

## Safety and Security Advisory Committee Meeting

held via Zoom  
Monday, February 1, 2021  
at 10:30 a.m.

**Present:** Deirdre Riley, Vice Chair  
Aaryn Secker  
Adam Power  
Cheryl Watts  
Daryl Clarke  
Lynn Allin  
Nicolette Rodriguez  
Susan Brown

**Council Liaisons:** John Vassilaki, Mayor  
Katie Robinson, Councillor

**Staff:** Blake Laven, Director of Development Services  
Adam Goodwin, Social Development Specialist  
JoAnne Kleb, Public Engagement Program Manager  
Staff-Sgt Kirsten Marshall, RCMP  
Larry Watkinson, Fire Chief, Penticton Fire Department  
Alysa Wardley, Legislative Assistant

**Regrets:** Matt Taylor, Chair  
Jake Kimberley, Councillor  
Tina Siebert, Bylaw Supervisor  
Supt. Brian Hunter, RCMP

**Guest:** Sarah Desrosiers, Practicum Student

1. **Call to Order**

The Safety and Security Advisory Committee was called to order by the Vice Chair at 10:32 a.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the agenda as amended to include item 4.1 "Where Are We Now" Updates from Primary Service Departments for the meeting held on February 1, 2021.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of December 7, 2020 Safety and Security Advisory Committee

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **New Business**

4.1 "Where Are We Now" Updates from Primary Service Departments

The Bylaw Supervisor was not able to attend the meeting to provide updates.

Staff-Sgt Marshall provided the following updates:

- RCMP are continuing to contend with provincial health changes and impacts, including challenges regarding arrests and holding these offenders.
- The announcement of the release of a 'Crime App', updates are to follow this week.

Adam Power, Voting Member entered the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

The Fire Chief provided the following updates:

- Maintaining service levels despite high call levels.
- Wildfire management in process in areas that are high risk, including the Esplanade.
- Working together with Bylaw and other primary services to help with the increase in calls all departments are receiving.

4.2 Update on Industrial Park Crime Prevention Survey – Blake Laven, Director of Development Services and JoAnne Kleb, Public Engagement Program Manager

The Director of Development Services and the Public Engagement Manager gave an update on the Industrial Park Crime Prevention Survey conducted by the City of Penticton. This initiative came forward as a result of the recommendation made by the Committee in June 2020 and included tactical engagement with business and property owners that had a perception of increased crime in the area. Survey methods were used to try to understand the main concerns of the property and business owners and determine how to best address their safety and security issues. Activities conducted included meeting with the Penticton Industrial Development Association and mail-out letters for an investigation of issues faced.

Enhanced patrols began in September 2020 and anecdotal feedback from business owners expressed that the presence of patrols and signs has increased confidence in security. Moving forward, enhanced patrols will continue as well as working with the Penticton Industrial Development Association and local businesses.

John Vassilaki, Mayor entered the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

4.3 RE: RNL Investments Ltd. Village Square re Compass House – 1706 Main Street – Blake Laven, Director of Development Services

The Director of Development Services provided the Committee with an update on the items previously recommended by the Committee in 2020 regarding Compass House.

The Bylaw Departments ability to regulate certain behaviours has been limited as loitering and nuisance activities are not enforceable. The City is looking at adopting the 'Safe City Bylaw' which will be brought before the Committee in the future and may help to address some of the Bylaw enforcement issues. The City approved a budget for the 'Family Reunification Fund' and a few candidates have been identified for use of these funds, as of now details are being fine-tuned for how to proceed. Improvements to fencing and lighting have been implemented as a support to neighbouring property owners, these efforts, as well as 24-hour security for the neighbourhood have been successful anecdotally.

Letters have been sent to the Penticton and District Society for Community Living and Interior Health Authority to encourage engagement efforts. Interior Health Authority responded that their statement did not make any commitments and that the community engagement workers who are providing daily check-ins are the extent of their involvement at these facilities. The City of Penticton is working towards setting up meetings with the Interior Health Authority for increased health supports rather than relying solely on housing. There will also be efforts to conduct an audit of supportive housing and shelter operations, the audit will be raised as a recommendation to Council to establish if people are actually receiving the help and support they require or if this has been a warehousing solution that has not proven helpful to the population in need. A clearer picture with objective data will help to determine how to move forward with BC Housing in the future.

It was raised by a Member at Large that the high visibility and density of the supportive housing locations on Main Street presents an issue and would like this reevaluated. Concern was raised that business and home owners are attempting to sell properties as they believe that values will drop in the future given the rate of crime and expected projections in Penticton.

Susan Brown, Voting Member left the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

4.4 Work Plan for 2021 – Blake Laven, Director of Development Services

The Director of Development Services brought forward a Work Plan for 2021 that included the priorities previously raised by the Committee in December 2020. Supportive housing was the predominant issue to be brought forward again at Committee meetings, as well as dealing with safety and security issues at a judicial level. Bringing forward guest speakers to present to the Committee, such as a representative from the South Okanagan Women in Need Shelter, was also suggested.

John Vassilaki, Mayor left the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Daryl Clarke, Voting Member left the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Councillor Robinson voiced that she would like a discussion regarding the location for a long term emergency shelter brought to the Committee. Committee members communicated that in addition to this item they would like BC Housing and the Skaha Lake property to be prioritized at the March meeting, as well as the audit of BC Housing. It was also stated there is a preference that the BC Channel item be raised before the summer.

6. **Next Meeting**

The Next Safety and Security Advisory Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on March 1, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

7. **Public Question Period**


8. **Adjournment**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adjourn the meeting held on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 12:15 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Certified Correct:



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Alysa Wardley  
Legislative Assistant