



CITY OF RICHMOND

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION RICHMOND'S CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLICING

MINUTES

HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2001 AT 7:00 P.M.
Anderson Room 2.001
RICHMOND CITY HALL

In Attendance:

Mr. Jim Lavery, Chair
Mr. Fred Ursel
Mr. Gary Abrams
Ms. Colleen Chambers
Mr. Brian Webster
Mr. Randall Wong
Mr. Leo Lai
Mr. Mahmood Awan
Mr. Rick Henderson

Absent:

Ms. Heather Courage

Staff in Attendance:

Mr. Chuck Gale
Supt. Ward Clapham, RCMP
Insp. Tonia Enger, RCMP
Cpl. Davis Wendell, RCMP
Ms. Susan McBride, City of Richmond (Recorder)

1. Call to Order - Mr. Jim Lavery

2. Approval of Agenda

C. Chambers/B. Webster

That the August 28, 2001 agenda of the Richmond's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Policing be approved as amended by moving Item #6, General Manager, Community Safety Division Update to Item #4.

CARRIED

3. Approval of June 26, 2001 Minutes

On page 5, item 9 Evaluation, the paragraph should be changed as follows:

Mr. Abrams said the work of the Evaluation Sub-Committee concerning the Youth Intervention Program has been suspended. On June 4th Mr. Abrams received a copy of the terms of reference and would not mind talking to the reviewer and maybe some other members of our sub-committee would be happy to do the same thing. He would prefer having the opportunity to make comments during the review process rather than at the end. Mr. Wong said the original evaluation was also on restorative justice but these terms of reference make very minor mention of that. Mr. Gale said we expect the person doing the review will have knowledge of this business. **The reviewer will review the Terms of Reference with staff prior to starting the review. Mr. Gale accepted Mr. Abrams' offer to participate** and Insp. Speevak then gave an overview of where Restorative Justice is at in B.C. He said one of the evaluations of the program is a cost benefit analysis. and they can check what percentage of YIP went on to reoffend and ended up in court, that is the reason to look at youth court data.

B. Webster/R. Wong

That the minutes of the June 26, 2001 meeting of the Richmond's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Policing be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. General Manager, Community Safety Division Update

Mr. Gale said the report on the role and mandate of the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Policing went to the Community Safety Committee, "Closed", and they agreed on the recommendation attached to the report. At the committee meeting this report was made public so it is no longer "Closed". Mr. Gale said once this Committee has had an opportunity to comment, staff will report back with final recommendations and Terms of Reference to the Community Safety Committee. This Committee's comments can either be sent directly to the Community Safety Committee or to Mr. Gale to incorporate in his report. Mr. Gale stated he encourages the committee to write their own report as a separate independent body.

The Committee had some questions for Mr. Gale. One member asked about the vision for the Community Safety Division and commented one has to assume there is some sort of vision being established because a vision is needed in order to drive towards it and so far no vision has been established for this division yet, it is sort of like putting the cart before the horse.

A question was asked about the small number of members remaining in the Community Safety Committee and Mr. Gale answered some members have moved but there was direction, however, by those remaining that they did not want business to go undone as a consequence. Staff were directed to continue business as usual. The Community Safety Committee may decide to wait until the visioning exercise is completed and continue operations as they are now until they establish the vision. The discussions so far with the Community Safety Committee have made it fairly clear they want a broadened mandate, they want integrated services from the Division, they want the structure to reflect that broader mandate and they want it to be flexible. They want a group that is looking at the bigger picture and that group would have the power to structure sub-committees under it according to what they thought was appropriate as the division unfolds.

One member asked if the Committee would now be a consultative group for the Community Safety Committee, for Fire, Bylaws, etc. and the projects that this committee will be doing

will be on behalf of the Community Safety Committee. Mr. Gale said yes and the current consultative groups to the Community Police Stations would have a representative on this bigger committee, there would be one representative from each of the consultative groups and there was also discussion around the fact that the consultative groups at the Community Police Stations may not necessarily only be dealing with policing issues. Insp. Enger said the Community Consultative Groups are presently being developed and they have been advised they could be a Consultative Group for the Community Safety Division.

Mr. Gale said the City is looking at a different service delivery model, not just for our Division it will cross all City operations and the City is looking at delivery services by neighbourhood. Each of the representative groups would be asked to submit two or three names as representatives to the committee. It would not be a circumstance where only one name would go forward and that name would be the only one that Council could consider, it would be broader than that. Council did not want to be put in a position where they were not able to choose people and put together a Committee with broad representation.

Mr. Gale stated the expectation Council has is that the committee would be empowered to create sub-committees or task groups. Council members have made it clear that they want to have a much broader representation from the community at the table, they need to have the community giving them direction across all of the areas of the Division.

Delivering services through a neighbourhood program will make it closer to the people and hopefully more people will get involved. We all know how hard it is to get volunteers but maybe we need some form of full time volunteer co-ordinator, somebody who can really focus on an organization that is going to depend heavily on volunteers.

Insp. Enger stated the RCMP has to work together with Police, Fire, By-Laws and Emergency Services to resolve issues that are brought to the table. The police want to work with the City and stand aligned with those groups and work with them to resolve the issues and problems together. We will be united on how we are going to resolve problems.

Mr. Gale said an example of something the committee can work on is noise complaints. Division is taking a look at a more integrated way of dealing with issues. The City is asking how can we deal with the noise issue in a way that still meets the legal issues that confront the police, that still allows the appropriate people to be at a noise complaint when they are needed but perhaps do it in a way where we don't have to have only the RCMP, perhaps we could utilize Fire or Public Works. The City has a lot of grow operations, maybe there are other ways of managing our resources with less impact on the police and maybe some things can be done by other sections. That is really the types of services the City is looking at. This committee would have a significant role to play and would be able to give feedback as to what programs they would like to see.

A Committee member asked whether the current committee members would automatically be on this committee. Mr. Gale replied it will not be automatic but members can apply or not apply.

The Chair suggested getting together as a committee to discuss the report and write a response. The meeting is set for 7:00 on September 11th. Mr. Gale will book a meeting room for the committee.

Public Safety Buildings Project – Mr. Gale said this project is still “Closed” to the extent that the City has not made the contents of the report public although the minutes or schedules of meetings have been public and people are aware the City is talking about the replacement of a number of fire halls and the construction of a new police building. There are some seismic problems with the Public Safety Buildings and Council has identified this as one of their top priorities for the infrastructure. Council is going to hold a referendum in the Fall of 2002 to replace a number of buildings. Staff are still reviewing the wording of the referendum. The interim City Hall on Elmbridge is currently being renovated and the courts will be moving over there. The RCMP employees currently there will be moved back to the police station. By 2008 the RCMP will have outgrown the current building. In terms of fire halls there would be four new ones and a number retrofitted. When it is time to go to the public the City will be gathering information and will have meetings in the neighbourhoods. The success of referendums depends on understanding what it is and why it is needed and that kind of message is well handled by organizations like this committee and the CCG’s. Mr. Henderson commented that lots of lead time is needed for any referendum committee to get up and running and suggested the City think about this quickly.

Mr. Wong asked if the City would be asking the Provincial government for funding and Mr. Gale replied the City would be seeking a number of different sources of funding.

Coast Guard Dive Team – The Coast Guard Dive Team has been reinstated. Mr. Gale stated the Fire Department does not dive and rescue, they do recovery work and have capability on every truck to put a suit on and do a limited amount of recovery work along the shore line. Mr. Webster asked if there were any lists of divers available in Richmond in case of emergency and Insp. Enger replied if the RCMP utilize civilians they have a liability issue so the RCMP will not use them.

Donations Fund – The Committee discussed this Fund and requested Mr. Gale give a breakdown on what the funds can be used for.

5. RCMP Update

RCMP Monthly Update – The increased drinking and driving statistics were queried and Insp. Enger said we have counterattack and new cadets on the road who are very keen. Is the drug problem any better or worse than last year? Insp. Enger said grow operations have increased quite considerably and that is part of the RCMP’s concentration on drug enforcement. The RCMP did not spend as much time on heroin and cocaine, we are not winning the battle and have not been able to focus on that because of other pressures and commitments. Supt. Clapham stated we have to tackle the drug problem as a community issue.

Photo Radar – Supt. Clapham mentioned now that Photo Radar is gone the RCMP has to pick up the extra work regarding reducing speed in key areas through Speed Watch, community involvement, problem solving and working with the Transportation Section of the City of Richmond. Supt. Clapham stated traffic safety is not just a police problem it is a community problem.

6. Sub-Committee Project Updates

Public Relations – Ms. Chambers reported that the Chair of the Public Relations Committee asked her to advise the Committee that the brochures with the Terms of Reference and description of the Police Advisory Committee have been distributed to the City distribution points. The Chair also advised he issued a press release following the reception advising the press that this function was held.

Priorities – Mr. Henderson said the Sub-Committee had made a report concerning upcoming priorities for the next year and he was not sure if it was ever voted on by the Committee and maybe it could be brought forward again in September. Mr. Henderson inquired about the Centralized Justice of the Peace and Insp. Enger said they are hiring more people to handle the call load and lately there have not been any complaints.

Evaluation – Mr. Abrams reported that the evaluation of the Youth Intervention Program by this Sub-Committee remains suspended pending the progress of the City evaluation of that program.

Block Watch – Ms. Chambers said there was a meeting with the Block Watch Co-ordinator, Wendy Milford, and talked about creating a five year plan. Wendy Milford will contact a number of the Block Watch volunteers to get their input in terms of what they want and the invitations have gone out for that meeting on September 15th, September 4th is a pre-meeting to discuss how to proceed at the September 15th meeting.

5. Feedback from Committee Members on Policing/Public Safety Concerns

Ms. Chambers said while she was on her morning jog through Minoru Park she saw a man sitting on a park bench, he had long dark hair and was about 45 years old. He had nothing on but shoes and socks, an open black leather jacket and a black leather thong. Ms. Chambers reported this to two members at the RCMP and they attended at the park right away. Ms. Chambers said she believed the parks in Richmond were generally safe and wondered if that is really the case, and maybe Richmond needs to do something as a community to ensure our parks remain safe. Supt. Clapham said he was happy the membership took ownership of this problem and from everything he has seen so far yes the parks are safe, but there is always an element of risk. If an area is identified as being at risk the RCMP can dedicate patrols to that area. The best crime prevention for our parks is for lawful citizens to be in the parks.

Ms. Chambers thanked Inspector Enger for taking on the reigns of leader in the meantime until the new Superintendent arrived. Supt. Clapham passed on his thanks also saying Inspector Enger did an excellent job.

Mr. Wong brought up the person on the dirt bike who went through Factory Direct Trophy window and was killed. He said there was blood everywhere and he wondered whose responsibility it was to clean that up. Insp. Enger said the Coroner conducts a body removal service and a lot of times they would be contracted to clean up.

Mr. Ursel mentioned bike patrols and said he had not seen them. He saw them in the parks last year but not this year. Mr. Henderson said he had seen them in Steveston on patrol.

The Chair said he received a complaint from a Steveston resident who was concerned about noise from vehicles. Supt. Clapham stated Richmond RCMP is working on getting hand held decimetres, once the police are able to measure the loudness of the muffler they can put these noisy people out of business. They cannot get their vehicle on the road until it is repaired and a large fine is involved too.

6. Committee Workplan

This is on track.

The Committee thanked Ms. Chambers for putting together the social and Supt. Clapham also thanked everyone for a wonderful evening.

7. Date of Next Meeting

7:00 p.m. September 25, 2001, City Hall, Anderson room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

**Certified a true and correct copy of the
Minutes of the meeting of Richmond's
Citizens' Advisory Committee on Policing
Held on Tuesday, August 28, 2001**



Jim Lavery, Chair



Susan McBride (Recorder)