

Family Court Committee

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 – 1:00 pm
Committee Room #2
City Hall

NOTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Betty McIntosh	- Chair
Bruce Clark	- Community Member
Mychael Gleeson	- Community Member
Molly Jeschke	- Community Member
Silvana McNulty	- Community Member
Dorothy Shiu	- Community Member

REGRETS:

Sarah Barone	- NW Law Courts Representative
Brian Fiddler	- NW Victim Assistance Representative
John Gaipman	- School District #40 Representative
Paul Johansen	- Community Member
Alana McIntyre	- Community Member
Ronne Sun	- Family Justice Centre Representative

GUESTS:

Constable Carm Kennan	- School Liaison Officer
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STAFF:

Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following additional items were discussed by the Committee:

- 5.1 – CERA Anniversary
- 6.1 – CERA Update

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 18, 2014

This item was not considered due to the lack of quorum.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Presentation from School Liaison

Constable Carm Kennan, School Liaison Officer, New Westminster Police Department, provided a presentation regarding bear and pepper spray, and noted the following information:

- Pepper spray is a prohibited weapon, and cannot legally be possessed, sold or bought;
- Bear or dog spray and animal repellent can be legally purchased if the product meets the requirements of the Pest Management Act;
- An individual must be 19 years of age or older to purchase bear spray;
- Individuals cannot be randomly searched if they are suspected of carrying bear or pepper spray;
- Bear and pepper spray cannot be transported across international borders, however an individual can apply through the Firearm Act to transport the product through the border;
- Animal spray or repellent cannot be used on humans, and the product must clearly indicate that it is not for use on humans;
- Animal spray can cause permanent vision loss due to the spray's velocity; and,
- Underage children can purchase spray from adults that have purchased the product.

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

- The Pest Management Act outlines the size of can that animal spray is permitted to be sold in;
- Juveniles possessing pest spray in plain-view can be arrested; and,
- Due to the chemical composition of pest spray, Emergency Health Services provides assistance for individuals involved in an attack.

3.2 Give My Life Back

Dr. Mychael Gleeson, Committee Member, reviewed her paper titled "Give My Life Back: 100 Kids Telling Their Stories" regarding kids at risk and noted the following information:

- A thumbnail sketch was written for each child;
- Each child was provided an opportunity to approve or reject their thumbnail sketch;
- The paper will be sent to the Legislative Assembly and the University of Honolulu;
- The majority of the subjects were between 15 and 18 years old; and,
- Subjects expressed a desire for assistance with argumentative behaviour.

In response to questions from the Committee, Dr. Gleeson provided the following information:

- The paper will be shared with the Legislative Assembly for discussion regarding funding for legal aid for kids at risk;
- Funding for studies such as this is not available at the municipal level; and,
- Fraser Health has not requested a copy of this study.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Foster homes do not always provide emotional support for kids;
- It was suggested that local businesses be approached for funding for assistance with studies such as this; and,
- It was suggested that charitable societies could provide school supplies for kids at risk.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Family Day 2015

Councillor Betty McIntosh, Chair, advised that the Family Day Planning Committee will have a meeting immediately following the Family Court Committee meeting, and that an update will be provided at the next meeting.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 CERA Anniversary Celebration

Silvana McNulty, Committee Member, volunteered to attend the 15th Annual CERA Anniversary.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 CERA Annual General Update

Bruce Clark, Committee Member, reported on the CERA Annual General Meeting, held June 25, 2014, and noted the following information:

- CERA provided financial statements, an annual report and a verbal summary of their activities;
- There is currently no New Westminster representative serving on CERA's Board of Directors; however, it was noted that a representative could be appointed;
- Youth justice is becoming more difficult to detect due to social media and cyber-crime; and,
- CERA has made progress utilizing restorative justice in New Westminster.

Constable Carm Kennan, New Westminster Police Department, advised that Gurinder Mann, Executive Director of CERA, is in regular contact with the police department. Constable Kennan noted that CERA will provide assistance with non-youth related issues, such as neighbour disputes.

7.0 MEMBER'S REPORTS

There were no items.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

October 29, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. – Committee Room #2, City Hall

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor Betty McIntosh
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk