



# Minutes

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

Friday, March 15, 2024

9:00 a.m.

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**With:** Darcia Curtis  
Regan Dearborn  
Anita Cameron  
Jill Hager  
Logan Haney

Jared Olsen  
Cynthia MacDougall  
Shannon Bailey  
Grant Cowles

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

**Regrets:** Denise Forsyth  
Jodelle Maksymchuk  
Councillor Bob Bernie  
Councillor Barb Manson

Taras Manzie  
Hayley Pentek  
Jim Neild  
Jeff Duggan

### 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Chair Darcia Curtis called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 Consent Agenda

**Moved by L. Haney, Seconded by R. Dearborn and Carried -**

That all items listed under the Consent Agenda be approved as recommended.

4.1 CSWB Coordinator Update March 2024

## **5. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting Moved by S. Bailey, Seconded by L. Haney and Carried -**

That the Minutes of the Crime Prevention and Community Well-Being Advisory Committee meeting held February 16, 2024 be confirmed as written and filed.

## **6. Review of Timeline for the Balance of Project**

Christiane referenced the detailed timeline that was attached to the agenda package, adding that it is mostly her timeline but dependent on actions taken by the committee members. There is still data collection needed of additional reports that are not available to her and she is looking for direction on how to find the data or get support in accessing them. There are more consultations to be done by Christiane, Eric and the committee members as the latter have relationships with people involved. A general reminder was shared about the planning retreat on May 10, which Christiane will be attending in-person.

The timeline was questioned regarding the June 21 planning retreat and that it might be appropriate to move this to another day being it is National Indigenous Peoples Day. It was clarified that this is not the planning retreat but just a regular meeting focused on governance. The second planning retreat will be on September 7, 2024.

## **7. Reminder of "homework" for Committee Members**

Eric questioned if committee members are able to get into Teams to see the shared documents. Members should take some time to go through and get their data in as there is a lot of information we need to get through, it is best not to wait until the last minute. Christiane has colour coded the documents, a hard copy can also be provided by Eric or Christiane. The colour coding was explained, green is we don't know the answer to the question, yellow is what people have committed to and a reminder to members of their tasks. The information can be input directly into the shared documents on Teams so that everyone is working on the same document. This is the best way, but the information can also be emailed to Christiane with Eric copied. Post meeting addendum: the documents have since been adjusted to simplify the process. They remain in the same Teams folder.

## **8. Community of Practice: Dr Irvin Waller Presentation and Q&C**

Christiane introduced Dr. Waller to group and shared his biography. Dr. Waller shared his presentation (PDF attached to these minutes) and discussed each slide. Dr. Waller referenced the coloured chart on the second slide and suggested to focus on which items on this list you want to reduce. He hopes we will focus on the second item in blue, as many more people involved in crime go to the hospital before they contact police. Green is gender based, you will need to go to the schools and do surveys. Red is to do with mental health crisis. Purple is related to policing and is a major priority. Dr. Waller's YouTube video "Canada Can Halve Violent Crime in the Next Five Years" was shown. He went through the video and adding that both the presentation and data for the video today comes from his book Ending Violent Crime. He shared that most violent crime occurs between males, aged fifteen to mid-twenties, living in deprived areas. Tackling the sources and the risk factors can prevent crime within 3-5 years, as per solid violence prevention science. Social outreach to those most vulnerable prevents violence. Training sports coaches to be mentors has been shown to prevent crime, as would partnering

with social agencies. You want your community safety program to result in less crime for Kenora, prevention is focusing on risk factors to have results. Dr. Waller referenced Glasgow which saw a 50% reduction in crime, as well as other communities that have had success, including London and now Toronto. There needs to be monitoring tools for safety and risk factors, and a checklist. You need to avoid things that don't work and need to set targets for those that do work, focus on reducing the harm from crime.

### **Questions:**

Logan is interested after hearing the presentation on how we are already doing, the Youth Justice Centre is one example where we are all working together and being accountable, WNHAC outreach is another. It is recognized we need more on the proactive prevention piece. Dr. Waller shared again that it is young men most at risk. Focus on violent crime as it is the one that does the most harm, focus on the high-risk group. Be careful you are not doing the well-known things that do not work.

Darcia spoke of the SNAP program resource, but that kids still fall through the cracks. She asked how to engage the families of those that are marginalized, adding that the ones that are participating or engaging are the families that are doing the best. Is there a way to identify families that need support and change the programming? Dr. Waller suggested putting the finger on what you need to focus on, how to keep the boys (mostly) that are at risk out of the system. Outreach workers to youth can provide enriched mentoring. Once they are getting into hospitals it's a critical time. Outreach to those groups that need the most support in terms of risk factor would be a goal/priority. It was mentioned there could be difficulty with people living in rural areas, where Zoom and other media can be an option. But that is not available to everyone.

Christane suggested the last piece is interesting, how are we to reach the most hard to reach in our communities given the geography? We need to be able to reach out to them rather than having them come to us. This can be used as a problem-solving exercise for the committee sometime in the future.

Eric referenced social media and its impact on behaviour and asked, what have you seen of communities that are doing good work and if there are suggestions for how to be effective in lessening negative impact. Dr. Waller responded that he hasn't focused on social media, he hasn't seen actions that have been evaluated. He referenced the Youth Endowment Fund, it is running evaluations, to go on their website or write to their executive director. The more of the things that you do that focus on getting results, the more results/reduction you will get. For example, have a goal of five years = 50% reduction and ask for the funds to be focused on that. You should be able to achieve that. Don't promise it but have a plan to achieve it.

Shannon referenced that from the school board level, there is a need to identify students at risk. How do we incentivize youth and family programming? Is there a way to incentivize things in class to get students and families involved? Meals etc. are options but approaches need to be beyond that. How can the schools do this? Dr. Waller shared that in the UK they attracted people and made it "fun" rather than threat or punishment. Kenora levels are very high for violent crime. All things must have the aim of bringing violence down closer to the Canadian average.

Christiane shared that the best incentives are relationships, three or four well trained outreach workers will have an effect. Schools creating relationships with the families is super important such as in the families and schools together program.

Anita inquired how do you secure the investment for the initial efforts that need to be made? Are there tips for leveraging initial investments? Dr. Waller suggested Kenora needs to argue that the evidence is very strong, which it is. If you invest you can make these reductions. Public Safety Canada only gives short term money. A business plan is needed to outline investments vs. results. We need to stop loss of life and reduce injuries, you have to make the case and persuade the government to do it. Dr. Waller indicated his book references building the political will. He suggested Ford will accept the investment case up to a point, you have to look provincially and locally. Once you have done that and achieved some success, the more likely it will get easier as Kenora is smaller (compared to TO). Increase the good things locally and jointly. Take a look at what we are doing that is not paying off and stop those efforts.

Grant shared that OPP is in the initial stages with Grand Council Treaty Three and Kenora District Services Board on partnering and starting a youth engagement program of which funding has been received to cover three years. There is a designated community police officer, there will be a focus on nature, sports, arts, youth mentoring individuals. Dr. Waller indicated he was nervous if that will reduce crime in Kenora. He is hoping that we can get police leadership to know what works and what doesn't. He used London as an example, police are at the table doing what police do and they are not getting involved with youth outreach, we have to think differently. Increase what you are doing on effective prevention, reducing injuries at the hospital is what we should be looking for. There needs to be a separate argument and you need to go after it, argue for funding that goes into things outside of policing.

*Break from 10:30 - 10:45 a.m.*

## **9. TRC Sub-committee**

Anita shared with the group her idea of a truth and reconciliation sub-committee to the CPCWB Committee. She explained that as the committee has been talking about gathering data to put together a plan she wonders where the TRC Calls to Action will fit in. She has found six that are connected to municipalities, and there are several others such as in the area of justice that apply to the group. The TRC Sub-committee will address how this will happen. Anita offered to Chair these meetings. She suggested that there be at least three members from the Committee on the Sub-committee.

## **Moved by S. Bailey, Seconded by R. Dearborn and Carried –**

That the Crime Prevention and Community Well-Being Advisory Committee establish a truth and reconciliation (TRC) Sub-committee to develop recommendations as to how the TRC Calls to Action, particularly those addressed to municipal governments, as well as any others that may be relevant to the community safety and well-being, should inform the Community Safety Plan of which the Advisory Committee has been tasked to develop.

Regan Dearborn, Logan Haney and Shannon Bailey each expressed their interest in sitting on the TRC Subcommittee. Anita contemplated how big the committee should be and if there should be members of the public, she will work on drafting a Terms of Reference. Heather Pihulak provided advice as the City Clerk, adding that the terms of reference can be very short depending on timelines, if there is a longer term then the terms should be more comprehensive. Anita confirmed it should be a fairly defined term. Heather P. explained that there are no rules on the number of people, that there should be at least the same number of public members or more. It can be done by way of a general call out or by reaching out to individuals. Eric and the group will have a discussion on this. Heather P. suggested drafting terms to include the important key elements of the subcommittee and to bring back to the next meeting so that the entire committee can review.

#### **10. Community Profile Overview and Dialogue about Observations**

Christiane mentioned we are running out of time so will just give a high level of this item. She asked for the presentation to be attached by Heather to the minutes, adding that the slides have notes and members should read the slides as well as the notes. She noted that there are increases in many areas of concern in Kenora. . Regarding children and youth, pay attention those in the group that work with children for a longer-term prevention perspective. The housing and homelessness rate for Kenora is almost three times that of Ontario. Regarding the crime severity index, Kenora is over the double rate of Ontario. Both a powerpoint and community profile report will be provided alongside the minutes. Members are asked to review them to continue to ground the work of the committee in available data.

#### **11. Presentation on Quantitative Survey Results and Dialogue on Observations (small groups discussions)**

Christiane presented information on the community survey results. She congratulated Kenora on getting over 1,000 responses, this is the highest rate she has ever seen and high for a community of our size when it comes to the completion of a survey. City promotion and word of mouth are working very well. Age distribution matches the age of municipality as per census data. Christiane would like to decipher the lower income information more to see which ones are without income or below the low income cut off. A large number of respondents feel unwelcome in Kenora but the reasons, are unclear at this time. Stay tuned she is going to decipher that from the qualitative responses. High numbers of people are asking for help and getting it, as well as people who want to help to support their neighbourhoods. This is good news for the development of a plan. Conversely, a high numbers of respondents are feeling unsafe in downtown, not news to us but good to get the confirmation. Majority say crime has increased.

Logan stated that evidence-based data is so important. Grant confirmed the numbers are accurate related to drugs, OPP will never arrest their way out of these issues.

Shannon is excited to see a summary of the qualitative data. She asked if Christiane would say that there was input from most respondents, in that did people take the time to put in their comments more widespread? Christiane shared that a large number of respondents provided qualitative information which often doesn't happen. She is excited

about it and needs to crunch the data, but it seems that Kenora has have to a community that really cares.

Anita inquired if the crime statistics specify time of day. Grant will look into this. If there is evidence to support, what can we do on an interim basis to get information to the public regarding communications. It was questioned what forms of communication should be used as different people (eg. age groups) access their information in various ways, such as social media. Christiane touched on the crime stats, it would be really helpful to this to know what is real and what is not, what time of day, which crimes and exactly where.

Anita inquired if there is a plan to incorporate the survey questions into the interviews and get even more data based on survey results. Christiane indicated this is what the result was and asked what are your thoughts? She showed questions for small group discussions, which is the second level of analysis, the next exercise. But there was no time to complete this. She asked should this be completed by way of group discussions, or perhaps a subcommittee or perhaps the project team? Members can send their thoughts about the data to Christiane. It was suggested to have a discussion at the next meeting. Christiane suggested that next meeting is too far away, maybe one approach is to send the questions to her about bi-variant analysis (e.g. how do answers by gender compare?). This will provide her with direction for ow to further analyze the quantitative data.

## **12. Working Group Updates**

Eric shared that the Washroom Group will meet soon, they will be having a session at one of Kenora Moving Forward's dinners. Also the Downtown Committee is looking at an inventory of all the different outreach efforts that are happening downtown, and to determine ways of communicating that to the business community and wider public.

## **13. What do you want your plan to be and look like? (carry forward from February meeting)**

Christiane shared that she is interested in working with the committee on creating a plan that is made in Kenora, and she wants to know what is critical and what are the characteristics of the plan that committee members would like to see.

Shannon referenced the make-up of the plan, we need to have a solid understanding of who our audience is and readability and clarity for the target audience. Agencies will have people picking it up, it needs to be well understood who is the doing the work and that the plan needs to be clear and measurable.

Regan shared that public education is key, we need to showcase what we do have. With the families she sees it's already too late, at-risk people don't use resources until they are in the system.

Jared suggested the plan be measurable with achievable numbers to motivate people in the community. As far as reducing crime put an actual percentage in the plan.

Logan reference language and how we communicate, and knowing our audience, it should be measurable and evidence based.

Anita echoed the previous comment, it is important to know the audience we are writing for of which there are multiple audiences, include pictures and charts and make it easy to understand. There is lots of evidence to support the problem statement and outline how we will address. People need to understand, frame some of this as a business case too which will help with selling it to funding bodies. Support the plan with a solid business case and it has a better chance of success.

Eric suggested that Denise, Christiane and himself discussed to include stories that highlight things to give a human element, it helps to give a human face so that people can relate. It was agreed that it has to make sense for businesses and other partner services too. We should also focus on the strengths and assets we do have.

Christiane indicated that our audience is not the province of Ontario and suggested that the key audience is our community. She would like to hear more from the group on that and asked members to give it some more thought.

#### **14. New Business**

None.

#### **15. Meeting Evaluation Round Table**

Regan – the meeting structure is good, working well no suggestions.

Jared – meetings have gotten better and better each time, great to hear what is going on in the community

Logan - really enjoy the data and feedback specific to the community which is important, are engaging in various good conversations

Cyn - process has changed positively as the group continues, taking notes to bring back

Anita – it is early yet so hard to say what we can be doing better, data is good and hearing other community perspectives. Looking forward to future when we can talk about what is working and what isn't. Referencing previous suggestion, we need a better way to communicate with the community at large what we are hearing and learning, not too many people have access to that info.

Eric - will get some of this online to show the wider community what we are doing

Darcia - we may need our own communication as there are things that need to be communicated to get ahead of naysayers. Will have a conversation at the Project Team meeting.

Jill - more push out to community and public education, on the positive results and survey results.

Grant - get the input of the public to know the perception so that we can address with our posts which could be key, enjoying this group.

Shannon - consider adding more highlighting community organizations to educate us, she had enjoyed youth justice presentation. Would like to coordinate better with various stakeholders, to make connections and better understand what everyone does.

This will also help with communications, will have better resources, having a highlight to each meeting of an organization or service.

Darcia - suggested reading Dr. Waller's books and having the library bring in additional copies

#### **16. Reminder of Virtual meeting in April and questions for presenters**

Darcia reminded the groups of April's meeting and to get questions in. Christiane explained that our presenters want to know from us what we want to learn from them (3 places).

#### **17. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

#### **Actions Arising:**

1. Heather to attach Dr. Waller's presentation to the meeting minutes
2. Eric and the group to have a discussion on TRC Subcommittee. Draft Terms of Reference to be brought back to next meeting for Committee review
3. Quantitative Survey Results presentation to be attached by Heather to the minutes. Members should review and read the slides as well as the notes
4. Grant will look into to see if the crime statistics specify time of day and location.