



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE (RJC)

May 29, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, Boardroom A

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair, City Council Member
Wes Everaars	- Community Member
Stacey Ferguson	- Community Member
Laura Roberts	- SD #40 Representative
Amanda Semenoff	- Vice Chair, Community Based Arts Sector Representative

REGRETS:

Constable Tim Callaghan	- NRPD Representative
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STAFF PRESENT:

Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Procedural Note:

Item 3.1: Orientation and Oath of Office
to be conducted prior to the start of regular agenda items.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the May 29, 2018 Restorative Justice Committee agenda be adopted, with the addition of Item 5.1 – Election of Vice Chair.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of October 24, 2017

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the October 24, 2017 Restorative Justice Committee minutes be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Orientation and Oath of Office – Heather Corbett, Legislative Services

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, briefly introduced herself, Councillor Puchmayr, and Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk. After a short roundtable introduction of Committee members, Heather commenced with her presentation which covered the role of advisory committees, terms of reference, meeting attendance and quorum, meeting conduct, City policies & freedom of information and, lastly, oaths of office. Members were reminded to RSVP Carilyn as to whether or not they will be in attendance at each meeting to ensure quorum.

Procedural note: Heather left at 5:20 p.m.

Councillor Puchmayr welcomed Committee members, and acknowledged the absence of Gurinder Mann, representative of Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA). He explained that in past committee years, Gurinder brought reports to the Committee, as well as action items and recommendations for consideration. Staff will follow up with Gurinder to clear up the oversight of him not being appointed to the Committee yet for this term. Staff will also follow up on the possibility of having Terry Hewitt fill the position of the Victim Assistance Representative.

After approval of the minutes, the following points were discussed:

- Various members of the School Board met with CERA representative, Gurinder Mann, who elaborated on the organization's mission and the work they are doing in other districts. There was a general feeling that the district was interested in participating more;
- It was noted that through the years, restorative justice has been put on the back burner as other programs have come along to address challenging behaviours at school; however, there is still a desire for restorative justice at the school;
- Currently, New Westminster Secondary School's program, Restitution, is a somewhat "junior" version of restorative justice; and,

- As the City invests in CERA through the City Partnership Grant Program, it would be rewarding to see a restorative justice initiative implemented in the school system.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Vice Chair – Committee

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Amanda Semenoff act as Vice Chair for the Restorative Justice Committee for the 2018 term.

CARRIED.

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

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Report – Constable Callaghan – No report was provided.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Correspondence re Restorative Justice Training as a Component of Law Enforcement Training including:

- **January 9, 2018 Letter from CNW to FCM**
- **January 30, 2018 Letter from CNW to FCM**
- **March 13th Email Update from FCM to CNW**
- **April 10th Email Update from FCM Including Letter from FCM to MP Goodale**

Councillor Puchmayr explained to members that the Committee can help facilitate changes in policies, etc. Referring to Item 7.1, he stated that previously the Committee spoke about the inconsistency of restorative justice training, noting that at the Justice Institute (JI) it is taught as an optional course, not mandated. Noting the discrepancies that occur when police officers in training can opt out of restorative justice training, the group asked the Federal Government to make restorative justice training a mandatory aspect of police officer education. This motion has now made its way to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Annual Conference, on the consent agenda. If it is pulled from the consent agenda

for discussion, he will be there to explain the reasoning behind the motion. Once the motion is passed, it will then go to the Ministry of Justice. He noted that this is a great example of something starting as a grassroots issue and then going further and getting bigger.

Amanda Semenoff, Community Based Art Sector Representative, informed members of the First Nations court in New Westminster which is much more holistic and restorative than the regular court system. She commented that it would be interesting to see if there are ways to expand these programs since they are so successful. Councillor Puchmayr suggested that we could encourage the use of restorative justice programs across Canada by using New Westminster as an example.

Upon further discussion, the following motion was passed:

MOVED AND SECONDED

That staff contact the New Westminster Crown Counsel in the context of getting information on the First Nation's alternative court system by way of having a court worker attend the next Restorative Justice Committee meeting to speak and/or present on the topic, and also look into the possibility of the Committee having a tour and observing the proceedings of a First Nation's restorative justice case.

CARRIED.

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

Amanda also advised that San Francisco has a conflict intervention service specifically for high-barrier housing. The service utilizes recovery and restorative justice principles to help people stay housed within the supportive housing space. While their program may not entirely suit our needs, there may be some things that can be implemented here. Amanda will forward the program information to Wes Everaars, community member, for his consideration.

Wes stated that the Lookout Housing & Health Society's outreach staff may be able to utilize some of the restorative justice approaches to mediate disputes; this may be something that could be addressed with both Gurinder (CERA) and Constable Callaghan.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Chair

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk