



Minutes

Of a Meeting of the Crime Prevention and Community Well-Being Advisory Committee of the City of Kenora

Friday, December 13, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Operations Centre Training Room, 60 14th St. N.

~~~~~

|              |                        |                              |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>With:</b> | Denise Forsyth         | Anita Cameron                |
|              | Darcia Curtis          | Jill Hager                   |
|              | Jared Olsen            | Jim Neild                    |
|              | Shannon Bailey         | Councillor Bob Bernie        |
|              | Haley Pentek           | Jodelle Maksymchuk (virtual) |
|              | Logan Haney (virtual)  | Regan Dearborn (virtual)     |
|              | Taras Manzie (virtual) |                              |

**Staff:** Eric Shih – CSWB Coordinator  
 Kyle Attanasio, CAO  
 Heather Pihulak, Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk  
 Heather Lajeunesse, Enforcement Services Manager/Deputy Clerk  
 Christiane Sadeler – Consultant (virtual)

**Regrets:** Grant Cowles  
 Jeff Duggan  
 Councillor Barb Manson

### 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Chair Darcia Curtis called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and delivered the land acknowledgement.

### 2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

There were none declared.

### 3. Additions to and Approval of Agenda

No additions to the agenda declared. Agenda accepted.

### 4. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

**Moved by J. Neild, Seconded by Councillor Bernie and Carried -**

That the Minutes of the Crime Prevention and Community Well-Being Advisory Committee meeting held November 1, 2024, be confirmed as written and filed.

## **5. Update on membership of the CPCWB Committee**

Eric updated members on the CPCWB Committee membership. Cynthia has now changed roles at WNHAC and Haley will assume the role as WNHAC's represented member on the committee.

## **6. Working Group Updates**

Eric updated members on the working groups, including the syringe distribution and disposal group and washroom group. He shared that the syringe distribution and disposal group is in the process of collecting information, each member is going back to gather data on how much work they do. They are inquiring with the recreation centre, library, museum and parks departments of the City as well. Regarding the washroom group, the City is currently working on getting the information out regarding an incident that was posted on social media, of which the damage was quickly repaired and the washroom is operational again.

## **7. Review of Community of Practice speakers**

Eric suggested that if there are community of practice topics of interest for the committee to let him know. Moving forward there are plans for someone to come from the SNAP program to present to the group, as well as from the OPP youth program. He also would like for a City of Kenora community of practice and asked the group to please think about topics and questions to put forward for that in the new year.

## **8. Community of Practice**

### **Dave Slater, Manager, Community Well-Being, City of Regina**

Eric introduced Dave to the committee and shared his biography, adding that he was very fortunate to tour the amazing facility that Dave will be talking about. Eric also introduced Brian Lewis, in attendance with Dave, as the executive director for the Growing Young Movers (GYM) organization, which is a program at the māmawêyatitân centre that aligns with many situations dealt with at the centre.

### **Discussion the māmawêyatitân centre**

Dave shared screen of his presentation, which was also recorded via Zoom. He gave the history on the City of Regina's māmawêyatitân centre and how it has evolved over the past couple of years. It was initially a vision for North Central Regina amongst some of the big partners in the City of Regina. In the beginning it was known as the North Central Shared Facility Project, the doors of the centre opened September 2017.

Dave explained that the māmawêyatitân centre, named after a Cree term meaning "let's all be together", is meant to be an integration facility, in which they work collaboratively with one another to deliver programs and services to the community. The initial partners were Regina Public Schools, City of Regina, Regina Public Library, North Central Community Association, Chili for Children, REACH, Regina Police Service, Regina Fire and the Scott Infant and Toddler Centre. The centre values are based on respect, humility, honesty and compassion.

The mâdawêyatitân centre is meant to be a community hub and accommodates a variety of programs. One of the unique events they host is round dances, as there is a multi-purpose space for large events and a concourse area within the facility. Within their values, indigenous first is a priority. North Central community in Regina is home to the highest population of indigenous people in Canada. Indigenous elders continue to provide guidance on the space.

There is a large variety of spaces within the facility. The top floor is 100% school space, the lower floor has lots of class space as well in addition to a large multi-purpose room, bookable spaces, and a high school gym. There is also a dance studio, Elders room, art room, engagement room which is modern with games, a youth space, televisions, a full commercial kitchen where food can also be purchased, a common area, administrative offices, police space, a maker space for woodworking, and an infant toddler care centre. There will be some new plans for the centre as well since receiving 2.9 million in federal funding from the Building Safer Communities Fund.

Brian Lewis of the Growing Young Movers (GYM) Program explained they are a not-for-profit organization moving to eliminate gaps that currently exist for underserved and marginalized populations in Regina. They are “moving for change” to position young people from a strength-based perspective and provide them with opportunities to showcase what they have. The program aims to increase graduation rates as well as employability, they offer paid employment to over 70 high school mentors. It was explained that they have tied employment to school and are literally paying kids to come to school. If kids are attending school, they have opportunities to work which is pretty powerful and also comes back to belonging.

The mâdawêyatitân centre is surrounded by four elementary schools and students from the schools will come to the centre and see high school youth employed and their stories of employment, graduation and belonging, which is the biggest takeaway. It is a space where these youth feel like they belong and is the reason that a lot of them are coming to school. Programs have further expanded with the funding, such as food programs where students will work to distribute food, also cooking and woodworking programs to mentor youth. There’s over 70 young people working in the building, it’s a different way to approach school and is not about reacting. It was suggested that CPCWB members check out their website for more information.

### **Questions:**

Councillor Bernie mentioned the Growing Young Movers Program and how they had talked in the presentation about belonging in a positive structure. He asked what their challenges are, adding that gang life has a strong appeal and it is really celebrated in culture, etc. how do you navigate and overcome the struggle with this.

Brian shared from his experience, they have had young people with family members that are gang members, or they don’t know any gang members who have graduated high school. These people want a different story, and so we are focused on working with the young people so that they see a different story, we do not try to exit people

from gangs but are more focused on showing them a different story. Brian explained that they are taking the approach of creating another sense of belonging, adding that pay is important to them. Rethinking what school can look like and getting paid is keeping them from choosing another life, they see the option of this life.

Dave shared that they have a situation table with all applicable organizations, and when something happens, they take a moment to intervene. The partners meet and wrap around the individual and look at their story, and 90% of the time there's a clear picture that they have a family member associated with gangs. There is a referral process in place for there to work with teachers, families, etc.

Shannon shared that she appreciates the way the presenters have been able to create this hub of services, adding that when students have access to this their success is more likely. She asked who took the lead on initiating the partnership with all the services, if it was the Building Safer Communities Fund that got it going.

The presenters explained that the collaboration came from the centre owners around 2010. From there the Building Safer Communities fund nudged things in a different way, as after 5-6 years of the space operating it was not sure if they were operating to its full potential. The space is so different from other organizations, people learning about shared outcomes took a while for everyone to understand how to work together and how the partners could benefit each other. The youth nudged us, they loved the space, wanted more access in evening, more jobs, etc. so it was an opportunity to really work together. Having the ability to serve as a service provider, you can see the energy. Instead of hiring people off the street we have the youth, and this is the understanding on how the space has evolved and changed. The māmawēyatitân centre is a huge facility which takes up a full city block. The previous infrastructure was old and there were talks on a new school and new community centre, so the stars had aligned that the major partners were in need of new infrastructure.

Jill asked how it is funded, how students are paid, and how did you combat the narrative. She added that it sounds great but would like to know how it is sustained.

Brain shared that being a non-profit organization, the funding comes through sources such as the municipal and provincial governments, private corporations, as well as Jumpstart. He shared that it isn't the school that is paying them, the employment is in the building that they go to school in, and a condition of their employment is going to school. He teaches them and works with them, like a colleague.

Shannon asked if there was data somewhere to describe what the impact has been from community safety perspective regarding the focus on youth.

Dave responded that there isn't data at the moment as we want to know the story after high school as well, we are trying to understand if it is actually making a difference. There are a few research projects on the go but they don't have hard data to share right now. Brian explained that they have the quantitative pieces, for him always been about the stories (not to simplify), we have published some papers we are happy to share which is all we can offer at this point. He shared that Community

and Social Impact Regina are in process of doing evaluations, adding that we really know that this is working because we spend the time listening to the young people.

Darcia thanked the presenters for attending today.

## **BREAK**

### **9. Adjourn to Closed Session**

#### **Moved by J. Neild, Seconded by D. Forsyth and Carried –**

Pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, authorization will be provided for the Crime Prevention and Community Well-Being Advisory Committee to move into a Closed Session at 10:20 a.m. to discuss items pertaining to the following:

-Educating & Training Members of Committee (workshop session)

### **10. Return to Open Session – New Business**

Councillor Bernie brought forward a question regarding working groups and how he would like in the plan for a working group to be created when certain issues are identified. He provided an example of when City engineering had talked about the mischief and repairs in the City and associated costs. As of September, the cost for the year was \$20,000 and anticipated to rise to \$25,000. He asked if this can be addressed in the plan (eg. graffiti) by way of CPTED or in some way, shape or form, adding that it would sit well with the public if we can address. Eric will follow up with Councillor Bernie after the meeting on this.

### **11. Meeting Evaluation Round Table w/messaging priorities for communication (what are the 3 takeaways from the meeting?)**

Darcia-instead of a round table will leave this item open to anyone to say anything  
Logan-this makes her hopeful for the plan and that we can integrate it into the community, and hopefully they will be hopeful too.

**12. Discussion of next meeting date:** Friday, January 17, 2025

### **13. Adjournment**

Adjournment at 12:05