

EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 19, 2014 - 5:00 p.m.
City Hall EOC Meeting Rm 1
Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair
Cheryl Rogers	- Community Member
Mark Hollett	- Community Member
Nathan Blackstock	- BC Ambulance Representative
Sonny Johal	- Community Member
John Evans	- Community Member
Amy Van Sickle	- Community Member
Captain Robert Pettigrew	- Royal Westminster Regiment
Deirdre McLachlan	- Fraser Health Representative

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

VACANT	- School Board Representative
Pastor Sharon Tidd	- Salvation Army
David Lowe	- St John Ambulance

STAFF:

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

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Sea Span

The Chair advised that sea-span has offered their tug boats as supplemental fire boats with pumps for firefighting. The vessels that have been offered up may also be employed in other duties.

The committee discussed the Police Boat and that there are approximately 22 people in the New Westminster Police Department that are capable of deploying the Police Boat and responding to an incident.

1.2 Acting Chair

The committee selected John Evans to be the vice-chair

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Received the Minutes of Jan 18, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Emergency Advisory Committee meeting held on January 18, 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 Committee Orientation Package (Stephanie Lam)

Stephanie Lam from Legislative Services discussed the rules of conduct with the committee and swore the committee members in for this new term.

5.2 The Amazing Disaster Rally (Phil Eastwood)

Inspector Phil Eastwood from the New Westminster Police Department discussed the background behind the Amazing Disaster Rally. Inspector Eastwood advised the committee that the Amazing Disaster Rally will be held on May 10, 2014 at Queens Park Stadium. Registration has begun and is limited to 50 people. Promotion of this event has also begun in the City with the local papers, digital sign boards and CBC radio. The logistics of the rally were discussed with the committee and Inspector Eastwood asked for any volunteers that wish to participate to notify himself or the committee secretary.

5.3 Task Force Posting- Three Storey Walk-ups (John Hatch)

Deputy Chief John Hatch discussed that in result of the 404 Ash Street Fire on Jan 31, 2014 it was established that a task force needs to be created in the Fire Prevention Division. Over 500 buildings exist that do not have early warning devices, sprinklers and or fire stopping. This taskforce will have fire suppression members that work an altered scheduled work day. The taskforce will meet with the building owners or agents to conduct a detailed walk though of the building and identify the hazards and risks within the building, so that pre-planning can be made. Residential education will also be a key part of this taskforce, providing information to the residents regarding smoke alarms and calling the Fire Department during an emergency in a timely manner.

Six new Fire recruits will be starting at the end of the month and they will start on this task force.

The committee discussed whether sprinklers should be mandated in the City. The Chair advised that this is not something that the City can mandate, but a resolution and letter has been sent to senior levels of government regarding this matter. The committee also discussed providing education in the schools. The Deputy Fire Chief advised that the Fire Department is currently educating in schools.

The committee discussed that the City of Vancouver Fire Department is currently looking at mandating inter-connecting common area alarms.

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

The Emergency Planning Assistant advised the committee of a report that was received by the Engineering Department. They advised that they are currently completing their annual dyke inspections this month and that detailed preparations will begin in May including the execution of the High Water Response Plan.

The committee discussed that the City of Burnaby is currently doing some work on their dykes and that this is not tied into New Westminster. The Chair discussed that New Westminster has some lower grade areas that are definitely at risk. Currently council is speaking with senior levels of government regarding this topic. Discussions and a 3 step process are also being put together with the Fraser River Basin Council.

5.5 Emergency Support Services- Ash Street Fire, update of Fire Victims (Phil Eastwood)

Inspector Eastwood discussed that 135 people were dealt with by Emergency Social Services from all 4 buildings that were evacuated. 57 residents were from 404 Ash Street. Everyone has found housing that was evacuated. There are many fundraising events that are being held. Currently there are 2 outlets that donations can be made: Salvation Army and St. Barnabas Church. The Inspector advised that at the next meeting he would like to provide a full presentation.

The Chair advised that funds have been collected for the victims and currently is being distributed, but currently there has been no disclosure of information for those victims

and there have only been 18 victims that have come forward to collect. Inspector Eastwood advised that he will look into this for the Chair.

5.6 Home Safe Program Review & PowerPoint (Cory McLaren)

Cory McLaren, Emergency Planning Assistant gave a power point presentation of the Home Safe Program, its purpose and how it will be delivered to residents in New Westminster. The committee discussed that there needs to be proper ladders, booties and supplies for the installation of the smoke alarms within this program. The committee also discussed asbestos exposure when installing a smoke alarm in older buildings.

Deirdre McLachlan advised that this program can also be sent through Home Care and Senior Services.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1. New Westminster Emergency Management Office

The Emergency Planning Assistant discussed that currently the emergency planning office is working on the plan for the emergency operations centre relocation, the Home Safe Program and the Amazing Disaster Rally for Emergency Preparedness Week.

6.2 New Westminster Fire Services

The Deputy Chief advised that New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services are making a higher presence with 3-storey walk ups by training in those areas. Hose lines are now being taken into the 3- storey walk ups. This allows for awareness and education for the residents in the building and in the surrounding area. Hazmat is currently moving forward and is scheduled for training in the spring and fall for 24 members.

6.3 Fraser Health Service

Deirdre McLachlan, representative from Fraser Health, advised that we are currently in a measles outbreak. They are currently in the functional area design for the Royal Columbian Tower. Emergency Management has been in the forefront regarding mass casualty and decontamination. They are also currently working on designing their new EOC.

The committee discussed that some care facilities do not have sprinklers.

6.4 New Westminster Police Services

Inspector Eastwood advised that with the Bailey Bridge closed, there were some route mitigation needed for the Braid Industrial Area, this has been identified and a route has been established. The Inspector advised that the Police Department is currently working on their fire plan and updating it. The Police Department will be engaged with ECOMM for a large scale table top in the future.

The Chair advised that there have been some wind socks installed in the Quayside Area, and that future planning and exercising will be held with the rail companies.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m. Next meeting June 11, 2014

**COUNCILLOR
CHUCK PUCHMAYR
CHAIR**

**CORY MCLAREN
COMMITTEE SECRETARY**