



COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Held November 5, 2003
Meeting Room M.1.003
Richmond City Hall

Present:

Bob Aldcorn (Chair), Cllr Linda Barnes, Mary Campbell, Lisa Dorian, Florence Gordon, Brenda Karp, Jim Lavery, Mark Scott, Bill Sorenson, Max Tondowsky

Also Present:

Chuck Gale

Regrets:

Vince Miele

Adoption of Minutes

Jim Lavery\Max Tondowsky

That the minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Task Force of October 7, 2003 be adopted.

CARRIED

Chuck Gale was welcomed to the meeting.

Additions to the agenda: Safe Communities Foundation Update; and additional safety issues from those identified in the final report to Committee.

Safe Communities Foundation

Shawn advised that an information meeting was being arranged (December 4) - safety agencies would be invited to learn more about the Foundation, and of the City's intent in becoming a member of this Foundation. Invitations would also be sent to Task Force members as continued involvement would be beneficial.

Community Safety Advisory Task Force Final Report

Discussion ensued on the report which would be presented to the Community Safety Committee November 12, 2003. Max Tondowsky advised of three additional safety issue items he believed should be included in the report:

1. Use of pesticides should be banned on school grounds (Mary Campbell then advised however that pesticides were not used by the School District Grounds Department). Max would like a Bylaw introduced prohibiting the use of pesticides, and was advised that a policy was currently in effect between the City and the School District outlining the restricted use of pesticides. Pesticides were not used by the City Parks Department on school grounds.
2. Altitude monitoring of low flying aircraft over residential Richmond should be in effect.
3. Fuel dumping by aircraft was also a concern. Airlines should be mandated to report to the City if fuel dumping over Richmond was necessary – affected residents would then be notified.

It was noted that items 1. and 2. already appeared in page 8 of the report in the "Quality of Life" section. Similar questions had previously been asked of the City, and discussion ensued on whether these

It was noted that items 1. and 2. already appeared in page 8 of the report in the "Quality of Life" section. Similar questions had previously been asked of the City, and discussion ensued on whether these questions should be presented to the Safe Communities Foundation; or to Council. It was determined that a comment could be inserted in the report stating that the various additional safety issues raised could be referred to appropriate staff for action. An update report to Community Safety Committee in a year's time would be beneficial.

A further area of concern was that flashing amber lights at pedestrian crossings were not considered safe as drivers did not always stop when the lights were flashing; wheelchair bound people experienced difficulty in accessing the activation button; there was not always sufficient time for pedestrians to cross; and some pedestrians did not use the crossings correctly - more pedestrian education on their use was required. It was recognized that a balance of traffic flow needed to be maintained; concerns had been forwarded to the Transportation area for study.

Cllr Barnes expressed thanks to the group on behalf of Council and the Community Safety Division for the work they had carried out in identifying community perception, and she encouraged the group to attend the November 13 Committee meeting when discussion of the final report would take place. Mr Gale was also thanked for his role in ensuring the success of the Task Force (the first that Council had created), and was given best wishes on his forthcoming retirement from the City.

(Cllr Barnes and Chuck Gale left the meeting at 6:20pm)

Shawn Issel would amend the report accordingly and also advise Gordon Chan, Manager of Transportation that his attendance at the Community Safety Committee meeting would be beneficial in the event traffic safety questions were asked.

Bob Aldcorn, as Chair, stated that he believed Richmond was a safe community to live, work, and play, and that information gathered from a citizen's perspective was beneficial to the City. He thanked the group for their hard work during the past year; Shawn Issel, as Staff Liaison, echoed his comments. Bob Aldcorn also thanked Shawn Issel, Pam Portman and Jennifer Luce for their hard work and contribution to the success of the Task Force.

The final meeting ended at 6:30pm.