



MINUTES OF THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE CKF BOARDROOM
LANGLEY CITY HALL
20399 Douglas Crescent

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023
AT 6:02 P.M.

Present: Councillor Paul Albrecht, Chair
Councillor Delaney Mack, Co-Chair
Heather Giuriato, Downtown Langley Business Association
Don Osborne, Member at Large
Harvey Michaluk, Member at Large
Natalie Selvage, Youth Member
Fraser Holland, Social Services Representative
Shishane Johnston, Social Services Representative
Tanya Gabara, Chamber of Commerce
Mary Kydd, Senior Representative
Nathan Balasubramanian, Member at Large

Guests: Yvan Salloomi, RCMP Block Watch Coordinator
Cst. Val Conroy, RCMP

Staff: Paula Kusack, Deputy Corporate Officer

Regrets: Lew Murphy, Member at Large
Brian Doyle, 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 May 18, 2023 agenda be adopted as amended adding a discussion item related to Community Day under 4d.

CARRIED

2) **MINUTES**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

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

CARRIED

3) **PRESENTATION**

a) Block Watch

Yvan Salloomi, RCMP Block Watch Coordinator

CPC would like to know:

- The RCMP's vision for the program
- Ways to measure success of CPC promotion of the program

Ms. Salloomi introduced himself and shared his vision for the program. He advised that there are currently 35 active block watch groups consisting of over 600 households. He would like membership in the program to grow and has a goal of adding 5 new block watch areas this year. He welcomes help in getting the word out about the program and building more community connections.

There was discussion about how to better engage multifamily / strata residents as it is difficult to reach them.

Discussion ensued about the following:

- 10+ homes in one Block Watch area is ideal, however in some areas fewer than that can still run.
- Grants are available from the Block Watch society to hold a special promotional event.
- Block Watch captains are required to take a 2 hour training session to get started.
- A captain will spend approximately 6 hours a year to run a Block Watch area.
- Once a Block Watch area is established the RCMP will have a discussion with the neighbours about their concerns in the area.

ACTION: Mr. Solloomi will send staff a promotional poster to share with the group.

The committee members agreed to promote Block Watch and are confident they can assist in meeting the goal of 5 new Block Watch neighbourhoods by the end of the year.

Mr. Balasubramanian advised that a neighbouring community partnered with the amateur radio club to promote Block Watch and it was a successful way to get the word out in the community. He offered to connect Mr. Solloomi with Langley's radio club.

ACTION: Staff will connect Mr. Solloomi and Mr. Balasubramaniam.

4) **STANDING ITEMS**

The Chair received some feedback that some subcommittee groups were having difficulty getting together due to busy schedules. He suggested that if groups are spread too thin the group can discuss coordinating and streamlining efforts to concentrate on only a few things at a time in order to reach our goals more efficiently. He encouraged members to offer their opinion on the subject.

- a) Sub-Committee Update Reports *(as needed)*:
- i. Know Your Neighbour Campaign (related activities)
Lew Murphy, Mary Kydd, Natalie Selvage

After a brief discussion the group agreed to combine the Block Walk and Know Your Neighbour subcommittees as they are both pursuing similar goals.

Volunteers hosting the Community Day booth will promote the Know Your Neighbour Campaign (suggested timeline of late September) and a Block Walk event. They agreed on the content of the handouts and staff will have materials delivered to the Douglas Recreation Centre for pick up by volunteers on that day.

- ii. Block Walk (Block Watch promotion & events)
Harvey Michaluk, Mary Kydd, Lew Murphy, Brian Doyle

As noted above this subcommittee will be combined with the Know Your Neighbour campaign. The Chair noted that every member of the CPC committee should be involved in the Block Walk event to ensure its success.

- iii. Mail Theft Prevention (education initiative & make contact with stratas & property managers)
Lew Murphy, Shishane Johnstone

There was no new information to provide on this topic. The Chair noted that Council resolved to have staff review the feasibility of requiring target-hardening security measures as a standard requirement to deter mail theft for new multi-family developments.

Contact needs to be made with strata managers of older buildings to inform them of retrofitting options to increase mailbox security.

- iv. Foster / promote better connections between residents and businesses and the RCMP related to crime prevention
Tanya Gabara, Nathan Balasubramanian, Don Osborne

Discussion about the purpose of this subcommittee resulted with the group agreeing that promoting better connections is an ongoing campaign to make sure everyone, businesses and residents, are benefiting from the work of the CPC. When working on initiatives, members should always look for ways to enhance connections and share tools and resources with businesses and residents whenever possible and tweak ideas as appropriate to suit either the business or the resident audience.

This concept can be applied to all the subcommittees and overall work of the CPC.

Consensus was that this subcommittee was not necessary as a standalone subcommittee.

- v. Cyber Awareness (education initiative)
Tanya Gabara, Nathan Balasubramanian, Fraser Holland, Shishan Johnstone

Mr. Balasubramanian created two major themes of work, education and awareness, The goal is to target one theme each month. May is “Passwords”. Need to determine one for each month from June – December.

Another project is related to phone and text message fraud and creating an awareness campaign of the DNC, Do Not Call registry. He suggested Cst. Joshua Woods could be invited to present to the CPC as his focus is fraud.

Mr. Balasubramanian provided a draft poster to the group and invited feedback. The following comments were made:

- Considerable information for one page
- Could remove information about “Smart Home Safety” as it could be a topic for another poster on its own.
- Considering the demographic that receives the posters, they may not understand the movie references, could remove them to make space.
- Password manager is a great topic as people of all ages struggle with this.

The group thanked Mr. Balasubramanian for taking the lead on this initiative and expressed appreciation for his efforts noting the content was very valuable information.

Ms. Giuriato volunteered to work with the Cyber Awareness subcommittee as she agreed it is important to both businesses and residents.

Ms. Gabara agreed that this topic is very relevant to businesses as many small businesses do not have the expertise or resources to tackle this issue on their own.

ACTION:

Mr. Balasubramanian will revise the poster based on the feedback and present it at the next meeting for review.

The Chair reminded members that as volunteers the City understands that their time is valuable and limited and that the many great ideas around the table take considerable resources. He asked the group to give some thought about how to best attain our goals. If it makes more sense to concentrate on one or two initiatives at a time, that is not a problem. We don't want to be spread too thin and struggle to accomplish our goals due to a lack of resources.

vi. Crime Prevention Mosaic
Fraser Holland, Brian Doyle

Mr. Holland advised that work is under way and they are looking at several options to share crime prevention information, which included:

- Artwork on a city vehicle
- Art in panels, which can be changed/moved
- A mural
- A wrap

They consulted with the Arts, Recreation, Culture and Heritage (ARCH) Committee and identified two possible locations for a mural.

Discussion included:

- Consensus on using graphics on a City vehicle was a good idea
- Include a QR code to link back to the City's crime prevention webpage. The QR can stay the same, but the content can change as needed – very versatile.
- Wraps on garbage dumpsters.
- Can do a call out to artists – community engagement piece.

Ms. Gabara and Ms. Giuriato offered their help with execution/action when needed and the Chair noted that the ARCH committee could partner as well.

Ms. Johnstone joined the meeting at 6:42pm.

vii. Bike Security (inform and educate)
Natalie Selvage, Don Osborne

Mr. Osborne shared what he has been researching, which included:

- The status of bike lanes now and the future plans for when skytrain arrives.
- What are the issues – why don't more people ride bikes downtown?
- What are the barriers to riding bikes?

Ms. Selvage is looking at how they can use social media and both members are researching what other communities are doing related to bike security.

It was noted that the City of Delta has new development requirements that a fenced, secure area to store bikes must be provided on site.

Victoria has a 'concierge' system where you can 'check' your bike at certain locations.

ACTION: Mr. Osborne would like to make a presentation at the next meeting to get the group's feedback on his findings.

Mr. Michaluk volunteered to join the Bike Security subcommittee.

b) Community Day – June 10

Ms. Kydd, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Osborne volunteered to host the CPC booth at Community Day between 10:30am – 3:30pm.
Other volunteers are welcome to help that day.

Hand out materials consists of:

- One page City/RCMP crime prevention tip and resource links
- One page “What is the Crime Prevention Committee and What Do They Do?” information sheet
- QR code on a poster to lead to CPC webpage.
- Park trail maps
- Sign up sheets for Know Your Neighbour volunteers
- Sign up sheets for Block Watch
- Sign up sheets for City’s newsletter

Staff will coordinate a tent and the delivery of hand out materials and advise volunteers of the details before the event.

c) Crime Prevention Poster - Outreach Project
Feedback / Approval / Other Action

- Personal Safety – Final Draft - Approved
 - Poster Guideline Form
- Encouraged group to forward ideas for posters anytime.

i. Business Flyer – Determine 3 Topic Ideas – TBD at a future meeting

Update – Adding a QR code to the poster is only applicable on hard copy posters. When using a device to view the poster a QR code has no value.

There was a suggestion to include both a link and a QR code to serve both paper and electronic purposes with the same poster.

d) RCMP Crime Map Analysis – March & April 2023
Val Conroy

Cpl. Conroy advised that she is with the police mental health liaison unit and has special training to assist general duty members and help connect clients to resources as much as possible. She noted that the ACT and ICM teams have had a big impact on making connections with clients who have mental health and addiction issues.

There was general discussion about the different resources available to assist different needs.

5) FOR INFORMATION

- a) 2023 CPC Annual Work Plan – Endorsed by City Council
- b) Crime Prevention Poster Flyer Inventory

6) ROUND TABLE

There was a suggestion to the RCMP to include an oversized poster map at their Community Day booth of the property crime analyst map as it demonstrates what crime is happening and where. It is a good visual to highlight how well Block Watch works to deter criminal activity.

Mr. Michaluk noted he has been sharing information about the Block Watch program with his neighbours and noted some members of the public felt that house alarms and security cameras were a better option, replacing people having eyes on their neighbourhoods. Discussion took place noting all the reasons why engaged residents are an integral part of crime prevention. Cpl. Conroy agreed that cameras and alarms do not replace engaged residents. Cameras record the crime but can't report it as it is happening like a person can.

It was MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:40pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

Certified Correct:
pdk

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER