



MINUTES OF THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE CKF BOARDROOM
LANGLEY CITY HALL
20399 Douglas Crescent

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024
AT 6:06 P.M.

Present: Councillor Paul Albrecht, Chair
Councillor Delaney Mack, Co-Chair
Suzan Gorgis, Social Services Representative
Lew Murphy, Member at Large
Heather Giuriato, Downtown Langley Business Association
Mary Kydd, Member at Large
Nathan Balasubramanian, Member at Large
Jeff Jacobs, Member at Large
Don Osborne, Member at Large
Ken Edwards, Member at Large

Staff: Paula Kusack, Deputy Corporate Officer

Regrets: Jayde Marno, Youth Representative
Tanya Gabara, Chamber of Commerce
Stefan Jones, Indigenous Peoples Representative
Fraser Holland, Social Services Representative

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 April 25, 2024 agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2) MINUTES

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the March 21, 2024 minutes of the Crime Prevention Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3) FOR DISCUSSION

a) Subcommittee – Action Plan Review

i. Increase Social Media Presence

Stefan Jones, Fraser Holland, Jayde Marno, Lew Murphy, Nathan Balasubramanian

Based on the summary provided by Mr. Jones the group discussed the initiative to enhance crime prevention on social media platforms with a goal of increasing public engagement and awareness around crime prevention.

Suggestions included:

- Invite City communications staff to a future meeting to assist in determining the staff resources required to assist with this initiative.
- Members provide content, Communication staff use a City template for distribution (posters, website, socials) – requiring a maximum of 15 minutes of staff time per meeting.
- Subcommittee to determine next steps including what is to be achieved with social media before meeting with communications staff

ACTION:

It was determined that the subcommittee will put together questions for the communication staff to determine what resources staff are able to provide. Members were asked to forward the questions to the Manager of Community Safety who can review with Communications staff and then report back at the next meeting.

ii. Business Watch

Tanya Gabara, Heather Giuriato, Ken Edwards, Suzan Gorgis, Mary Kydd

The subcommittee is focused on organizing a Business Walk to engage downtown business owners in crime prevention and to encourage connections amongst their community.

ACTION:

The group plans to meet with an RCMP member and the Block Watch coordinator to discuss ideas and report next steps back to the committee at the next meeting. The Manager of Community Safety will attend on the city's behalf.

Further steps include approaching the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Langley Business Association to help share information and connect business owners.

There was further discussion about the following:

- Creating a business owner survey similar to one used with the Block Watch program, but amending it to relate to commercial business rather than a residential focus.

- Upcoming Fraser Highway one-way construction project may impact survey results as there will be different pinch points for business owners during the construction phase.
- Key focus is communication and keeping business owners informed before, during and after construction.
- Construction presents an opportune time to strengthen relationships with the business owners.
- Once skytrain arrives the focus will change again. Ever evolving.
- Ms. Giuriato will update the DLBA board about what is happening.
- Reviewed current crime issues.

b) Bike Valet Event Debrief – Next Steps
Don Osborne, Suzan Gorgis, Marcy Kid, Jeff Jacobs, Lew Murphy

Mr. Osborne advised that the bike valet service at the Earth Day event was successful. The volunteers learned a lot and determined a few areas of improvement when considering providing the service at the upcoming Community Day event on June 8.

Highlights included:

- 200-250 people attended the event
- Bike Valet use averages 5%-7% of total attendance, Earth Day saw about a 5% use
- All users provided positive feedback about the service
- Hand outs based on bike security and crime prevention were well received
 - HUB cycling provided a brochure specifically related to bike security
 - The RCMP provided a 529 Garage program pamphlet
 - City trail map handout was very popular
- HUB Cycling expressed interest in participating at the Community Day event
- More promotion about the availability of the service would increase usage, many users did not know about the service until arriving at the event
- More valet volunteers would be necessary for a larger event

There was general discussion about:

- future bike valet events
- The city providing “valet packages” (includes fencing, racks, signage etc) to non-profit organizations to run a bike valet event as a fundraiser at community events
- Victoria offers a bike valet tool kit
- City liability (bike theft, damage etc)
 - Consider a waiver for damage / theft etc at sign in/registration

The Chair thanked the volunteers for taking the time to run the bike valet and commended them on a job very well done.

ACTION: Mr. Osborne will inquire about the details of liability coverage with the cities of Kamloops, Victoria and Whister, as they all operate successful bike valets.
Volunteers will be vital to the success of a bike valet service at Community Day. Members were encouraged to sign up.

4) STANDING ITEMS

- a) RCMP Crime Map Analysis – March 2024
- Property Crime Map
 - Persons Offenses Map

An RCMP representative was unable to attend the meeting, however provided the crime statistic maps for information.
It was noted that the property crime map illustrates that where there is an abundance of Block Watch participants, there are fewer instances of crime.

Mr. Edwards shared information about a new RCMP crime prevention program targeting catalytic converter theft called the Etch-It program. A partnership between the RCMP and ICBC aimed at combating catalytic converter theft and unlawful sales. The vehicle owners agree to have the last portion of their Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) permanently etched onto their catalytic converter. Once etched, the catalytic converter will be traceable back to its original vehicle, a significant deterrent to would be thieves. Each vehicle owner is then given a sticker identifying the vehicle as having been etched adding an additional level of deterrence. Currently, all Kal Tire and Fountain Tire locations in Langley are participating.

The Manager of Community Safety advised that the City is changing bylaws so that scrap metal dealers are not permitted to receive a catalytic converter without a VIN number. The City only has one scrap metal dealer and they don't see many catalytic converters. The City of Surrey has had a lot of success with the program to date.

It was noted that information about the Etch It program could be shared at community events and on social media for more exposure.

- b) Sub-Committee Updates when needed / appropriate:
- i. Increase Social Media Presence
Stefan Jones, Fraser Holland, Jayde Marno, Nathan Balasubramanian
 - ii. Business Watch
Tanya Gabara, Heather Giuriato, Ken Edwards, Suzan Gorgis
 - iii. Know Your Neighbour Campaign
Lew Murphy, Mary Kydd, Jeff Jacobs, Don Osborne

Subcommittee members discussed meeting to consider planning a neighbourhood event. A smaller scale, single neighbourhood event is preferred to start. There was discussion about utilizing the City's Community Grant funds for this purpose and consideration be given to targeting one specific demographic, ie: seniors. The Chair noted that the next Community Grant application deadline is June 30.

ACTION: Staff will forward members a copy of the Community Grant Application and Policy for information and consideration.

- 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

5) FOR INFORMATION

- a) 2024 Work Plan

6) ROUND TABLE

ACTION: The Chair requested that staff ask the Arts, Recreation, Culture, and Heritage committee for an update on the crime prevention mural project and report back.

Staff advised that the June CPC meeting falls just before the Canada Day long weekend. If members are not available to attend they were asked to notify staff as soon as possible to avoid losing quorum. The group will be canvassed again at the May 30 meeting.

ACTION: The Chair advised the group about the Langley City Village Café, which is an initiative for residents to connect with the greater community. Staff will forward the information to the group and the group was encourage to attend a drop-in event.

Mr. Osborne met with the Vancouver Police 529 Garage Program coordinator. Since promoting the program, Vancouver has seen a 30% decrease in bike theft. The officer offered to attend a CPC meeting and provide a 20-minute presentation about the program.

IT WAS MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the crime prevention committee invite the Vancouver Police Department 529 Garage Program coordinator to provide a 20-minute presentation to educate Crime Prevention Committee members about how to best promote bike security.

CARRIED

7) **ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:30pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

Certified Correct:
pk

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER