

Safety and Security Advisory Committee Meeting to be held via Zoom

**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, May 2, 2022
at 10:30 a.m.**

1. **Call Regular Committee Meeting to Order**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Adoption of Minutes**
 - 3.1 Minutes of April 4, 2022 Safety and Security Advisory Committee Meeting **1-3**

Staff Recommendation:

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the April 4, 2022 meeting as presented.
4. **New Business**
 - 4.1 "Where are We Now" Updates from Primary Service Departments **Verbal**
 - 4.2 Community Safety Resource Review Engagement Update – JoAnne Kleb, Manager of Communications and Engagement **Verbal**
 - 4.3 Encampments Challenges/Response – Blake Laven, Director of Development Services **4-14**
5. **Next Meeting**
6. **Public Question Period**
7. **Adjournment**

Safety and Security Advisory Committee Meeting

held via Zoom
Monday, April 4, 2022
at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Matt Taylor, Chair
Deirdre Riley, Vice Chair
Cheryl Watts
Lynn Allin
Susan Greba

Council Liaisons: John Vassilaki, Mayor

Staff: Blake Laven, Director of Development Services
Larry Watkinson, Fire Chief
Staff-Sgt Bob Vatamaniuck, RCMP
Tina Mercier, Bylaw Services Manager
Adam Goodwin, Social Development Specialist
Rebecca Van Huizen, Legislative Assistant

Regrets: Katie Robinson, Councillor
Adam Power
Daryl Clarke
Jill Pascoe
Nicolette Rodriquez

* denotes partial attendance

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 April 4, 2022 as amended to include new Item 4.4 being 437 Martin Street.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of February 7, 2022 Safety and Security Advisory Committee Meetings

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the February 7, 2022 meetings as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **New Business**

4.1 Committee Membership and Roundtable Introductions

The Chair introduced the new Safety and Security Advisory Committee Member who was appointed by Council. The Committee participated in roundtable introductions allowing newly appointed member Susan Greba to introduce herself.

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

- An update was provided by the Bylaw Services Manager and responded to questions from the Committee.
- An update was provided by Staff-Sgt Bob Vatamaniuck, RCMP and responded to questions from the Committee.
- An update was provided by the Fire Chief.

4.3 Training Supports and Homelessness Grant

Fire Chief Larry Watkinson joined the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

The Social Development Specialist provided a verbal update on various grant applications through UBCM and their anticipated next steps.

The floor was opened to the Committee Members for questions and comments.

A Committee Member asked about the recent comments from Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing David Eby and how the Province might be stepping in to bypass local government approvals.

Mayor Vassilaki noted the City of Penticton has done lots in the past to provide housing within the City limits and will continue to do so for those residing in Penticton.

4.4 437 Martin Street

The Bylaw Services Manager provided an update on a location in the City, which has been the subject of numerous bylaw complaints. The business at 437 Martin Street is home to Interior Health and at this location one of their primary resources is to provide health services to vulnerable members of the public in the community. The location has been subject to loitering, gathering, drug activity, camping, and other bylaw infractions. The Bylaw Services Manager indicated that the City has increased patrols at the location to ensure that there is no

congregation near the front is happening so as not to affect the other business in the complex. Noted the City wants these services to be provided but needs to limit the negative impact to residents in the area.

The floor was opened to the Committee Members for questions and comments. Committee Members provided individual suggestions.

5. **Next Meeting**

The Next Safety and Security Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2022.

6. **Public Question Period**

7. **Adjournment**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adjourn the meeting held on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 11:28 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified Correct:

Rebecca Van Huizen
Legislative Assistant



Encampment challenges / Response

Presentation to Safety and Security
Advisory Committee – May 2, 2022

Homeless encampments, commonly referred to as tent cities, are temporary, informal forms of shelter used by individuals experiencing homelessness. Recently, these encampments have become more common and visible in British Columbia, the Okanagan and Penticton



Encampments

- Inappropriate use of public space
- Landing spots for out-of-town individuals or individuals exited from designated shelters / supportive housing or choose not to use shelters for a variety of reasons
- A sense of safety and community in numbers
- Anonymity





Concerns from Municipal perspective

- Safety concerns for people camping as well as general public
- Element of criminality
- Unsightly
- Inhumane response to homelessness
- Entrenchment

Other communities

- Tacitly allow and monitor / service / fight through courts (Victoria, Prince George, Maple Ridge, Kelowna)

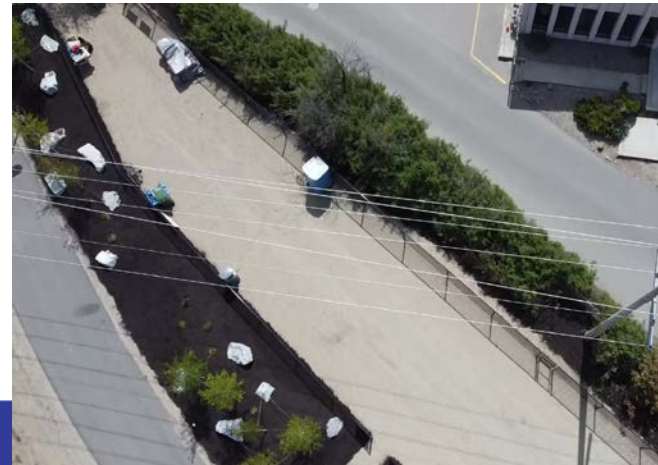




Other communities cont.

Dedication of designated outdoor camping area (Kelowna)

- Cleared out daily
- On site security
- Water / washrooms
- \$30k a month to operate
- Exhausted bylaw/police resources



- Provincial push to move people indoors
 - Supportive housing
 - Temporary shelters

B.C. housing minister pledges shelter spaces for homeless in Victoria parks

VICTORIA — Homeless people living in Victoria's parks will have shelter spaces by the end of April under a housing agreement between the British Columbia government and the city. David Eby, B.C.

Canadian Press
Mar 11, 2021 2:31 PM
Updated Mar 11, 2021 2:35 PM



"This Homelessness Action Week, I would like to express gratitude to all British Columbians who are actively supporting our government's commitment to bring people who have been living outside for years inside to safe shelter and ultimately, a place to call home.

"Major encampments in Surrey on the Whalley Strip, in Vancouver in Oppenheimer, Strathcona and Crab parks, in Victoria in Beacon Hill Park, Pandora Park and the Gorge, have been met not with force, but with an offer of dignified shelter resulting in the closure of these encampments. The vast majority of these British Columbians who were living in parks or on sidewalks – almost 1,000 people – remain housed today thanks to the work of many, many people.

Hon. David Eby, Minister Responsible for Housing



Penticton experience¹¹⁻

- Penticton experience has been limited in comparison to other communities, in part due to our rapid response
- Current hot spots include: Esplanade, Ellis Creek, Okanagan Lake Park, Preston Park, HWY 97



Penticton Cont.⁻¹²⁻

- Current approach
 - Notification of bylaw violation and date to vacate
 - Connection to support services (Vulnerability Assessment)
 - Reminders
 - Clean up
 - Challenges around interface areas
- Partnership with ASK Wellness Ambassador Program
- Outreach teams
- Shared challenges



- Current parks bylaw prohibitions on camping in Parks likely not legally strong
- Supreme Court decision on use of public lands

Legal Context

City of Prince George issues apology after removing homeless encampment



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The City of Prince George provided a statement Thursday morning apologizing for the damage they caused to vulnerable people after removing a portion of a homeless camp downtown last November.

While the city believed they were acting in good faith when taking down what they assumed were abandoned shelters from the Lower Patricia encampment, the Justice Coval of the British Columbia Supreme Court found that the City of Prince George “inflicted serious harm on vulnerable people.”

The city accepts the decision of Justice Coval and says they are re-evaluating their response to homelessness.

British Columbia

Court strikes down Victoria bylaw against homeless camping



The Canadian Press - Posted: Oct 14, 2008 5:20 PM PT | Last Updated: October 14, 2008

The B.C. Supreme Court has struck down a Victoria bylaw aimed at preventing homeless people from setting up tents and sleeping in city parks.

The court ruled Tuesday the bylaw deprives the homeless of life, liberty and security in violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



Group Discussion / Questions