued a few weeks ago.

Staff clarified that the building design concept was finalized a few weeks ago and the Operator will have some input into the final design; staff are currently awaiting confirmation as to when the tender stage for construction can be reached.

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Woods
That the Public Safety Committee:

1. Receive Committee Report No. P003 as information;
2. Endorse the continued operation of the Parkway Shelter for four month intervals and the potential continued operation until no longer required, or March 31, 2018, whichever comes first, to allow for transition from the current situation, and the development of a Housing Action Plan related to this project.

Carried

C. DELEGATION

Anita Huberman, CEO Surrey Board of Trade (SBOT) in attendance before the Committee to present the "Best Bar None Program" to develop safe establishments in which the public can enjoy the licensed restaurants and bars in a responsible manner and to reward those premises that make progress in achieving that.

The following comments were made:

- The delegation noted that the purpose of their delegation is to protect business owners, their assets and their employees.
- SBOT has partnered with "Best Bar None" program and have spoken to different stakeholders and want to introduce the program to Surrey. Nick Landells has relocated to BC from the UK where he ran the program for almost a decade.
- The "Best Bar None" program is setup to compliment the current programming in place within Surrey and should provide success in terms of reducing alcohol related crime.
- Throughout Surrey, bars and restaurants would be encouraged to compete to be the "best". The program provides a blue print of how the approach works and what the expectations are in order to receive accreditation.
- Essentially the program encourages all responsible bars and restaurants to pull apart their services and see how they be better stewards in the community by reducing the risk of alcohol-related harm, provide best-practices, create province-wide standards and increase the public's sense of security.
- As an overview, the program has 100 points and looks at every facet of establishments, the idea is that there is a minimum threshold set and the first year is how to get the program up and running.
- The key benefit is that it is a good news story and gives good operators a chance to shine. The "Best Bar None" program will assess each and every applicant and if they do well they will become accredited. An awards program will acknowledge the best of the best. The establishments who win the award will champion the program and participating businesses will strive to improve how they operate.
- Preliminary support has been received from the local RCMP, British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) and other partners as it is a socially responsible program. Any funding received at a municipal government level will be matched by the Provincial government.
- The delegation noted that Surrey has the necessary critical mass to get the program up and running and that once the program is launched in Surrey the Provincial Government will get behind it.

- There will be inspectors, who will assess local businesses interested in participating in the program, and at the end of the year, they have an opportunity to be voted "Best in Class"; whereby they will receive the accolades and the trophies. When the program is fully up and running it will be the Best of vs. Best of BC wide.
- Council expressed concern that two of the largest associations: British Columbia Restaurant & Food Services Association (BCRFA) and Restaurants Canada (RC) have not yet been approached to endorse and participate in the program.
- In response the delegation noted that the industry is divided into three, there is the best, and the bottom (who will never participate). The middle section is where the victories will come in, those who want to be part of a safe, vibrant and better industry will participate.
- Council requested clarification regarding staff requirements in launching and running the program in Surrey. The delegation noted that the staffing is currently handled with a home office; once the program launches administration support will be needed; however, that individual can work from home. Operating costs for an office setting are not needed; only enough to cover supplies, a phone, computer and mode of transportation.
- In terms of funding requirements, a one-time \$25,000 contribution would be needed to run the program for a 1-year period. Going forward, bars and restaurants who apply for accreditation will pay an application fee and monies would be derived from memberships. Central City Brewing Company; have offered their location as a venue to host events and Molson Coors has expressed interest in participating as a program sponsor/champion.
- The delegation further noted that additional funding support will be sought at a Provincial level in order to match funding received from the City of Surrey.
- The reason this program was brought to Council's attention is that the "Best Bar None" program falls directly in line with the SBOT's initiative to support the Surrey Public Safety Strategy.

Mayor Hepner thanked the delegation and noted that staff will provide a report with recommendations.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION TO HOLD A MEETING IN A CLOSED SESSION

It is in order for Public Safety Committee members to pass a resolution to close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(k) of the *Community Charter*.

It was

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by Councillor Woods

That the Public Safety Committee members close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(k) 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:

- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;"

Carried

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for April 10, 2017.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Steele


Seconded by Councillor Woods

That the Public Safety Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 2:45 p.m.


Jane Sullivan, City Clerk


Mayor Hepner, Chair