



MINUTES OF THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE CKF BOARDROOM
LANGLEY CITY HALL
20399 Douglas Crescent

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024
AT 6:04 P.M.

Present: Councillor Paul Albrecht, Chair
Councillor Delaney Mack, Co-Chair
Suzan Gorgis, Social Services Representative
Fraser Holland, Social Services Representative
Don Osborne, Member at Large
Jayde Marno, Youth Representative
Mary Kydd, Member at Large
Lew Murphy, Member at Large
Heather Giuriato, Downtown Langley Business Association
Stefan Jones, Indigenous Peoples Representative

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

Regrets: Ken Edwards, Member at Large
Nathan Balasubramanian, Member at Large
Jeff Jacobs, Member at Large
Tanya Gabara, Chamber of Commerce

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.

Introductions took place.

1) AGENDA

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the January 25, 2024 agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2) MINUTES

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the November 30, 2023 minutes of the Crime Prevention Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3) FOR DISCUSSION

a) Review 2023 CPC Work Plan & Determine 2024 CPC Work Plan

The Chair explained that a new workplan template had been developed for 2024 and that it is meant to assist the group to focus on action items and ensure cohesiveness with the strategic plan.

The group reviewed the 2023 work plan and discussed what actions may continue into 2024. Suggestions were made as follows:

- Know Your Neighbour campaign and associated activities. This initiative raises awareness and educates residents about ways to protect property and implement safety measures.
- Block Watch
- Cyber Awareness & Education: included campaigns to bring awareness to the threats and solutions.
- Crime Prevention Mural
- Bike Security

The Manager of Community Safety advised that regarding the Crime Prevention Mural City staff suggested the north facing wall at the east property line of City Hall.

The vehicle wrap initiative is still under review.

ACTION: The Chair requested a report back on the status of the vehicle wrap initiative.

It was noted that many posters have been developed to educate and promote crime prevention.

ACTION: Staff to circulate poster inventory. Members were asked to review and consider amendments.

ACTION: Invite the Block Watch Coordinator to present at the next committee meeting.

There was discussion about new ideas / initiatives / subject matter to consider in the 2024 work plan. It included the following:

- Engage parents to inform children about internet safety. Campaign and message/promote ongoing household conversations.
 - S/Sgt Sidhu advised that the RCMP Youth Section has canned presentations on youth and internet safety.
 - RCMP provide up to three presentations a year to grade 6 students.
 - He noted that the Youth Section member can attend a CPC meeting to present in March or April.
- Consider violent crime statistics to inform committee members what/where the crimes are and the group can focus on prevention initiatives and actions to directly address those issues.

ACTION: S/Sgt Sidhu will provide a second crime statistics map specifically for violent crimes at the next meeting.

- Educate the public by sharing RCMP materials.
 - For example, if theft from auto is on the rise volunteers could blast an area with 'lock out auto crime' pamphlets.
 - Hand them out during the Know Your Neighbour campaign and at community events etc.
 - Select a weekend to hand them out in a specific neighbourhood.
 - Consider handing out the CPC posters as well.
- Catalytic converter recovery program called "Etch It" where owners have a stolen converter returned to them
 - Staff noted that the City is already working on this initiative. This initiative has reduced catalytic converter thefts by 50% in Surrey.
- Promote crime prevention initiatives at community events.
 - It was noted that in past years the committee has attended many events to promote crime prevention including: Community Day and the Magic of Christmas.

ACTION: Staff were asked to provide a list of the 2024 community events at the next meeting.

There was discussion about homelessness and the overdose crisis and connecting those in need with resources. It was suggested the City partner with the school district to create a project that shares crime prevention with the youth population reaching all from a young age to university age.

The Chair advised that the City's Manager of Social Planning works to bring awareness to social and homelessness issues in the community. She is developing coordinated access to resources and works with outreach workers to bring agencies together to better serve those in need. As this process develops, the CPC can invite Ms. Beno to present to the group for information purposes.

Members were reminded that homelessness and mental health are important issues in our community, however they are not the mandate of the crime prevention committee. The CPC mandate focuses on crime prevention education and awareness to maintain a safe and inclusive community.

The Chair welcomed members to share thoughts about emerging crime trends and crime prevention any time during the year.

There was discussion about Bike Security and the relevance of it to the mandate of the CPC. Some members felt the topic was more transportation and environment oriented and others felt the security component was within the CPC mandate.

ACTION: Include the action items listed below for further discussion and selection/prioritization at the February meeting. Members, please review the list and bring forward any new items to add for consideration. Please prioritize ideas to expediate the group brainstorming session at the February meeting.

- Know Your Neighbour campaign and associated activities.
- Block Watch

- Cyber Awareness & Education – including connecting with parents of youth
- Crime Prevention Mural
- Bike Security

It was noted that the group will fill out the Work Plan template at the February meeting. Following that the completed work plan will be forwarded to Council for approval.

ACTION: Staff to inquire if there is a Family Day event planned in the City in which the CPC may participate.

b) Bike Security Initiative

Mr. Osborne, spokesperson for the Bike Security subcommittee presented a summary of the following statistics:

- Increase in bike population (ebikes) – on the rise
- 80% of people drive within 5 kms of their residence – too far to walk so people drive that short distance
- Underutilization of bike lanes in Langley City – can be viewed as a waste of tax dollars
- 25 bike racks of which 70% are not effective – people won't leave their bikes on unsafe bike racks as the risk of theft is high
- Key reason for not using bikes to shop is bike security.

Key points included:

- Cycling, when combined with reliable transit, can address some affordability challenges in the Lower Mainland.
- Spinoff benefits (diversification of transportation, increased use of bike lanes)
- Potential Building Code changes to include secure bike parking and maintenance areas in new developments (*it was noted that the City's Advisory Design Panel currently encourages inclusion of bike lockers/storage in new developments*)
- Consider a Bike Valet pilot project at an upcoming major community event – Earth Day, Community Day or Douglas Park Outdoor Movie Night. – Free secure bike parking
 - Participation would depend on promotion investment to advise the public that the service is available
 - Can invite vendors / exhibitors (bike repair shops, merchandise sales (bike locks)
 - Encourage enrollment in 529 Garage
 - Use CPC volunteers to minimize cost
 - Use city facility to secure bikes at no cost
- Bike Rack Upgrade Project
 - Pilot project of installing 10 modern bike racks– potential cost estimate - \$2500
 - Include repair stand/station – cost estimate - \$2700

- Promote new safe racks
- Locate around city hall
- Bike security Education
 - Monitor statistics on bike theft

There was discussion about the potential liability if the City hosted a Bike Valet and a theft occurred.

ACTION: Mr. Osborne will inquire if the contracted services for a Bike Valet are so high because they include theft/liability insurance.

There was general discussion about:

- bike theft statistics – S/Sgt Sidhu noted that there were approximately 10 thefts a month.
- Budget for proposed pilot projects
- Opportunities to save money with pilot project, ie: CPC volunteers host the bike valet, use City property to store the bikes at no cost
- Use of air tags to track stolen bikes
- Insurance available for bikes
- Communication / promotion of valet at events (\$1000)
- Potential use of Tri-It Triathlon bike racks (staff to inquire)
- Potential of funds from other sources? TransLink?
- Put onus on bike owners to increase security. Consider an education event where volunteers walk around and identify bikes that could be more secure by leaving an informational tag on the bike. Similar to the theft from auto education initiative. – No cost to City
- RCMP would likely contribute funds to crime prevention education initiatives like that.
- Consider how to tackle action items. All together from start to finish with one initiative at a time, or in smaller subgroups working on several initiatives at one time.
- Langley Environmental Partners Society donated a bike rack to a local non-profit to promote bike riding as it is a more environmentally friendly mode of transportation.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Langley City Council direct staff to review the possible use of the Douglas Recreation Centre or other facility/location (ie: fenced area) for a volunteer Bike Valet service during the upcoming Earth Day Event on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS CALLED it was clarified that this motion is intended to ask staff to advise if the facility is available and the event would be permissible there. There was discussion about the crime prevention mandate, the relevance of this event in relation to the mandate, attendance numbers / weather, the overall community impact. Some felt the effort would be better spent educating the public in other ways. Consider asking the public to fill out a questionnaire that focuses on crime prevention.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the main motion be amended to remove “or other facility / location (ie: fenced area)”

THE QUESTION WAS CALLED on the amendment and same was

CARRIED

S. Jones, opposed

THE QUESTION WAS CALLED on the main motion as amended and same was

CARRIED

S. Jones opposed

The motion now reads in its entirety as follows:

THAT Langley City Council direct staff to review the possible use of the Douglas Recreation Centre for a volunteer Bike Valet service during the upcoming Earth Day Event on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Langley City Council direct staff to review the installation of “Modern” bike racks at City Hall and report back to council the details of location, cost, style and number of bike racks proposed.

BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS CALLED it was noted that RCMP statistics report approximately 10 bike thefts a month / 120 a year and that half of those are due to people not locking their bikes up at all. They are often stolen for private backyards or sheds. Thieves aren’t cutting locks off bikes parked in public areas. It was further noted that education could focus on reducing crimes of opportunity.

THE QUESTION WAS CALLED and same was

CARRIED

4) STANDING ITEMS

a) Overview of 2023 subcommittees – addressed above.

Staff will distribute past education posters to members for information.

b) RCMP Crime Map Analysis – November and December 2023

S/Sgt Sidhu reviewed the monthly statistics for November and December noting that Langley City has great participation in Block Watch and the crime statistics map is reflecting its effectiveness.

He suggested that the group could target the Sendall Gardens area to promote Block Watch as there are some gaps in that area.

There was discussion about crimes against people.

ACTION: S/Sgt. Sidhu will provide a second crime statistics map showing crimes against people.

It was noted the crime maps are a good tool to inform workplan initiatives and focus on the highest incidences of crime.

5) FOR INFORMATION

- a) 2023 CPC Annual Work Plan
- b) Crime Prevention Committee Terms of Reference

6) ROUND TABLE

The Co-Chair advised members that she and the Chair are attending a Crime Severity Index conference to learn more about how crime severity is tracked and reported. They will update the committee when they return.

There was an inquiry about the status of the Citizens' Assembly. The Chair advised he'd provide an update at a meeting after the work plan has been determined.

It was MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 8:16pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

Certified Correct:
pk

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER