

Safety and Security Advisory Committee Meeting to be held via Zoom

**Public attendance at committee meetings continues to be restricted due to limited space and the physical distancing requirements. If you'd like to watch or listen to the live Committee meeting, please email Committees@Penticton.ca 24-hours prior to the commencement of the meeting for the Zoom meeting participation details. You will have an opportunity to ask questions related to the agenda at the end of the meeting.*

**Monday, October 19, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.**

1. **Call Regular Committee Meeting to Order**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Adoption of Minutes**
 - 3.1 Minutes of August 17, 2020 Safety and Security Advisory Committee **2-5**
Staff Recommendation:
 THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the August 17, 2020 meeting as presented.
4. **New Business**
 - 4.1 Roundtable Introductions **Verbal**
 - 4.2 "Where Are We Now" Updates from Primary Service Departments **Verbal**
 - 4.3 Public Washroom Security – Blake Laven, Director of Development Services **6-11**
5. **Next Meeting** **12**
6. **Public Question Period**
7. **Adjournment**

Safety and Security Advisory Committee Meeting

held via Zoom
Monday, August 17, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Matt Taylor, Chair
Deirde Riley, Vice Chair
Adam Power
Lynn Allin
Nicolette Rodriguez
Cheryl Watts

Council Liaisons: Katie Robinson, Councillor
John Vassilaki, Mayor (*arrived at 11:26 a.m.*)

Staff: Kerri Lockwood, Director, People and Safety Strategy
Blake Laven, Director of Development Services (*arrived at 11:31 a.m.*)
Adam Goodwin, Social Development Specialist
Tina Siebert, Bylaw Supervisor
Staff-Sgt Kirsten Marshall, RCMP
Rob Trousdell, Deputy Fire Chief
Angie Collison, Corporate Officer (*left the meeting at 10:51 a.m.*)
Caitlyn Anderson, Deputy Corporate Officer

Regrets: Daryl Clarke
Jake Kimberley, Councillor

1. **Call to Order**

The Safety and Security Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chair at 10:30 a.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the agenda for the meeting held on August 17, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of July 20, 2020 Safety and Security Advisory Committee

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the July 20, 2020 meeting as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Business Arising from Prior Meetings**

5. **New Business:**

5.1 Primary Service “Where Are We Now” Updates

The Bylaw Supervisor provided the following updates:

- Two new Bylaw Enforcement relief Officers have been hired.
- More camps are being set up in Gyro Park, Rotary Park and along Ellis Creek which is creating bed damage.
- Two residential properties are problematic.
- The Sunday shift has started from 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Focus is on clean-up in the morning.
- Piano has been placed at Nanaimo square with Downtown Penticton Association.
- First shift during the week is to get the vulnerable population up and moving along, making sure the parks and creeks are accessible to everyone.

The Deputy Fire Chief provided the following updates:

- The Penticton Channel is still very busy with 16 calls over the last 30 days.
- Wildfire south near Carmi is of concern.

Staff-Sgt Marshall provided the following updates:

- Many calls coming in with everyone in the city, as well as calls for mental health.
- Revolving door with prolific offenders.
- Summer is a very busy time with more people.

5.2 Committee Terms of Reference Update

The Corporate Officer provided the committee with an update on the changes in the terms of reference commencing immediately until December 31, 2022. On July 21, 2020 Council approved new terms of reference to broaden the makeup of each committee, added language for conflict of interest and confidentiality, removal of people and how to resign. Two vacancies are currently on this committee and will be filled for the next meeting.

5.3 Public Washroom Maintenance

The Director of People & Community Safety Strategy reviewed the Council resolution from June 16, 2020 that was originally assigned to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, however, it was decided that this committee was better suited to address it.

The Committee was informed that the City of Penticton is trying to prevent vandalism and inappropriate behaviour from occurring in public washrooms and provided with background information regarding the high vandalism areas and how they are currently patrolled. The Committee was also informed of previous efforts that had taken place to reduce vandalism but reminded that most situations, like now, end with Bylaws or the RCMP attending.

A member at large inquired about whether any bylaw signage and information is currently present in public washrooms and suggested that catchy phrases should be explored to aid in getting the attention of users.

More suggestions made by members at large included a pilot project with an individual, working off tips and a small wage, monitoring a washroom but also handing out essentials such as at night clubs and an access control system via a call/answering service to control the people who request to use a washroom afterhours through a buzzer, and to review earlier consideration of alternative facilities used in other communities.

The Director of People and Community Safety Strategy will provide a presentation at the next Committee meeting to further discuss the provided suggestions.

5.4 Aggressive Deer

A member at large provided the committee with a topic of conversation on aggressive deer in Penticton and in specific areas during the spring time.

Councillor Robinson provided information informing the Committee that aggressive deer are a continuous issue and explained that in the past the fawning season was monitored and public education was provided to push out reminders that the public shares the space with wildlife and who to contact for encounters with injured or threatening deer.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee recommend to Council to direct staff to look into an educational awareness campaign to address deer and other animals in the City of Penticton.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Vassilaki, Mayor, entered the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Blake Laven, Director of Development Services, entered the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

5.5 Missing Programming Supports Discussion to Identify Service Gaps Between Unsupported Housing and Treatment Programs

The Chair reminded the Committee that this discussion topic stemmed from discussions at June 15, 2020 committee meeting with interest in determining missing programming support needs that should be available once people enter into housing.

The Committee was asked to submit any questions they may have for Interior Health regarding programming to the Director of People and Community Safety Strategy by the end of the week via email. Discussion ensued to invite Interior Health and BC Housing to the next meeting to provide more information on this topic.

The Director of People & Community Safety Strategy provided the Committee with the following updates prior to adjournment:

- Council approved all eleven recommendations from the July 21, 2020 Council Meeting which are currently being implemented;
- Positive interest was received in the Committee's vacancies. Two new members will be at the next meeting;
- Council approved new priorities on July 21, 2020 and the section on Community Safety has not changed. The approved priorities will be emailed to the Committee for information purposes.

6. **Next Meeting**

The Next Safety and Security Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on September 14, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

7. **Public Question Period**

8. **Adjournment**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adjourn the meeting held on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 11:56 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified Correct:

Caitlyn Anderson
Deputy Corporate Officer



Committee Memorandum

penticton.ca

Date: October 19, 2020
To: Safety and Security Advisory Committee
From: Blake Laven, Director Development Services
Subject: **Public Washrooms – Vandalism, graffiti and drug use**

At the June 16, 2020 Council meeting, Council discussed the state of the City's outdoor public washrooms and the constant vandalism experienced in them and resolved to refer the issue to the City's Advisory Committees for advice. This memo is intended to provide the Committee background for the Committee to discuss options for further investigation.

Background

The City operates 21 separate washroom facilities in parks and beaches – not including facilities within buildings, such as the museum / library, city hall or community centre which also have washrooms open to the public (Attachment A).

Public washrooms are opened either year-round, seasonally or during special events by schedules and bookings (events / sports fields) and are generally opened at 7 AM and closed at dusk. Washrooms are opened, closed and stocked and cleaned twice a day by a contractor.

The annual public washroom budget is \$145,000 a year, which includes the contract price, vandalism repairs, utility costs, facilities staff time for maintenance and other contingencies. Additionally, Community Safety Bylaw Enforcement Officers conduct proactive patrols as part of their daily duties to ensure safety and cleanliness of washroom facilities (not included in the public washroom budget).

Vandalism, graffiti and drug use are constant problems with the public washrooms, costing on average over \$50,000 a year for the past three years (2018: \$51,693, 2019: \$50,729 and 2020 ytd: \$41,343) - these figures are included in the \$145k yearly budget listed above.

Vandalism occurs most frequently during periods when the washrooms are closed / locked or shortly after they are opened, first thing in the morning. Damage to doors and locks is expensive even if persons are not successful in gaining entry. The extent of the vandalism includes at the less severe end: stuffed toilets; excessive litter; blood and feces messes; drug paraphernalia; to, the more extreme of: graffiti and destruction of fixtures. The attachments show some photos of what is a typically vandalised washroom. The largest impact of this beyond cost is the downtime the washrooms experience. Depending on when contractors, materials and cleaners are available, washrooms can sometimes be out of availability for days or longer.

The five (5) year-round washrooms (OK Lake Park, Jubilee, Lakawanna, Skaha East and Skaha Main) are heated and attract individuals experiencing homelessness in colder months. These washrooms, given their more prominent locations in the community, experience the most amounts of vandalism. Vandalism also puts targeted washrooms out of commission for repairs and cleaning for days and sometimes longer, depending on the extent of the damage and availability of trades people / cleaners to respond.

One item that seems to be showing promise at avoiding break-ins at the washrooms are welded gates and puck locks. This system was first used as pilot at the Carmi and McNichol ballfield buildings, which include washroom facilities and were prone to break-ins. It has proven successful at keeping vandals out and the Facilities Department has requested budgets of \$40,000 for each of 2021, 2022 and 2023 to complete the install of gates over existing doors at all of the public washrooms. This of course does not stop vandalism when the facilities are open.

This summer, security / attendants were hired for the washrooms in the Braeburn parking lot downtown (200 block) for 12 hours per day, 7 days a week. The cost of this was approximately \$8,500 a month. Staff comment that the security was successful in deterring vandalism at these washrooms (but also comment that this may have pushed vandalism to other washroom facilities). At times, security officers requested assistance from Bylaw Officers to help manage issues at this location.

Staff do not consider paid attendants as a reasonable option moving forward as this option, while effective is considered cost prohibitive. For example, if the decision was made to provide paid attendants at the five (5) year-round washrooms (OK Lake Park, Jubilee, Lakawanna, Skaha East and Skaha Main), the estimated cost of would be \$102,000/year per site x 5 sites = \$510,000. This would provide coverage 12 hours per day (from opening to closing), 7 days a week, 12 months per year. The decision could be made to reduce the times that security is available, and/or have one security officer patrolling multiple sites, but the reality is, the cost of dealing with the vandalism for all washroom facilities (~\$50,000 a year), is less than the cost of hiring security for one washroom attendant year round (\$102,000). And even if the 5 washrooms have attendants, there will still be vandalism and other undesirable activity at the other washrooms and there will still be attempts to enter when the washrooms are closed / locked.

The City and other partners are working on other means of reducing the underlying causes of this problem, including providing supportive housing to those experiencing homelessness and addictions, working with the justice system on sentencing of repeat offenders, reducing substance use addiction and other community wide initiatives. In the interim, however, staff and Council are challenged to find ways to address washroom safety and security.

In addition to paid attendants, other options that have been considered, include: stainless steel fixtures, automatic doors that open after a certain period of time, altering closing and opening times and other means.

Council and staff are open to investigating ideas that the committee may have and can report back to the committee if there are options that are identified for further investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Laven, MCIP, RPP
Director of Development Services

Attachment A: City managed public washrooms

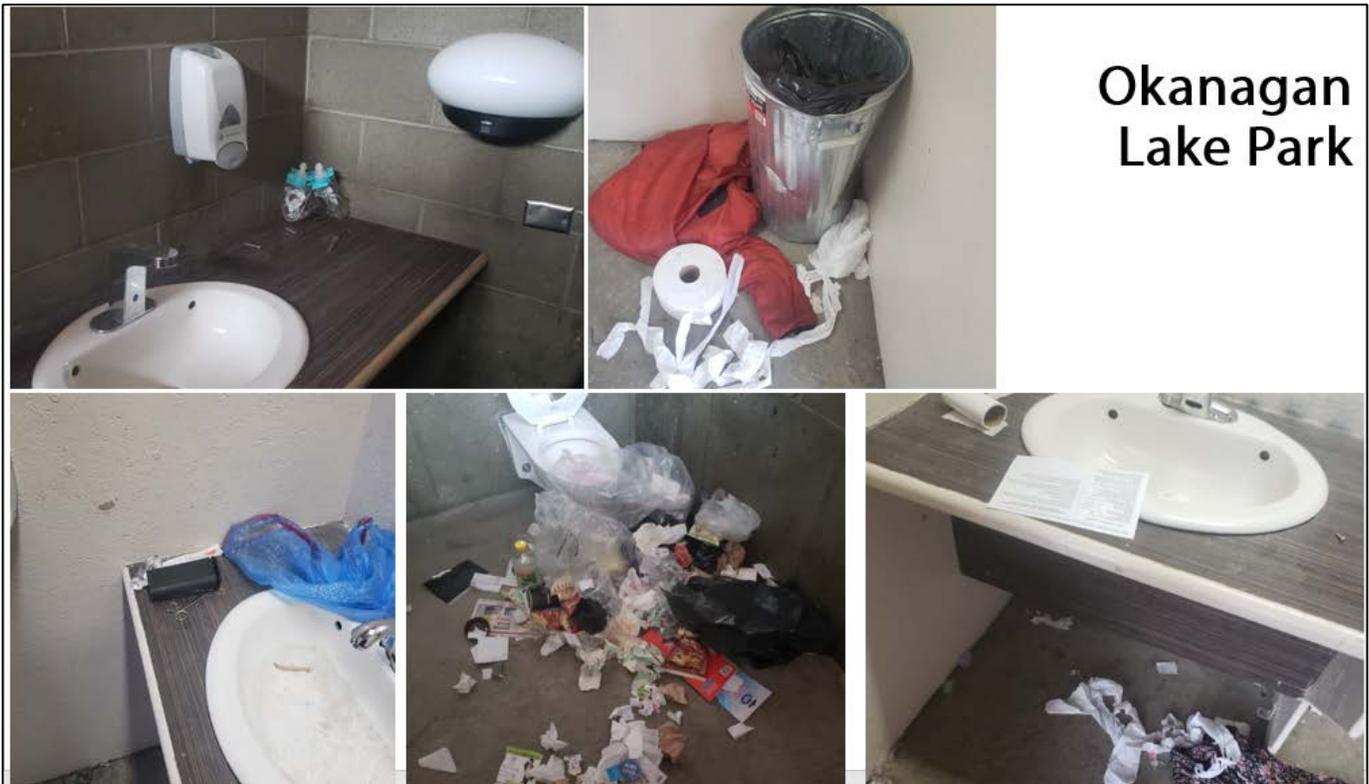
Park	open	closed	open	Closed – no later than 9pm
Jubilee Breezeway @ Rotary Family Washrooms	Year Round		by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Lakawanna Family Washrooms (East side)	Year Round		by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Okanagan Lake Family Washrooms	Year Round		by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Skaha East Family Washrooms	Year Round		by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Skaha Park Main Family Washrooms	Year Round		by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Riverside Park	April 1	Sept 30	by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Skaha Park East	May 1	Sept 30	by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Sudbury Beach	April 1	Sept 30	by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Kings Park	April 1	Oct 30	by user	clean once a day
Lions Park	April 1	Oct 30	by 7:00 AM	Dusk or later by ball schedule
Jubilee Breezeway @ Rotary	May 1	Sept 30	by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Lakawanna Park (West side of building)	May 1	Sept 30	by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Okanagan Lake Park	May 1	Sept 30	by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Skaha Park Main	May 1	Sept 30	by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Gyro Park	May 1	Oct 30	by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Gyro Park Mobile Washrooms	May 1	Oct 30	by schedule	by schedule & bookings
200 Block Washroom	May 1	Oct 30	by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Okanagan Marina Washrooms	Victoria Day	Labour Day	by 7:00 AM	Dusk
Edmonton Ave	April 1	Sept 30	by schedule	by schedule & bookings
Carmi Ball Field	April 1	Oct 30	by schedule	by schedule & bookings
McNicoll Ball Field	April 1	Oct 30	by schedule	by schedule & bookings

Attachment B – Images of typical washroom vandalism

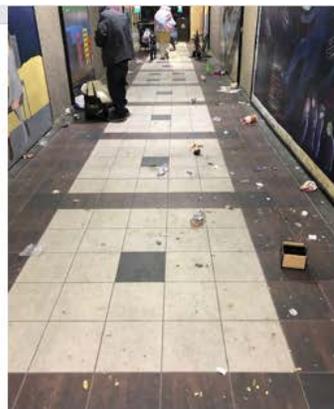
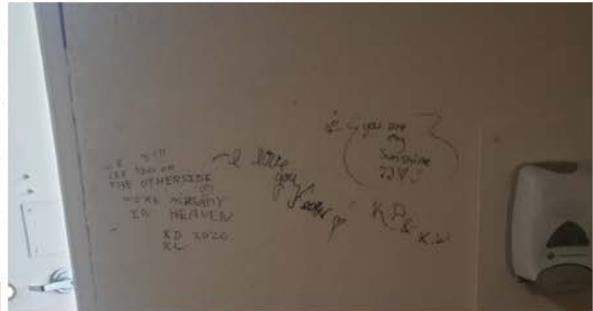
Okanagan
Lake Park



Okanagan
Lake Park



Lakawanna



200 Block



Skaha Lake Park



2020 Safety and Security Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

Meeting commences at 10:30 a.m.

Council Chambers, City Hall, 171 Main Street (Second Level)

Month	Date
January	20
February	24
March	16
April	20
May	25
June	15
July	20
August	17
September	14
October	19
November	16
December	7