



Minutes

of a Meeting of the Crime Prevention and Community Safety & Well-Being Advisory Committee of the City of Kenora Friday, November 10, 2023 1:30 p.m.

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Present: Councillor R. Bernie Cynthia McDougall Taras Manzie
 Grant Cowles Jeff Duggan Logan Haney
 Jill Hager Anita Cameron Shannon Bailey
 Darcia Curtis Regan Dearborn Jodelle Maksymchuk
 Denise Forsythe

Staff Present: Eric Shih, Kyle Attanasio, Heather Pihulak, and consultant Christiane Sadeler

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Eric Shih called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and delivered the land acknowledgment.

Additions to and Approval of Agenda

- a) Quick evaluation of the meeting
- b) Conversation came out of Court that effects the downtown core

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Moved By S. Bailey, Seconded By R. Bernie, and Carried –

That the Minutes of the Crime Prevention and Community Well-Being Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 12th, 2023, be confirmed as written and filed.

Roles of the 4C's Discussion of roles and responsibilities of Coordinator, Consultant, CPCWB Committee, and City of Kenora

Committee	City
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be ambassadors for the CSWB work in Kenora. - To steer the development of the Community Safety & Well-Being Plan (CSWBP) for the community of Kenora. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide administrative support to the Crime Prevention and Community Well-Being Advisory Committee (the Committee). - To support the Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator position.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To advise the City on emerging community safety and wellbeing issues. - To incorporate the community context into the development of the plan and to emerging issues as they arise. - To help raise awareness of the CSWB approach. - To encourage and leverage partnerships - To assist with, support, and monitor the plan’s implementation. <p>Committee Chair and Vice-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To represent the committee in the community and with City Council as required. - To speak on behalf of the committee to local media as appropriate. - To provide guidance and leadership to the committee in the fulfillment of its mandate. - To participate on the project team. - To preside over all Committee meetings and exercise authority of the chair in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To facilitate the development of the CSWB plan in partnership with the community. - To work collaboratively with the consultant to deliver the contract. - To file the CSWB plan with the Province of Ontario upon completion. - To support and monitor the implementation of the CSWB plan. - To take actions where the City has mandate as per plan priorities (once determined). - To facilitate connections to the Mayor and Council where appropriate.
<p>Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide support and to liaise with the community to support the Committee in delivering on its mandate. - To coordinate and facilitate community connections and collaboration as indicated. - To undertake research and stay abreast of current and emerging issues that impact community safety & well-being in Kenora and beyond. - To deepen and develop partnerships on behalf of the City and the committee. - To research best practice opportunities. - To represent the City on matters of community safety & well-being. - To coordinate working groups for emerging issues as per issue selection process. 	<p>Consultant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support the development of the CSWB plan. - To build relationships with the community, its stakeholders, City administration, and Mayor and Council. - To support the Coordinator in the fulfillment of their role. - To provide expert advice in the development of the planning process, the plan priorities, implementation, and evaluation plan. - To make connections for Kenora to the larger community safety eco-system. - To create the framework for data collection for the plan. - To engage and support the facilitation of community consultations as needed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To coordinate plan development efforts in partnership with the consultant (e.g., consultation groups). - To coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of the plan. 	
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The committee had no recommendations for changes to the draft document.

Discussion and approval of issue selection process

As the Crime Prevention and Community Well-Being Advisory Committee (Committee) engages in developing the Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) plan for Kenora, from time-to-time issues will arise in the community that require focused and strategic attention. At these times, the committee needs to have the opportunity to carefully engage in a process of selecting which issues they will attend to, and which are outside of the scope and capacity of their mandate.

This CSWB plan development is the core function of the committee for 2023-2024. During that time the committee needs to maximize limited resources, including the time of the coordinator and focus energy on the delivery of strategic directions and achievable actions. Nonetheless, the Committee recognizes that the community will at times experience situations that need support now and to defer actions could lead to disengagement and lack of trust in the process as well as a decrease in community safety and perceptions of safety. The Committee therefore established a fair and transparent process for selecting one issue over another in times of multiple demands.

This selection process for choosing which issues receives Committee attention will be applied in the following situations:

- when members of the Committee bring issues to the table which require significant work
- when individuals or groups from the community approach the Committee through deputation or the Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator with an issue which either directly rises out of a local community situation or which is due to broader social changes.

There may be different types of issues that come forward. Prefer as much structure as possible. The working group did meet and had a good discussion. We were about to drift into unchartered territory in the meeting, and it’s important to stay on topic. Having a clearly defined process helps. Often issues are nuances and it’s easy to inflate issues. The structure will help so that we can easily recognize the work that we are doing. If things don’t seem to resolve and they keep coming back, then it may be a larger scale issue. Need to have a record of issues over time to monitor this.

Support the inventorying of issues whether they are dealt with or not. Put a bullet point under the heading issue that they may or may not be in the CSWB. It is all interpretation, and we may take on an issue that comes to the working group that won’t be part of the

plan, but the working group decided that it's a large enough issue to take on without being in the plan. Christiane and Eric can clarify this in the next version of the document.

How do we determine if it is an initiative or issue that is being dealt with elsewhere? How do we determine if it meets all the criteria?

With situation tables there is a piece that happens beforehand to assess whether an issue will make it to the table. A lot of issues are the perspective of the person bringing it to the table. Whether something is discussed at the table shows depends on whether it meets the threshold of imminent risk to self or other. It shows up in the third step. At the situation table if you refer someone the first time, it doesn't mean that they won't come back again. You learn from that.

There was consensus at the table to bring the issue selection process forward in principal as presented.

Discussion and approval about draft definition of Community Safety

Christiane expressed the importance of definitions at the front of the plan to ensure it is clear what community safety and well-being mean. She is seeking input in the draft description of community safety and well-being presented at the first meeting and whether it captures what the committee's understanding is. We see this as a living document.

It was expressed by a committee member that this feels way more than a definition. A definition is a systemic statement. The whole paragraph is way too much, and hits as jargon. It was requested that we ensure that 'holistic' is spelt with a 'w' (wholistic). If the first sentence was separated from the rest of it the definition is contained in the first sentence.

Less is more and we need to keep that top of mind. The committee agreed to keep it less than more. As a summary of an approach to do the work it makes sense, the rest is great, but for a definition it is s too much.

It is less definition than a description of an approach on how you are going to get there. Try to keep the idea of how we are keeping safe without having the word in the definition. What it is, how to get there and why.

It's missing the well-being portion and what that means for our area. How are we getting there. Making every resident feel safe, and what are we define as safe. If it's expressed as a vision, then it's your north star. If you want your definition more focused on the mandate of the committee then it is a whole different thing. It depends on where we want to go with this. Change the word resident, and we have a lot of community members that don't necessarily live here.

Christiane will take the feedback away and come back with a pared down version. We aren't writing this for the public quite yet, and the committee wants thinks simplified.

Discussion about living principles for the CSWB -

The committee participated in a Think Pair Share – Exercise

What principles do you think the committee have for working together?

The members worked in small groups to identify key principles they can agreed to.

- Process orientated.
- Evaluation or outcome after resolved issue (lessons learned aspect)
- Separating perceived from real issues (evidence informed) meet a threshold test
- Consensus based decision making
- Solution for some is not a solution for all
- Integrity and respectful engagement
- Transparency and being clear
- Accountability we have been appointed and are accountable to the city and the residents of kenora and each other
- Capacity sensitivity
- Respect individual input and knit it together
- Everyone has wisdom and everyone's wisdom is required for a positive result.
- Listen with an open mind
- We all agree on terms and a common understanding of who we are creating a plan for
- Dream big, have fun
- Work hard, learn
- Responsibility
- Courage
- Clarity of purpose
- Sense of belonging
- Establishing trust
- How to approach and resolve conflict
- Avoiding self-interest or organizational interest
- Remain open to different perspectives and knowing that they are equally valid
- Thinking critically about it
- Sometimes we value some people perceptions and discredit others when we should remain open to two equally valid perspectives
- Create conditions where people are able to share and listen
- Communication needs to be free and open

Community of Practice: what makes people vulnerable to crime and fear of crime?

Christiane prepared a brief presentation on vulnerability which was shared with the committee ahead of the meeting. This was followed by working groups discussing what essential elements need to be included in our definition of vulnerability for the Kenora CSWB plan? Who is vulnerable to crime?

- People who fear that they are vulnerable is not always the same thing as actually being vulnerable.

- Indigenous, welfare, young, elderly
- Addiction, poverty, mental illness, unhoused
- Intersectionality – the layering of oppressions that are upon you – look at those compounding oppressions upon you leading to greater vulnerability.
- Intersectionality matrix. The more things stacking against you
- Factors that are open to change vs the impact of media or where people choose to get their information. Facebook groups can cause a greater fear of lack of safety than is happening in reality.
- Issues around stereotyping – systems, issues and structures need to change to help support those that are vulnerable.
- Making change through education, building understanding
- Having a true sense of safety and what is sensationalized
- Trying to create what we understand to be vulnerability.
- Open to change but are reliant upon the systems to changing.
- Rebellious optimism when we create the conditions in which we live, we can uncreate them if there is a will to do so
- Fears of perception – perceived differently by everybody. A lot of fears downtown are driven by social media. A lot of people are driven by what they hear but the data doesn't support that.
- Vulnerability of the aging population and lack of services
- Lack of access to safe spaces where individuals have some sense of control
- Lack of control is a big issue – may not be abundantly obvious
- Lateral violence within institutions is a factor
- Victims of break and enter – when we lose control of where we feel safe, our sense of vulnerability increases

Working Group Report

Issue: Vulnerable Population Need for Identification

The Issue that was brought forward was about individuals attending the Transfer station and City staff having to tell people that they couldn't access their belongings. The meeting was quick and decided on a communication fact sheet, a reference sheet to make available to City staff at Transfer Station. Denise had a document where we can direct individuals with a quick fact sheet.

There is a larger issue at play. A lot of the people that do mental health work having working partners at the ANHP and we have a communication strategy between this committee and the ANHP. That group is part of the solutions and is doing the heavy lifting and if we work together, we can move things together.

What was noticed is that it was easy to get off track. Need to be cognizant to stay on task, the working group does not speak on behalf of the committee but rather is a very specific working group. Mindfully working together and coming up with a resolution quickly will make this successful moving forward.

Qualities needed in a Chair for CSWB

The group was asked what they feel they need in a chair:

- Neutrality, see both sides, team builder, stay calm when conflict happens.

- The Chair has an important role to the meeting, but sometimes you lose their participation because they need to chair.
- Steer conversation to make it more effective and efficient.
- Pretty courageous because we will get into controversial topics and any success, we are going to have will at times be based in having the tough conversations. Different ideologies at play. Non-partisan is huge. Respect each others view points and often unpopular voices don't get the same opportunity.
- One voice for the committee. They have the power of the committee behind them.
- Needs to be part of the project team and might be meeting a little more than just monthly, but probably less than 2 hours in addition. More likely close to an hour
- Ability to influence others, without dominating.
- Clear vision and passion for the work
- Decisiveness and confidence

Community of Practice Topics Discussion

The Committee agreed to defer this item and the Committee was requested to send in topics to Christiane so we can build for next year, so we have a sense of what is coming forward next year. Items curious about, please email Eric and Christiane who are working on a knowledge repository where we can park the items.

CSWB Coordinator Update

Eric provided a written report to the committee. If Committee members have questions. Please email Eric.

New Business

Logan shared something that came from the courts through her professional occupation.

There was an incident that occurred, and it went to Court, the judge asked if there could be a bigger conversation and suggested this committee. The issue was accessible washrooms. It's not just the incident that happened, but how do we support the business community and the people going through the court. The solutions that can come into play.

There are a lot of situations where they need to use a washroom and an incident happens. Often high risk vulnerables, how can we help support and bring about those education pieces. It was highlighted in a court and was an ask to reach out to create a solution. There are situations that come through the court and education on how to handle these situations or support our community.

Eric will bring it forward.

Meeting Evaluation

Christiane will send out a meeting evaluation following the meeting on a regular basis to ensure that our meetings are effective. It will be a quick evaluation so we can ensure our meetings are efficient and meet the expectations of the committee members.

Next Meeting

Friday, December 15th, 2023 at 9:00am

The January meeting will be held January 19th

The next meeting will see the Chair and Vice-Chair election take place.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Actions arising:

1. Eric and Christiane to update the issue selection process
2. Christiane to re-draft the CSWB description
3. Christiane to develop a list of foundational commitments for collaboration
4. Eric and Christiane to develop a description of vulnerability
5. Eric to develop an issues overview template to record issues being attended to by the committee
6. Committee members to email suggestions for community of practice topics to Eric and Christiane
7. Committee members to consider running for chair or Vice -Chair or nominating someone for these roles
8. Christiane to develop a quick evaluation survey