



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, Meeting Room #1

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair, City Council Member
Constable Tim Callaghan	- NWPD Representative
Wes Everaars	- Community Member
Gurinder Mann	- CERA Representative
Kim Nickle	- Community Member
Amanda Semenoff	- Community Based Arts Sector Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

JoAnn Tosh	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Committee Orientation

JoAnn Tosh, Committee Clerk, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Committee Orientation. Ms. Tosh provided an overview of the Rules of Conduct, Respectful Workplace and Human Rights Policy, and the Social Media Policy.

1.2 Oath of Office

JoAnn Tosh, Committee Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the Committee members.

1.3 Appointment of Vice-Chair

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Chair, requested volunteers to serve as the Vice-Chair for the 2017 Committee term.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Restorative Justice Committee appoints Amanda Semenoff to be Vice-Chair for the 2017 term.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no items.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

There were no items.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Introduction to the Restorative Justice Committee

Chuck Puchmayr, Chair, provided a welcoming message to the committee and advised that he anticipates a Victim Assistance Association Board Representative at the next meeting.

4.2 Overview of Restorative Justice Referral Process

Gurinder Mann, CERA Representative, provided the following report:

- Restorative Justice is a form of justice that focuses on healing and repairing the harm that has occurred in a crime;
- CERA provides an opportunity for the victim and the person who committed the harm an opportunity to meet and engage in dialog to reach a resolution together;
- Through the restorative justice process the person who caused the harm is given the opportunity to accept responsibility and accountability of the crime and allows the victim to be a part of the justice process and voice their side of the story;
- Upon the inauguration of CERA in 1999, over 90 percent of their cases have reached some sort of resolution;

- Three out of four individuals who have gone through the restorative justice process have not reoffended; and,
- The majority of CERA cases are referred to them from police departments in the Coquitlam, Port Moody and New Westminster.

4.3 Restorative Justice within the school system

Gurinder Mann, CERA Representative, provided the following report:

- CERA has been provided the opportunity to visit high schools in New Westminster to inform students of the restorative justice process; CERA also talks to students about social responsibility and anti-bullying in hopes of creating peace and a sense of safety within the schools;
- Although CERA has received support from the School District 40 Superintendent, CERA is faced with challenges with the lack of teacher champions who are willing to embrace and invest in the restorative justice process;
- CERA is involved in a partnership with School District 43 where school administrator can reach out to CERA and utilize restorative justice to deal with a serious situation rather than resorting to suspension or involving the police;
- CERA accepts restorative justice cases for both youth and adults; and,
- CERA had 53 restorative justice files in 2016 and 30 files so far in 2017;

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Providing principals and parent advisory groups of elementary schools the tools and information regarding the restorative justice process could be a key component in gaining support and success with younger students;
- CERA could provide workshops to various parent advisory groups and school board trustees to encourage support amongst the community;
- New Westminster patrol officers could be provided with additional information and training regarding the restorative justice process to encourage the officers to send more cases through the restorative justice process;
- CERA does not receive referrals from judges or Crown council;
- That it could be beneficial for police officers who have referred a case to CERA be required to show up to the restorative justice hearing; and,
- Victim Assistance workers could provide victims the opportunity to request being involved in the restorative justice process;

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Restorative Justice Committee requests Council to contact the New Westminster School Board and Parent Advisory Committees to introduce the Restorative Justice Committee and request an opportunity to meet with the groups to provide an overview of the Restorative Justice process.

CARRIED.

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

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

May 30, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, Meeting Room #1

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Chair

JoAnn Tosh
Committee Clerk