



Minutes

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

Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 – In Person 3:15p.m.

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**With:** Cynthia MacDougall *(alt)*    Darcia Curtis    Denise Forsyth    Anita Cameron  
 Jodelle Maksymchuk    Jill Hager    Jared Olsen    Logan Haney  
 C. Bob Bernie    Shannon Bailey    Taras Manzie    Jim Neild *(alt)*

**Staff:** Danica Farion – Executive Assistant    Eric Shih – CSWB Coordinator  
 Heather Pihulak – City Clerk    Christiane Sadeler - Consultant  
 Mayor Andrew Poirier    Kyle Attanasio, CAO  
 Kelly Galbraith – Deputy City Clerk

**Regrets:** Haley Pentek    Jeff Dugan    Regan Dearborn

**Alternates:** C. Barb Manson

### 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Eric Shih called the meeting to order at 3:19pm and delivered the land acknowledgment.

### 2. Welcome Message from Mayor

Mayor Poirier shared that Eric and himself met to discuss what he felt this Committee was about, what his views were but also acknowledging the talent around the room today that is going to help move this committee forward. All of Council is looking forward to the plan that will come from this Committee. In 12 years around the Council table, he has never witnessed all members of Council come together and move so quickly to fund not only Eric’s position but this Committee, there is a lot of support to move this Committee’s initiatives forward. He added that there are no bad ideas here, and thanked everyone for the time they are going to spend as part of this Committee. He continued that there are a



lot of eyes on this Committee right now; this Committee won't solve all the issues in the community, but it is a positive piece of the puzzle towards a solution. Time permitting, he will make himself available to attend meetings in the future. Thank you to everyone.

Eric added that there are people in this room that truly care about Kenora, and he values everyone's opinions here.

### **3. RoundTable Introductions**

Jill Hager is representing probation services, she was born and raised in Kenora, she shared that she has joined this Committee because she sees what is happening in Kenora and as she chooses to make Kenora home, wants to actively make the community better.

Logan Haney is a community member at large, she expressed that joining Boards and Committees is a fun hobby of hers and she currently sits on multiple Boards. She grew up in Kenora, moved away but has since returned to the Community.

Cynthia MacDougall is the alternate member representing Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig (WNHAC), she is the support services manager and prior to that she was a nurse. The reason she is here is that she wants Kenora to be home for everyone not just the people that have physical houses. She too was born and raised in Kenora and is raising children here, they all love it and love to support those around them.

Jim Neild is one of two alternates representing the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). He has been part of creating similar plans in the past. He has called Kenora home for 25 years and loves the great outdoors when not working all the time.

Councillor Bob Bernie is the elected Council representative for this Committee. He has lived in Kenora for 40 years, his wife was born and raised here. During his career he started corrections services locally and worked as an OPP officer up until his Council election. He expressed that due to his career he has seen Kenora through a unique lens, seen the dirty end of the stick, seen initiatives come and go, things often have shelf lives and that community safety is his top priority. He added that there is a need to make evidence-based decisions and follow best practices, fiscal responsibility should also be at the forefront of decision making.

Darcia Curtis is a director at Firefly and previously worked at Kenora Association for Community Living (KACL). She has done lots of outreach work working with children and youth and would like to see a stronger sense of community.



Shannon Bailey is a Superintendent of Education with the Keewatin Patricia District School Board; she has ample experience in indigenous education and development background. There are adults that could benefit from education in the community, she wants to bring attention to the fact that poverty should not be confused with unsafe behaviour. As an educator, she provides students with skills that will break cycles and generational trauma. She loves being a part of this community and feels lucky to be able to take in the culture of our treaty 3 region.

Jodelle Maksymchuk is the Clinical Manager of Children's Mental Health at Firefly; however, the first half of her career was in child protection services. She shared that she is very passionate about working with children and youth, she continued that she has witnessed a lot of tragedy and wants to be a part of the solution. She is raising own children here and is invested in this community.

Anita Cameron is sitting on this Committee as a community member at large, however she retired from WNHAC at end of 2021 and brings experience of almost 25 years. She has sat on many Boards in the community, predominately the Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) Board. She has lived in Kenora since 1993, her interest in joining this Committee is to help create a community that her children want to be a part of.

Jared Olsen is representing the youth justice sector, although he has only been in Kenora for the past 4 years, he is a long-standing resident of Northwestern Ontario. Although youth justice is his primary focus, he is looking forward to all the different perspectives around the table.

Taras Manzie is the founder and owner of Lake of the Woods Brewing Company and is representing the business sector at this table. He has built and grown a number of businesses within the community and has seen a lot of changes in 10 years downtown. He said that he has lost staff as they don't want to work downtown, has heard lots of expressed concerns from customers about safety downtown. He spoke to the multiple violent encounters within his business. He has joined this Committee as he wants to give his kids a reason to come back to Kenora and be part of the solution to a better community.

Barb Manson is the Alternate elected Council representative for this Committee. She worked for City for 30 years and shared that her legacy of ice candles and communities in bloom is what she is most proud of. She wants Kenora to be a home for her children and grandchildren, and Kenora needs to change. She noted there is a need solution-based initiatives and everyone needs to do their part. She shared that everyone at this table has a role to play not just one person and thanked everyone for showing up, finishing by stating "Let's get it done now!"



Denise Forsyth is the Senior Director of Mental Health and Addictions at LWDH. She listed a multitude of social services that are under her lead in her portfolio. She has been in the community for 35 years. She did speak at town hall meeting at Christmas. She sees significant partners at this table that she has had the privilege to work with and is excited to see them here today. She wants a sense of pride in this community, wants it to be welcoming for all, right type of housing for everyone, she continued that the community is worth this investment and these tough conversations.

Danica Farion is the Executive Assistant to the CAO at the City of Kenora and will be the staff admin support for this Committee.

Kyle Attanasio is the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) at the City of Kenora for the past 3 years, he will be supervising this Committee work through Eric; he added that he will be here to support where he can.

Heather Pihulak is the Director of Corporate Services and City Clerk. She has the governance knowledge that helps support the City of Kenora Council appointed Committees and works with the Committees to ensure that reporting to Council is successful.

Kelly Galbraith is the Deputy Clerk and Customer Service Manager at the City of Kenora for the past 7 years. She is previously from Winnipeg, Kenora was her second home, and her family has chosen to make it their permanent home. She expressed her gratitude to everyone on the Committee.

Eric Shih is the newly hired Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator with the City of Kenora and will be the Staff Resource for this Committee. Although he has only been in the community for 2 months, he has lived in Northwestern Ontario for 18 years, he added that he recognizes Kenora's significance to its community members.

*Mayor Poirier left at 3:53pm*

#### **4. Committee Orientation**

Heather Pihulak provided an orientation to Council appointment Committee work. She noted that the work that Committee members will do and the words they will say are representing Council, she asked that members be mindful of this. She reiterated Mayor Poirier's sentiment that this Committee will be a focus of the community and many eyes will be on it.



She discussed and explained code of conduct for Committee members and noted that these are expectations for all City Boards and Committees; she also touched on the Ontario Legislation regarding conflict of interest.

She explained that the Terms of Reference will be the guiding mandate for this Committee and guide the work the Committee will be doing. She added that where there are areas the Terms of Reference may not cover, this Committee will default to Robert's Rules of Order. There are other policies and legislation that will guide this Committee, specifically Bill 175 – Safer Ontario Act.

Heather presented a slideshow (*included in minutes*).

Heather reiterated the parameters of conflict of interest, reminding the table that these meetings are open to the public, be mindful of the information you are sharing at this table. She asked that the Staff Support circulate a recording on Conflict of Interest presented by the City's solicitor for members to watch on their own time.

She ended her presentation by thanking the members of this Committee and recognized the important work they are about to embark on.

## **5. Committee Overview & Introduction**

Eric shared that everyone on this committee was appointed by Council.

Kyle explained to the Table his first exposure to this type of work was from Kenora Moving Forward asking for support from the City for a warming and cooling centre. The general response was 'this is not a city ask', he highlighted that this to show the evolution of how the City has decided to show up for solutions. The culture of not understanding what the City's responsibility is with respect to this type of work has maybe held back progress in the past. He shared that he hopes through this Committee there will be a better light on what the City can do to be active contributors to a solution. With Council he has heard loud and clear the City and partnering organizations need to hold themselves accountable to do better. Kenora pound for pound is one of the more complex communities he has encountered. Kyle spoke to the goal of the development of the Plan and strategy, and that he is excited this Committee will be able to start from scratch with a new set of people and has faith in the work this Committee will accomplish.

Councillor Bernie noted many of the members were involved in the original development of the Plan. Kenora Substance Abuse Task Force was the first iteration of this Committee, very optimistic on this Committee and the direction it can go.



Eric relayed to the Committee that he had gathered feedback from his one-on-one meetings and shared that information with Christiane, he circulated a compiled recap of priority items he has heard from members as a start to focus the scope of this Committee.

## **6. Community Safety & Well-Being Plan**

Christiane Sadeler, who attended the meeting via video conference, was unable to hear the introductions due to the echo in the room.

She shared that she was pleased to be present and is thankful to be a part of this exciting journey. She noted that she has been to Kenora 3 times and had the opportunity to admire the beautiful scenery and Husky the Muskie. She does not know much about the community, however, has heard the challenges that Kenora is having and notes they are not dissimilar to those in other communities.

Left Germany when she was 19 and then traveled and has been in Canada since 1989. She worked as a director in Waterloo as a director on a similar Committee to this.

She has heard that the Plan the Committee is looking to develop is action orientated and is coming to work with this Committee based on her experience and a plan that works for Kenora.

Christiane shared her screen and a presentation (*included in minutes*).

Councillor Bernie asked Christiane if she was involved in the development of the plan for Regina, she confirmed that she was. Councillor Bernie encouraged the Committee members to review that plan, staff support with circulate a link to this plan.

Christiane asked that each member find the time to meet with her independently for 15-20 mins for her to get a better understanding of individual perspectives. The staff support will circulate Christiane's contact information for members to reach out and schedule a time. Direction to the Table to find time to initiate this within the coming weeks so Christiane is able to have all the information for the next meeting. Eric added that this is an opportunity for the City to hear 'what community safety is to you' which will help develop the framework to focus the Plan.

Kyle shared Eric's comments that community safety means something different to everyone is important to keep in mind. He added that Eric is not a saviour, not an activist, he is not here helping your organization's daily operations. The primary work of this Committee is strategy and plan implementation. The primary focus of Eric's role is to strategize and oversee plan development and coordination.

To that note, Anita asked if there was room for a conversation regarding establishing a definition for Community Safety and Well-Being. Kyle shared the City has not made any presumption on that definition, she continued, if we are working on a strategy we need to



align to the same goal. Eric noted that this is the goal of the one-on-one meetings with Christiane, to narrow down an alignment. As a Committee that will be narrowed down further from those one-on-one meetings.

Councillor Mason questioned why the City is paying two people to do the same job. Kyle clarified that this is not the case at all, elaborating that Eric is community based, Christiane is strategy based.

## **7. Confirmation of Meeting Dates for 2023**

Discussions around the best standing time that would work for the majority of members. Eric noted the importance of quorum to hold effective meetings and asked that members be cognizant of whether they share a vote with another member (i.e. Alternates). Staff Support will circulate a Doodle Poll for members to be able to provide their availability. Staff ask that members respond as soon as possible. Based off the poll, this will also determine the best standing time to meet moving forward which will be adopted at the next meeting.

Eric added that he is looking into an electronic file storing system for this Committee and thanked those that have helped him out with test pilots.

Eric noted he has engaged with other organizations and noted we will need to connect with a wide range of community members so that the Committee can ensure appropriate and respectful language is being used.

Kyle added that he appreciates everyone's grace and patience with the City as we navigate leading this type of Committee and while we work out the logistics of how we liaise with all parties. He noted that he understands there is a shared sense of urgency but realistically this will take time and patience.

## **8. Next Steps**

Eric shared that he is happy to introduce parties but as Kyle said he will not be blazing trails. He explained there is big responsibility of his role and this committee is to deliver the Plan. He added that the Plan will not be the entirety of the Committee, there will be more items and the Committee will need to define the scope of work and create measurable plans.

The Chair/Vice-Chair will be selected at the next meeting. A lot of agenda setting will be administration driven however there is still a lot that falls to the Chair as such the staff support has asked everyone to review the terms of reference thoroughly to determine whether this is something they want to put their name forward for.



**9. Next Meeting – TBD**

**Adjourn Meeting** – The meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.