



Family Court Committee

Wednesday, January 8, 2014 – 1:00 pm
Committee Room #2
City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Betty McIntosh	- Chair
Sarah Barone	- NW Law Courts
Brian Fiddler	- NW Victim Assistance
Molly Jeschke	- Community Member
Paul Johanssen	- Community Member
Silvana McNulty	- Community Member
Dorothy Shiu	- Community Member
Ronne Sun	- Family Justice Centre

REGRETS:

Gertrude Gaviola	- Community Member
Lisa Graham	- School Board Trustee
Sanda Turner	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Sergeant Diana McDaniel	- New Westminster Police Department
Shelly Cole	- New Westminster Police Department
Gurinder Mann	- Executive Director, CERA

STAFF:

Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk
Ruby Campbell	- Community Projects Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 12:59 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The agenda was amended by:

- Adding new item: 5.1 – School Suspensions

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of November 6, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Family Court Committee meeting held November 6, 2013 be adopted.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favor of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Community and Personal Safety – Sergeant McDaniel and Shelly Cole

Councillor McIntosh explained the role of the Family Court Committee in relation to attacks that occur within the community and introduced Sergeant Diana McDaniel and Ms. Shelley Cole from the New Westminster Police Department. Sergeant McDaniel and Ms. Cole provided the Committee members with two pamphlets for additional information on safety.

Sergeant McDaniel and Ms. Cole provided the following information regarding community and personal safety:

- Personal safety is generally common sense.
- Those intent on committing crimes of opportunity are often undeterred by methods of crime prevention, such as safety cameras.
- Crimes of opportunity often occur in busy and congested areas, such as skytrain stations.
- External devices, such as music players and cell phones, can negatively affect safety.

Procedural note: Ronne Sun arrived at 1:03 p.m.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- The Police Department provides ongoing education with respect to youth, including providing students with information and tips, and visiting schools.
- The Police Department encourages citizens to communicate information on neighbourhood crime, such as break-ins, to the Police Department, their Residents' Associations and their neighbours. However, it was noted that specific locations should not be mentioned in communication regarding crimes.
- Communication within neighbourhoods can help residents remain aware of suspicious behaviours, as well as encourage practicing safe behaviours, such as locking doors.

Sergeant McDaniel and Ms. Cole reiterated that citizens are encouraged to call the Police Department when suspicious behaviour is noticed. However, citizens should not put themselves at risk in order to report an incident to the Police Department.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following:

- Violence is often random and can occur at all times of the day in a variety of locations.
- Victims of crime can be affected by their attack throughout their lives.
- Light reflectors and/or headlamps are tools pedestrians can use to help increase their visibility and safety. Reflectors are available at City Hall.
- Children should be encouraged to maintain a consistent route when travelling to frequented locations. If a child notices unsafe or suspicious behaviour, they can call their parents for assistance.
- The City is a CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) practitioner.

Councillor McIntosh reported that Sandon Fraser, Youth Coordinator, has been working with the management group at Plaza 88 to provide youth programs at that location, as students congregate at that location due to its proximity to the local schools. The Committee discussed the possibility of having Mr. Fraser present his work regarding the program at the next meeting.

Sergeant McDaniel and Ms. Cole noted that they may be contacted if the Committee has additional questions or comments, and also suggested using the New Westminster Police Department website for additional information.

3.2 CERA – Gurinder Mann, Executive Director, CERA

Councillor McIntosh provided an introduction to Mr. Gurinder Mann, Executive Director, CERA. Councillor McIntosh referred to the correspondence from CERA that was circulated with the agenda, indicating appreciation for the Family Court Committee's involvement in the community over the past year.

Mr. Mann provided a brief history of his career with CERA, and noted that he has provided reports updating Council on CERA activities. Mr. Mann reported that he was pleased with the diversity of the range of cases that were referred to CERA. Mr. Mann noted that while the statistics for 2013 are currently being compiled, approximately 40 cases were referred to CERA in the past year. CERA also established a rapport with the New Westminster Police Department, which may further broaden the scope of cases that are referred to CERA, including breaking and entering, arson and narcotics cases.

Mr. Mann reported on the positive progress that has been made in the past year, and noted the following information:

- Mr. Mann has been making presentations directly to parole officers, reminding them of the role and importance CERA. This practice also reiterates CERA as an option for parole officers.
- A CERA Advisory Panel has been established. The panel meets quarterly and discusses practices that have been successful, and ways to improve practices that have not been successful.

Mr. Mann reported that CERA would like to build a strong relationship with the school district, as CERA may be able to provide its assistance to the school board. Mr. Mann noted that social media has added to the complexity of offenses that occur within school, such as bullying. The added complexity will require numerous organizations, such as CERA, the Police Department and the School District, to work together to create solutions.

Procedural note: Ruby Campbell left the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Mann provided the following information:

- Approximately four cases referred to CERA occurred in New Westminster. Mr. Mann noted that CERA would like to reinforce its relationship with the New Westminster Police Department through presentations and providing materials for parole officers.
- There were no special needs individuals involved in the cases in New Westminster. Mr. Mann noted that psychologists are brought in to assist with cases that involve special needs individuals.
- The most common cases that involve youth are minor assaults, mischief and bullying.
- Youth that are involved in criminal cases require alternative treatment to reduce recidivism.
- CERA has requested a grant from the City. The requested grant amount has increased from past years, but it was noted that restorative justice can save tax payer money by avoiding the court system.

The Committee discussed the role of CERA with respect to the Family Court Committee. It was suggested that Mr. Mann could attend alternating Family Court Committee meetings to provide the Committee with regular CERA updates. The topic was discussed later in the meeting.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Family Day Update

Ms. Sanda Turner provided a statement to the Committee Clerk before the meeting expressing concern regarding Family Day being celebrated on a

different day in British Columbia from the rest of Canada, as this may cause confusion.

Ms. Silvana McNulty reviewed entertainment that has been booked, including:

- New Westminster poet laureate will write and perform a poem;
- The Margot Prentice Group will read a selection of their work;
- Renee Bucciarelli will perform a 15 minute play, as well as perform “stump stories”, regarding New Westminster;
- A music and movement class;
- Children’s yoga;
- Journey of the Blob;
- The Buskers;
- Coco the Clown;
- Mike’s Critters;
- Explorer Green World;
- Peter Rook (a magician);
- A karate demonstration from Bill Hunter;
- Face painting;
- A drumming session;
- The Fish Wall;
- Streams of Dreams;
- Gold Panning;
- The Youth Zone; and
- The Adult Zone.

Councillor McIntosh reported that the event requires additional volunteers. Councillor McIntosh requested that Committee members bring forward additional volunteers. Councillor McIntosh requested that the names of volunteers be submitted to Ruby Campbell, Community Projects Coordinator, at least a week before Family Day, so Ms. Campbell can prepare name tags.

Councillor McIntosh reported that as events will be occurring between two locations, a colour coded pamphlet will be provided indicating when and where each event will be taking place.

Councillor McIntosh spoke to the marketing of the Family Day celebration. An advertisement will be placed in the Royal City Record, possibly in the form of a wrap-around advertisement. Elementary and middle school students will receive a flyer containing information regarding the Family Day celebration.

Councillor McIntosh reported that free parking will be provided on the Front Street Parkade.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 School Suspensions

This item will be discussed at the next Family Court Committee meeting.

5.2 Annual Report to the Attorney General

Councillor McIntosh reviewed the Family Court Committee's Annual Report that is sent to the Attorney General. Councillor McIntosh explained that the report is a summary of the role of the Family Court Committee, and topics discussed by the Committee.

Councillor McIntosh requested that the report ask the Ministry to facilitate communication with other municipalities to enquire as to what they have accomplished in the past years, and what actions are successful in other cities.

5.3 CERA Representative

The Committee discussed the possibility of a CERA representative joining the Family Court Committee. The Committee noted that CERA is an important source of information. As was previously discussed earlier in the meeting, it was suggested that Mr. Mann be invited to alternating Family Court Committee meetings to provide a CERA update.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Family Court Committee will not have a CERA appointee.

THAT CERA will remain on the Family Court Committee agenda.

AND THAT the Executive Director be invited to provide a report or presentation at the discretion of the Family Court Committee Chair.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

The Committee requested a detailed report from Mr. Mann the next time he is invited to present at a meeting. Councillor McIntosh noted that Mr. Mann provided a general report at this meeting due to the restructuring of the CERA Board. It was suggested that Mr. Mann may provide a written report or summary if he is unable to physically attend a meeting. It was also suggested that Councillor Puchmayr could be invited to attend Family Court Committee meetings, as he is the Council representative to CERA.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Member's Reports

Councillor McIntosh

Councillor McIntosh provided updates on the following topics:

- Recruitment will be discussed by Council at an upcoming Council meeting.
- Civic Appreciation will occur at the new Anvil Centre in the fall of 2014. Councillor McIntosh noted that if a committee member is not reappointed for the 2014 term, they will still be invited to the event.
- The Wait for Me Daddy Memorial statue will be unveiled in fall of 2014.
- Ruby Campbell is now part of the Anvil Centre Opening Team, and has joined the CAO's Office. Councillor McIntosh noted that Ms. Campbell will still be the staff liaison for Family Day.

Brian Fiddler

Mr. Fiddler reported that the New Westminster Victim Assistance Association annual dinner will be held Thursday, January 16. There will be a raffle for various items. Tickets are available now.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 2013 Christmas Letter – CERA

The correspondence was acknowledged earlier in the meeting.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

February 19, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. – Committee Room #2, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor Betty McIntosh
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk