



# Minutes

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## Safety and Security Advisory Committee Meeting

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

- Present:** Deirdre Riley, Vice Chair  
Aaryn Secker  
Adam Power  
Cheryl Watts  
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  
Tina Mercier, Bylaw Supervisor  
Staff-Sgt Kirsten Marshall, RCMP  
Larry Watkinson, Fire Chief, Penticton Fire Department  
Alysa Wardley, Legislative Assistant
- Regrets:** Matt Taylor, Chair  
Daryl Clarke
- Guests:** Kenneth Scott, ASK Wellness Society  
Bob Hughes, ASK Wellness Society  
Sarah Desrosiers, Practicum Student  
Chelsea Powrie, Castanet

1. **Call to Order**

The Safety and Security Advisory Committee was called to order by the Vice Chair at 10:31 a.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the agenda as presented for the meeting held on March 1, 2021.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Adam Power, Member at Large joined the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of February 1, 2021 Safety and Security Advisory Committee

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **New Business**

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

The Bylaw Supervisor provided the following updates:

- Increased issues around shelters continue therefore Bylaw has been trying to maintain more presence to limit loitering and disruptive behaviours in these areas.
- It is expected that Bylaw and other Services will be staying busy with the nice weather and the increased calls this usually brings.

Staff-Sgt. Marshall provided the following updates:

- End of fiscal year is keep everyone busy.
- Summer planning has begun as RCMP (as stated by Bylaw as well) is anticipating on seeing more people out with the warmer weather.

4.2 ASK Wellness Presentation – Bob Hughes, ASK Wellness Society and Kenneth Scott, ASK Wellness Society

Mr. Hughes introduced ASK Wellness Society and the work they have been undertaking. Currently Mr. Hughes suggested there are three crises simultaneously affecting the community; COVID-19, the opioid crisis, and homelessness. As the province has chosen supportive housing as a response to tackle these problems ASK Wellness Society would like to determine what the retention rate is with supportive housing and what percentage of people have had to be released from the program due to issues relating to addictions or behavioral problems. He advised there is a cohort that are so acutely sick that the system is not an appropriate method of helping this population.

Larry Watkinson, Fire Chief joined the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. Scott provided the Committee with an overview of some of the supports provided at the Burdock and Fairhaven housing properties. Mr. Scott recommended that more resources for bringing health authorities to these buildings are required for providing adequate support.

The floor was opened to the Committee for questions and comments. A Member at Large requested input from the ASK Wellness Society representatives on the main issues the Committee should be focusing on regarding Safety and Security in the community. It was proposed that the main barriers within the community are the limited access to recovery beds and receiving continued engagement from the judicial system for prolific offenders. Other Members at Large expressed a desire for a greater emphasis on accountability and expectations that there is an effort for improvement for the supportive housing residents. Mr. Scott explained

the obstacles to accountability with recovery oriented housing and low barrier supportive housing models that are currently in place.

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

The ASK Wellness Society representatives expressed support of the audit proposed by Council and are hopeful that this review will help to determine how to better assist the population in need and identify what has already been effective.

Lynn Allin, Member at Large left the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

#### 4.3 Family Reunification Funds Guidelines – Adam Goodwin, Social Development Specialist

The Social Development Specialist from the City of Penticton introduced a discussion on the Family Reunification project which was referred to Council by the Committee and carried unanimously. The goal of bringing this item back to the Committee is to establish strong guidelines that will help to define how the expenses are used within the family reunification project.

The floor was opened for questions and comments from the Committee. Councillor Robinson raised concerns that she does not believe this discussion is relevant to the Safety and Security Advisory Committee. Moving forward the Committee will not have recommendations brought forward regarding the family reunification funds, but will be kept updated on the progress of the program.

#### **It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee receive into the record the report titled "Family Reunification Fund Guidelines" and dated March 1, 2021;  
AND THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee request that staff engage service providers in helping inform the final guidelines.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 4.4 Primary Service "Where Are We Now" Updates – Continued

The Fire Chief provided the following updates:

- Fire management works to the Esplanade have been completed.
- Many calls are still coming through seeking first responders.

#### 6. **Next Meeting**

The Next Safety and Security Advisory Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on March 29, 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,  
March 1, 2021 at 11:52 a.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Certified Correct:



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Alys Wardley  
Legislative Assistant