



MINUTES OF THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE CKF BOARDROOM
LANGLEY CITY HALL
20399 Douglas Crescent

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
AT 6:01 P.M.

Present: Councillor Paul Albrecht, Chair
Councillor Delaney Mack, Co-Chair
Suzan Gorgis, Social Services Representative
Jeff Jacobs, Member at Large
Jayde Marno, Youth Representative
Fraser Holland, Social Services Representative
Lew Murphy, Member at Large
Ken Edwards, Member at Large
Stefan Jones, Indigenous Peoples Representative

Staff: Paula Kusack, Deputy Corporate Officer
Dave Selvage, Manager of Community Safety
S/Sgt Bal Sidhu, RCMP

Regrets: Don Osborne, Member at Large
Heather Giuriato, Downtown Langley Business Association
Tanya Gabara, Chamber of Commerce
Nathan Balasubramanian, Member at Large

The Chair began by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui and Semiahmoo First Nations.

1) **AGENDA**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the September 26, 2024 agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

2) **MINUTES**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the July 25, 2024 minutes of the Crime Prevention Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3) UPDATES and INFORMATION

- a) 529 Garage – Council Approval of Crime Prevention Committee motion for funding
Chair Albrecht

The Chair advised that Council approved funding for the purchase of 529 Garage shields and that staff can go ahead with the purchase.

- b) Community Grant Awarded to Crime Prevention Committee - Know Your Neighbour Initiative - Clarification of Intended Use
Chair Albrecht

The Chair clarified to council members that the \$500 community grant application was intended to fund an event pilot project among three strata buildings on 54A Avenue, where two members of the crime prevention committee live, to promote and encourage connections among residents that reside in those buildings, as opposed to an event in the park targeting the general public. When Council had a better understanding of the intent, they approved the funds for use by the crime prevention subcommittee members to move ahead with their localized event. The committee members will plan and execute the event and report the outcomes back to Council.

The Chair further advised that he attended a neighbourhood Block Watch barbeque and observed that this type of social event builds strong bonds among neighbours. He understands that is the intention of the Know Your Neighbour subcommittee event and that they hope to promote the same kind of connections among multifamily building residents.

- c) Langley City Connects Open Houses (formerly Neighbourhood Meetings)
Chair Albrecht

The Chair explained the intent of the Open House events and noted there is an opportunity for the City's advisory committee volunteers to host a table and promote the committee and its initiatives. He further noted it is a relaxed and informal setting making it easier to converse with residents, staff and council members to learn about community initiatives.

The Chair asked if any volunteers were interested in hosting a table, noting that 3 people for each of the night is ideal.

Staff will provide the following handouts for volunteers:

- 529 Bike Shield & information materials
- Know Your Neighbour information
- Crime Prevention one-page posters
- Committee volunteer Expression of Interest forms

It was noted the RCMP will be represented at the events as well and were asked to provide the following materials at their table:

- Theft from Auto material and car hangers

- Block Watch / crime analyst maps

The following people volunteered for select event dates:

Thurs, Oct.17 – Nicomekl Elementary - Mr. Murphy, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Jacobs & Ms. Gorgis

Tues, Oct.22 – Simonds Elementary – Mr. Murphy, Mr. Jacobs

Wed, Oct.23 – Cascades Ballroom – Mr. Murphy, Mr. Jacobs

If others are interested in volunteering, please advise staff no later than October 1.

- d) Request for Bike Valet at 2025 Family Day & Earth Day events
Dave Selvage

City recreation department staff would like to continue promoting bike valets at community events. They have requested crime prevention volunteer services for a bike valet at the 2025 Family Day & Earth Day events, which will likely be on February 17 and April 26 respectively.

The Manager of Community Safety noted that with the purchase of the 529 Bike Shields, the committee committed to promoting the program and the bike valet is a great opportunity for that purpose. He further noted that there will be a change in committee appointments in January 2025, which presents a challenge to confirm commitment for the 2025 dates at this time.

Mr. Jacobs noted he recently attended a community music festival, and they had a bike valet that was very busy and popular. It was well promoted, and he felt that increased its success.

There was discussion about making a bike valet package as part of a larger event component so that community event organizers (ie: Rotary Club) are encouraged to provide the service at their events. Consideration should be given to using city events as a template for other event organizers.

Discussion continued and the group consensus was to host an information booth, not a bike valet, at the Family Day event in February and revisit the April Earth Day event request in January when the 2025 committee is underway.

ACTION: The Manager of Community Safety will advise Recreation staff of the outcome of the discussion.

- e) UBCM Update
Co-Chairs

The Co-Chair advised that members of Council attended the annual Union of BC Municipalities conference last week and the City put forward a resolution for consideration of support related to timely and fair access to court services as long delays to access court services is problematic. The resolution was endorsed by the UBCM membership and was as follows:

Whereas gaps in service within the Provincial Courts continues to deny timely and equitable access to justice services for all British Columbians and will only be exacerbated by rapid population growth; thus, resulting in harms by prolonging closure for individuals awaiting court judgements, inefficient use of police time for travel, and greater challenges for those with limited access to public transit or transportation;

And whereas although recent investments made by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (JAG) have increased capacity at specific courthouses, the investments have not facilitated equitable access for all British Columbians or met service level requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM direct the Province of BC to identify and address current gaps in service in the Provincial Courts; and further, release an updated Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) which reflects new growth projections and future service level needs.

The Co-Chair further advised that the City will now await a provincial response and hopes for a positive outcome.

ACTION:

When the response is received staff will include it in the next available crime prevention committee agenda for information.

The Chair noted that he was reappointed to the 2025 UBCM executive board and has requested a seat on the UBCM Community Safety committee. He will advise the outcome as the information becomes available.

There was discussion about medical emergency service alarm calls (MESA) and the issue of passing of custody to health care professionals from emergency personnel and the length of time that takes.

4) RCMP

- a) Crime Map Analysis
S/Sgt Bal Sidhu
- Property Crime Map
 - Persons Offenses Map

S/Sgt Sidhu compared the crime statistics for July and August providing context for some of the differences. He noted that with access to some grant funding the RCMP was able to deploy extra patrols to areas earlier identified with higher crime stats. That resulted in a 9% decrease in six locations in Langley City for the first six months of 2024. He noted that the RCMP have secured further grant funding which is being utilized for the period from July to December this year, so extra patrols will continue.

- b) Report back general data differentiating whether property/persons crimes are more often committed by people known to each other as opposed to random victims.

S/Sgt Sidhu advised that regarding persons offenses it is about 50% of crimes the criminal is known to the victim, and about 50% of the time it is random victims.

Regarding property crime, the victims are usually unknown to the criminal and they are usually crimes of opportunity.

- c) Updated Block Watch statistics (number of BW participants compared to last year)
2023 – 169 participants
2024 – 182 participants

S/Sgt Sidhu advised that the RCMP Block Watch coordinator is continually recruiting participants. Most often they lose a participant because they relocate to another neighbourhood and they have to find a new captain to keep the group going.

There was discussion about creating “open market” locations/spaces, perhaps near the new skytrain station, to enable the safe exchange of goods sold online between members of the public (ie: Facebook Marketplace).

The S/Sgt advised that the Community Liaison officer could help facilitate that if it were to materialize.

The Co-Chair noted that if it was of interest to the committee, it could be considered as a new initiative to add to the 2025 Work Plan. Ie: Potentially identify and promote safe space for this type of transaction.

5) **SUBCOMMITTEE BREAK OUT SESSION**

- a) The subcommittees had a 15-minute breakout meeting.

Provided for Information:

Social Media Presence

- Response from the Communications Department – Social Media Questionnaire
- Template – Request Form

- b) Sub-Committee Updates as needed / appropriate:

- i. Increase Social Media Presence
Stefan Jones, Fraser Holland, Jayde Marno, Nathan Balasubramanian

The Chair advised that there is currently a restructuring of the Communications team and they are launching a new website so it is difficult to secure their time.

ACTION: Staff will work to coordinate a meeting between the subcommittee and the Communications Officer during the day.

- ii. Business Watch

Tanya Gabara, Heather Giuriato, Ken Edwards, Suzan Gorgis

- iii. Know Your Neighbour Campaign
Lew Murphy, Jeff Jacobs, Don Osborne

Mr. Murphy & Mr. Jacobs advised they are working to confirm an event date and time and will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

There was discussion about the pre-covid Know Your Neighbor campaign where volunteers went door to door to promote crime prevention initiatives and the benefits of getting to know your neighbours. It was a successful initiative, and it received great resident feedback. Committee members agreed to consider including this event again for the committee work plan in 2025.

- iv. Bike Security
Don Osborne
- v. Block Watch – currently inactive
TBD
- vi. Cyber Awareness (education initiative) – currently inactive
TBD
- vii. Crime Prevention Mural - currently inactive
TBD

ACTION: Staff will follow up on the status of this initiative and report back.

6) FOR INFORMATION

- a) 2024 CPC Work Plan

7) ROUND TABLE

- a) Members were asked to advise the Deputy Corporate Officer if they plan to continue with the committee next year.
- b) Ms. Marno advised that she spoke with Leanne Cassap, Road Safety Coordinator at ICBC about bike security and the bike valet and she advised that ICBC has promotional material regarding bike security that she would be happy to provide to the committee to hand out at events.

ACTION: S/Sgt Sidhu offered to speak with Ms. Cassap and pick up the promotional material from her for the upcoming neighbourhood open house events.

8) ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:48pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

Certified Correct:
pk

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER