

EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 11, 2014 - 5:00 p.m.
Century House Arbutus Meeting Rm
Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair
David Lowe	- St John Ambulance
Amy Van Sickle	- Community Member
Sonny Johal	- Community Member
Cheryl Rogers	- Community Member
John Evans	- Community Member
Pastor Sharon Tidd	- Salvation Army
Doug Templeton	- School Board Representative
Glen Henderson	- School Board Representative
Captain Robert Pettigrew	- Royal Westminster Regiment

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Deirdre McLachlan	- Fraser Health Representative
Mark Hollett	- Community Member
Nathan Blackstock	- BC Ambulance Representative

STAFF:

Cory McLaren	- Secretary
Inspector Phil Eastwood	- New Westminster Police Department
Fire Chief Tim Armstrong	- New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services
Deputy Chief John Hatch	- New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services
Wendy Bowyer	- New Westminster Police Department

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Formulate a response for the Earthquake Consultation currently taking place

Cheryl Rogers advised the committee that there is currently an Earthquake Consultation taking place in British Columbia. The auditor general came out with a report, and currently there is lack of funding and staffing for Emergency Management BC. The committee discussed that the prime area being looked into is the Lower Mainland. Meetings will begin being held closer to the fall.

The Fire Chief discussed Elliot Lake, and the \$115 million dollar public inquiry with recommendations to enhance emergency preparedness. Cheryl Rogers discussed that there are set questions in place for the earthquake consultation process and there are meetings being held right now. The Chair advised that he would like to see the terms of reference from the consultation process, but the Chair is comfortable having the Fire Chief attend the consultation and bring forward.

1.2 Pets live here

Cheryl Rogers discussed that if the City is going to be going door to door perhaps there is pet information and pet education that could be given to those buildings that are pet friendly. Perhaps a package can be given to the owner and it can be explained how to transport them and that they can bring their pets out with them during an emergency and they will be helped. Pet owners need to be made aware that it is the pet owner's responsibility to get the pets out.

The Police Inspector mentioned that this may be a good initiative for the Crime Free Multi Housing Program. Possibly doing outreach to these buildings and making them aware. The committee discussed the need for pet owners to take responsibility and not to leave their pets behind even if the building is only being evacuated for safety. They also discussed the pet decals that are currently given out. The Fire Chief discussed that often times if a pet is mentioned and there are extra resources available they will send them in to look for the pet.

Cheryl Rogers to work with Cory McLaren to update the City's website to make pet information more available. Cheryl to also work with Phil Eastwood and the Crime Free Multi Housing Unit to further educate pet owners during an emergency.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Received the Minutes of March 19, 2014 MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Emergency Advisory Committee meeting held on March 19, 2014 be received and adopted

CARRIED.

All members of Commission voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Recap of the Amazing Disaster Rally (Phil Eastwood)

Police Inspector Phil Eastwood presented to the committee a series of photographs of the Amazing Disaster Rally that was held on May 10th, 2014. There were many City Departments involved in the development of the rally, such as Parks and Recreation and Engineering. There were 43 participants involved in the Rally, and various other organizations such as Salvation Army, St. John Ambulance, Bee Safe Solutions and ECOMM onsite at the rally. Salvation Army provided food for all volunteers, agencies and participants and even set up their portable kitchen as a training exercise. Global News was also onsite for most of the rally, and had coverage throughout the morning and evening news. There were 8 checkpoints throughout the City, each checkpoint brought attention to an important aspect of emergency preparedness.

Cheryl Rogers discussed that the emergency social services Director from Maple Ridge possibly wants to run this type of event in the future as he took part as a participant.

5.2 Freshet Update from Engineering to pass on to the committee (Cory McLaren)

Cory McLaren, Emergency Planning Assistant discussed the May 26, 2014 report from Engineering that was submitted to council. It outlined that there was a bit of a delay in the snow melt process but below normal seasonal runoff during the spring melt is expected in the South-West including Vancouver Island, the South Coast, Central Coast and the Lower Fraser River. Summer weather conditions will be a key factor in determining whether or not drought or low flows will occur during the summer into the fall. Seasonal weather forecasts from Environment Canada indicate an increased chance of above normal temperatures for the May to July 2014 period through most of British Columbia.

Currently there have been updates to the Freshet Preparation Work Plan and the High Water Response Plan after the significant event in 2012. The snow pack and development of the freshet will continue to be monitored during this period. The current water level at Mission Gage: 4.24m as of 13:00 hrs today.

Captain Robert Pettigrew arrived. 17:23pm

5.3 Fraser Basin Council Project Update (Chuck Puchmayr)

The Chair advised that currently we have not paid for this project as of yet, but we will be moving forward with this. Fraser River Basin Council is doing an analysis of the Fraser River diking infrastructure. We have asked the Fraser River Basin Council to look into the impact of a major dike failure would cost and the economic impact. LMLGA will be travelling to Victoria to speak with the Ministry, Fraser Basin and the official opposition. They will be speaking to them regarding updating our diking infrastructure and explaining how easy it would be to have a flood. In speaking with senior levels of

government it is the hope that they would pay and seriously get involved in upgrading the infrastructure.

5.4 Preventing emergency call outs to previous fire sites' (re: recent front street fire) (Chuck Puchmayr)

The Chair wanted to discuss whether there was something that Council could do to help keep previous fire sites locked up and safe in the future. The Fire Chief discussed that there was an issue with the parkade and the structure that was left standing. Currently there is an issue getting demolition permits, and where the material will be trucked to. The Fire Chief discussed that there was a discussion between the insurers about splitting the costs. Then there was a dispute regarding removal of the debris due to the costing. The Chair advised that this may be a legal dispute and this should possibly be brought forward to council.

The committee discussed the security of the site, and that once the property is handed over by local authorities; the onus is on the property owner to ensure that the site is secure. If the option is not given to a property owner to secure the site, often the City will board up the site and then end up footing the bill. There were a few individuals who gained access to the Front Street fire site. The Police Inspector discussed the security of the Canfor site, and that until an issue gets resolved a lot of time the property owner is not overly interested in keeping these properties secure.

The Chair advised that he would like to look into a by-law whereby when a site is being investigated by Police or Fire and Rescue Services that local authority owns the site. But once the site is released back to the owner the onus is back on the property owner. The Fire Chief discussed the process of a fire watch in an apartment building and the owner's responsibilities.

The committee discussed the City of Vancouver and Richmond and what they do in these circumstances. The committee discussed possibly putting a motion together regarding the City entertaining a bylaw. The Chair discussed that he noticed a lack of security onsite at the Columbia Street Fire location.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct Staff to explore making those city sites involved in an emergency event more secure.

CARRIED

All members of Commission voted in favour of the motion.

5.5 Railway safety update DOT111 cars (Chuck Puchmayr)

The Chair discussed phasing out the DOT111 railcars as the walls are very thin, and they often carry explosive material. The minister advised that by order she has taken 3,000 DOT 111 railcars out of service. The Chair has spoken with CN and CP and both have

not seen an expansion of new rail cars for the transportation of crude oil. The American government has been trying to get these cars out of service since the mid 1990s. The Chair advised are going to keep watching this. The Ministry of Transport advised that these cars will be moved to the USA, the chances of these cars moving back into the system is fairly high as there is no one regulating these cars. The Fire Chief discussed that there was a presentation by Enbridge and that 1 million barrels of crude will be transported per day from Alberta to the Coast. The committee discussed transportation of crude oil.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1. New Westminster Emergency Management Office

Currently the Emergency Management Office is packing to move the City's Emergency Operations Centre to Glenbrook Firehall on June 17, 2014. Currently ensuring phone lines and data lines are in working order. Tables, Chairs, and whiteboards have been ordered. Portable desks have also been ordered so that they can be deployed away from the Firehall if there is structural damage to the building. On June 17th, the emergency management office with Police and Fire will provide a joint presentation to the Queensborough Residents Association discussing the City's evacuations plans.

6.2 New Westminster Fire Services

New Westminster has been asked to set up unified command at Peace Arch. There will be two memorial rides, one from Anacortes and one from the River Rock in Richmond, each riding to the Peace Arch Border crossing. This is a great opportunity to showcase New Westminster. Approximately 1,000-2,000 riders will participate with a BBQ reception to follow the ceremony. Canadians will be entering the park on the Canadian side and the Americans on the American side. The ride starts at approx. 9am and volunteers will be needed.

6.3 Fraser Health Service

Not present at this time.

6.4 New Westminster Police Services

Inspector Eastwood has been talking up the Disaster Rally. Today there was an active shooter simulation that was a psycho social event held at the JIBC, this was an interesting exercise. There were 26 families at Science World during a shooting that took place on June 10, 2014. The Victims Assistance Unit followed up with all the families that were part of the field trip to ensure each child and family was okay.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m. Next meeting October 8th, 2014 TBA

**COUNCILLOR
CHUCK PUCHMAYR**

**CORY MCLAREN
COMMITTEE SECRETARY**

CHAIR