



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE (RJC)

**March 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
Boardroom A, City Hall**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair, City Council Member
Amanda Semenoff	- Alternate Chair/Community Member
Pam Craven	- SD40 Representative
Stacey Ferguson	- Community Member
Wes Everaars	- Community Member
Gurinder Mann	- CERA Representative

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Constable Tim Callaghan	- NRPD Representative
Bailey Keeler	- Unit Coordinator New Westminister Victim Assistance Association

STAFF PRESENT:

Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk
--------------	-------------------

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

Procedural note: Item 3.1: Orientation and Oaths of Office was addressed 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 March 10, 2020 Restorative Justice Committee meeting agenda be adopted as circulated.

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 the November 26, 2019 Restorative Justice Committee Meeting

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the November 26, 2019 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 Oaths of Office – Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, commenced with her presentation which included the role of advisory committees, the terms of reference, meeting attendance and quorum, meeting conduct, City policies and freedom of information, and, lastly, oaths of office.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls - Recommendations to Council and/or the Provincial Court System to Inform a Local Approach – (Standing Item)

Councillor Puchmayr advised that a report in response to the Reclaiming Power and Place Report is expected to come from the Federal Government in June, at which point the Committee will address it.

Committee members agreed that once the report is received from the Federal Government, a representative of the New Westminster Police Department could attend a Committee meeting to share where they are in the process with respect to recommendations in response to the Report.

4.2 Kwìkwèxwelhp Healing Village

Councillor Puchmayr shared information of the invitation extended by Robert Nahanee, a Squamish Nation elder, for Committee members to visit the Kwìkwèxwelhp Healing Village to attend a healing ceremony.

As the healing ceremonies take place on the last Friday of every month, Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, will poll Committee members to determine which date would work best for the majority of members to visit the Village.

Councillor Puchmayr recapped the issue of the state of the First Nation's Court. Stacey Ferguson, Community Member, and Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, shared their experiences attending a court session in February, both reiterating previously voiced concerns regarding the courtroom's confined space and uncomfortable setup.

Councillor Puchmayr shared that the Federal Government is conducting a study on the court space in order to make it more welcoming and functional, noting that, as the space is used as a First Nation's Court one a month, it must be able to transform from a colonial-style court room to an Indigenous court room in a short amount of time.

Discussion ensued, and Committee members provided the following comments:

- The western colonial court layout could adapt to a First Nation's court space rather than the other way around. The Committee agreed to see what the space planning report says before putting forth any recommendations such as this; and,
- The complexities of the court space must be considered, including a place for elders to congregate, read and process information, and, currently, there are no other civic buildings available for this use.

Councillor Puchmayr further advised that:

- On January 31, 2020, he, Ms. Ferguson, and Ms. Cook met with David Vallance, Regional Director, BC Corrections, Sunjeet Judge, Local Manager, Community Corrections, and Heather Santaga, the First Nation's Court Probation Officer, BC Corrections, sharing that they were grateful for the work of the Committee; and,
- The owner of El Santo restaurant has offered to provide lunches for the elders once a month.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Alternate Chair

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Amanda Semenoff be elected as the Alternate Chair for the 2020 term of the Restorative Justice Committee.

CARRIED.

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

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Constable Callaghan – Report

No report was provided.

6.2 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) – Report

Gurinder Mann, CERA Representative, shared that the year is off to a good start with respect to the number of restorative justice referrals overall; however, although CERA's relationship with the NRPD continues to be very good, there continues to be a lack of cases coming from New Westminster. He advised that advocacy from senior police members such as attending morning watch meetings, ensuring the appropriate forms are available in police cars, etc., may increase the number of referrals coming from the City. Noting that the City of Coquitlam, which has a liaison officer working directly with CERA, has referred 12 cases, in comparison to New Westminster's one referral, it was suggested that having a dedicated officer may be something that New Westminster may want to consider as well.

Upon Councillor Puchmayr's suggestion that the Committee invite Dave Jansen, Acting Chief of Police, to the next Restorative Justice Committee meeting to further discuss promoting restorative justice in the community, the following motion was passed:

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Restorative Justice Committee invite Dave Jansen, Acting Chief of Police, New Westminster Police Department, to the May 26, 2020 Committee meeting to discuss the implementation of restorative justice in the community.

CARRIED.

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

Mr. Mann further advised that a number of other things are happening with CERA including a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Crown which expands the organization's vision of restorative justice to include neighbour disputes, etc., and may result in an increase of cases in the future.

6.3 New Westminster Victim Assistance Association – Report

No report was provided.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 November 19, 2019 Letter from the New Westminster Municipal Police Board Regarding Calls for Justice

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Restorative Justice Committee receive the November 19, 2019 letter from the New Westminster Municipal Police Board regarding Calls for Justice for information.

CARRIED.

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

7.2 January 21, 2020 Letter from David Eby, Attorney General regarding the UBCM Meeting and the Indigenous Courts

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Restorative Justice Committee receive the January 21, 2020 letter from David Eby, Attorney General, regarding the UBCM meeting and the Indigenous Courts for information.

CARRIED.

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

At this point in the meeting, Committee members further discussed alternate locations for Indigenous court sessions to be held including the Plaskett Gallery, the detached gym space at the new school, and Queens Park Arena, noting that there are a number of underutilized community facilities that could be used. It was also acknowledged that, with respect to using school space, the safety of students and moving clients through the facility would have to be navigated carefully.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 in Boardroom A at 5:00 p.m.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Certified Correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Councillor Puchmayr
Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk