



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 24, 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
Kim Nickel	- Community Member
Gurinder Mann	- CERA Representative
Amanda Semenoff	- Vice Chair, Community Based Arts Sector Representative

STAFF REGRETS:

Wes Everaars	- Community Member
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STAFF PRESENT:

April Darke	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 5:16 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the October 24, 2017 Restorative Justice Committee agenda be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the May 30, 2017 Restorative Justice Committee minutes be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 New Westminster School Board and District Parent Advisory Committee

Councillor Puchmayr, Chair and Council Member, and Gurinder Mann, Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) Representative, provided the following presentation regarding the New Westminster School Board and District Parent Advisory Committee:

- Two meetings will take place with:
 - The District Parent Advisory Committee
 - November 7, 2017
 - The School Board
 - November 23, 2017

Staff will email the Committee members with the meeting locations and times.

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

- Committee Members are welcome to attend the meetings with the District Parent Advisory Committee and the School Board.
 - The location and times of these meetings will be distributed by email to the Committee.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Assistant Superintendent, Karim Hachlaf, supports the Restorative Justice community.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the New Westminster School Board refer a representative of the New Westminster School Board to sit on the Restorative Justice Committee.

CARRIED.

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

4.2 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) and Report on Meeting with Chief Judge Crabtree

Kim Nickel, Community Member, provided the following presentation regarding her meeting with Chief Judge Crabtree on Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA):

- Involved with support programs involving high risk youth, including the Restorative Justice program
- Interested in enhancing initiatives of the Restorative Justice process in the city of New Westminster by:
 - Involving Probation Officers who provide written recommendations or Pre Sentence Reports to Judges regarding recommendations on sentencing

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Nickel provided the following information:

- In service training on restorative justice and its process is provided to Probation Officers.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Provide the New Westminster Probation Officer with an understanding of the dynamics of the Restorative Justice Committee in New Westminster and the history of Restorative Justice in New Westminster
 - Connect with the Probation Officers in Langley and Surrey as well
- New Westminster Crown Counsel does not have a Crown assigned to:
 - Youth matters
 - Restorative Justice matters
- Cst. Callaghan will provide the Committee with a report at the next meeting of the Restorative Justice Committee following meeting with:

- The Probation Officer to discuss Pre Sentence Reports and the possibility of mediation through the restorative justice process
- Crown Counsel and the use of restorative justice and charge approval

4.3 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) Report

Gurinder Mann, Communities Embracing Restorative Action Society (CERA) Representative, provided the following report regarding CERA:

- CERA is experiencing one of the finest years in the past decade with nearly 70 cases processed in the year to date, compared to the historic number of 40 to 50 cases per year
 - The Coquitlam RCMP have contributed to this success by:
 - Making resources and new forms available to their Officers in their patrol cars
 - Providing liaison officers who work with CERA
- There have now been seven cases referred to CERA from New Westminister this year:
 - Is the highest number to date
 - Expect an increase in referrals in 2018

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

- The use of computers in New Westminister police cars to refer matters to restorative justice
 - Coquitlam utilizes email and Prime
 - Burnaby staff review referrals to determine if the file is appropriate
 - New Westminister is currently reviewing a process called EU

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Criteria for referrals should include pre counselling to:
 - Identify physical and mental health issues and implementing effective processes
 - Provide the client with:
 - information and expectations on the restorative justice process
 - Mentoring

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Recruitment 2018: Call for Volunteers

Councillor Puchmayr provided the following information regarding recruitment for 2018:

- Forms are ready and are accessible on line on the City site
- Members wishing to continue serving on the Restorative Justice Committee must reapply
- The deadline to receive applications is November 10, 2017

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 New Westminster Police Department (NYPD) Report

Constable Tim Callaghan, New Westminster Police Department (NYPD) Representative, provided the following reports and background information regarding the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), Restorative Justice and Policing:

- YCJA and Alternative Measures:
 - A means of providing a contribution to society when harm has been done
 - Become harmonious again within the community
 - Restorative Justice is being followed but has not been formalized within New Westminster and includes
 - Taking responsibility
 - The victim, community and effected party must be involved
 - There must be structured process to establish:
 - what has occurred
 - what impact has occurred
 - the outcome that seeks to put right the harm that has been caused for an outcome that makes other reparations not directly related to the original case
 - Offers an increased positive, constructive and harmonious approach to restoring relationships between victims, offenders and the community
- Policing and Referrals
 - Challenges are due to minimal training and experience with the YCJA
 - Previous referrals determined if subsequent referrals were completed
 - Lack of respect displayed by the offender determined whether a referral was completed or not
 - The belief that certain offences were more appropriate than others for referral
 - Lack of support from Supervisors
 - Patrol Officers work within a culture of expediency
- Coquitlam RCMP
 - Has a large Restorative Justice Program that includes a large number of volunteers
 - Have created a PRIME template
 - Utilize a system whereby an email is sent to the Restorative Justice Coordinator immediately
- Abbotsford Police
 - Utilize Abbotsford Restorative Justice and Advocacy Association
 - Officer are provided training

- Surrey RCMP
 - Utilize mediation
- New Westminster Police
 - Proposed changes include:
 - Newly created Community Resource Officer who works with youth and Probation Officers to determine the services youth need and what is available
 - Provide incentives for Police Members to generate referrals by:
 - Making it meaningful toward work promotions and job interviews
 - Making it comparable to arrests made
 - Highlighting the importance of helping the community
 - Provide training
- New Members to the New Westminster Police Department who have graduated from the Academy:
 - Offer a 2 week basic course in Restorative Justice
- Implement CERA and its mandates into the New Westminster School District
- Educating NCOs

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Innovative idea in offering incentives to Officers seeking promotion
- New recruits will receive local training in Restorative Justice
 - Needs to be provided at the Justice Institute as well and early on

6.3 Victim's Assistant Report

Constable Tim Callaghan, New Westminster Police Department (NWPD) Representative, advised the Committee that Terry Hewitt has been named as the Victim Assistance Association Board representative who will sit on the Restorative Justice Committee.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Approval of Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Resolution on Restorative Justice Training

Councillor Puchmayr advised the Committee that the Approval of Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Resolution on Restorative Justice training was passed unanimously. Councillor Puchmayr also advised the Committee that further information would be provided to UBCM for their presentation to government.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

The date and time of the next Restorative Justice Committee meeting will be determined after recruitment has been completed. Committee Members will be advised.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed _____
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Chair

Original Signed _____
April Darke
Committee Clerk