



COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010
9:00 AM / COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 2
175 INGRAM STREET, DUNCAN, BC

AGENDA	PAGES
1. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA:</u>	1-2
2. <u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES:</u>	
2M1 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held October 21, 2010	3-5
3. <u>BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:</u>	
3BA1 Public Awareness of Community Safety Advisory Committee— CVRD/Community Safety Advisory Committee Website Recommendations	6-16
• Changes to CSAC Website	
• The History of CSAC – Then and Now	
• Community Safety: What Is It and Why Do We Need It?	
• 'Public Safety' and 'Community Safety' – What's the Difference?	
3BA2 Panhandling Report—Updates and Recommendations	--
3BA3 CSAC Safety Bulletin—Issues Arising for Discussion	--
4. <u>ADJOURNMENT:</u>	

Distribution:

Representatives by Geographic Area

Southern Sector

CVRD – Director Lori Iannidinardo (Committee Chair)

Community Representative – Michelle Bell

Central Sector

CVRD – Director Phil Kent (Committee Vice-Chair)

Municipality of North Cowichan – Councillor John Koury

City of Duncan – Councillor Joe Thorne

Western Sector

Community Representative – Bruce Ingram
Town of Lake Cowichan – Councillor Jayne Ingram

Northern Sector

Town of Ladysmith – Councillor Jillian Dashwood

Community Group Representatives

Cowichan Women Against Violence Society / Safer Futures Program – Theresa Gerritsen
Community Options Society – Cheryl Stone
Cowichan Valley School District No. 79 – Candace Spilsbury
disAbility Resource Centre – Jim Harnden
RCMP – Corporal Kevin Day
Social Planning Cowichan – Michelle Nowzek

Community Policing – Carol-Ann Rolls

Cowichan Valley Regional District

Joe Barry, Corporate Secretary

(Agenda Cover Only)

Warren Jones, Administrator
CVRD Directors

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held in the Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC, on Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 9:03 am.

PRESENT: Director Lori Iannidinardo (Chair)
Director Phil Kent (Vice-Chair)
Theresa Gerritsen, Cowichan Women Against Violence Society
Councillor John Koury, District of North Cowichan
Councillor Jillian Dashwood, Town of Ladysmith
Corporal Kevin Day, RCMP
Cheryl Stone, Community Options Society
Jim Harnden, disAbility Resource Centre
Carol-Ann Rolls, Community Policing
Michelle Bell, Community Representative

ABSENT: Candace Spilsbury, Cowichan Valley School District No. 79
Michelle Nowzek, Social Planning Cowichan
Bruce Ingram, Community Representative
Councillor Joe Thorne, City of Duncan
Councillor Jayne Ingram, Town of Lake Cowichan

ALSO

PRESENT: Joe Barry, Corporate Secretary
Chris Ewing, Manager Information Technology
Thanya Al Saadoon, Safer Futures Program
Dominique Beesley, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2M1

It was moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held June 17, 2010 be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

Theresa Gerritsen, Cowichan Women Against Violence Society, introduced Thanya Al Saadoon, whom, she said, is the Safer Futures Program staff support to the Committee.

9:08 AM Councillor John Koury arrived to the meeting.

9:09 AM Cheryl Stone arrived to the meeting.

**BUSINESS
ARISING FROM
THE MINUTES**

BA1

Public Awareness of Community Safety Advisory Committee

The Committee discussed ways in which the Community Safety Advisory Committee's information could be better displayed on the CVRD website.

The Manager Information Technology, provided his feedback on technological viability of the suggested updates given by Committee members. Theresa Gerritsen advised that Safer Futures Program would compile a list of the Committee's recommended changes to be put forward for the Committee's consideration. The changes, she said, include a recommendation for Community Safety Advisory Committee to be posted on the opening page of the CVRD website.

Thanya Al Saadoon, Safer Futures Program, said that she would begin updating of the posted documents.

DELEGATIONS

4D1

Pam Alcorn representing the Seniors Safety Advisory Committee, provided a presentation on findings of the Age Friendly Cities for Seniors Report.

It was moved and seconded that the Community Safety Advisory Committee adopt the *City of Duncan Age-friendly Seniors Safety Project Report* and further that the *Report* be forwarded to the Board, Cowichan Tribes, the City of Duncan, the District of North Cowichan, the Town of Ladysmith and the Town of Lake Cowichan.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that the *City of Duncan Age-friendly Seniors Safety Project Report* be reviewed by a subcommittee of the Community Safety Advisory Committee and that this subcommittee prepare and forward to the Committee any of the recommendations contained in the *City of Duncan Age-friendly Seniors Safety Report* identified for its review and action.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

5R1 A report from Theresa Gerritsen, Safer Futures Program dated September 16, 2010; regarding a showcase of community responders—that, noted Ms. Gerritsen, was held adjacent to the Creating Capacities for Coordination in Domestic Violence Cases Conference, Thursday, September 16th 2010; was received.

5R2 A report from Theresa Gerritsen, Safer Futures Program, regarding a CSAC Panhandling Report 2010, was considered.

It was moved and seconded:

1. That a further update be added to the CSAC Panhandling Report 2010 that describes actions that have arisen from the activities described in the Report;
2. That the Report be then distributed to stakeholders; and
3. That a further report of any outstanding recommendations be provided for the Community Safety Advisory Committee at the next meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

5R3 A report from Theresa Gerritsen, Safer Futures Program, regarding a community safety bulletin September 2010, was received.

5R4 A report from Theresa Gerritsen, Safer Futures Program, regarding a community safety bulletin October 2010, was received.

**ADJOURNMENT
11:12 AM**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.

Certified Correct:

Chairperson

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____

Changes to CSAC Website

(Recommendations prepared for CSAC, Nov. 2010)

Specific changes needed:

- Main CVRD webpage – CSAC link should preferably be listed in the main page right-hand drop down list.
- When accessing the CSAC documentation on the website, a '*back to CSAC*' button needs to be added, as the user is taken out of the main CSAC web area and into the broader CVRD website while perusing the documentation.
- On main CSAC page, order of links on left-hand drop down to be rearranged/changed as follows:
 1. Who we are
 - List of committee members including affiliation and contact info
 - Terms of reference
 - Committee description and overview document – updated
 2. History of CSAC
 - Updated 'History of CSAC' document
 - CVRD's History of CSAC power point document
 3. FAQ – more to know about CSAC
 - Community safety vs public safety document
 - Updated 'Community Safety – why do we need it?' document.
 - Flow charts
 4. Agendas and Minutes
 - Arrange chronologically
 5. Reports, Safety Plans and Audits
 - Needs updating. Decide which out of date reports need to be removed and more current reports need to be added
 - Safe Needle Report and Toolkit

- Cowichan Valley Safety Lens
- Women and Community Safety Manual
- CSAC annual reports 2007/2008 and 2009/2010
- MTL Engagement Toolkit
- Call to Action Final Report
- Crime Prevention Through Social Development Report
- Consider using subheadings, ie:
 - Safety Audits
 - Safer Futures annual reports to CSAC
- Page needs to be arranged both chronologically and by region/area
- Current/pertinent publications need to be added
- There are no links on this page – consider adding some pertinent safety focused links

6. Safe Communities Planning Guides

7. Safety Publications and Links

The History of CSAC – Then and Now

HISTORY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY WORK IN THE COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

CVRD Women's Safety Advisory Committee

The CVRD Community Safety Advisory Committee arose out of a previous Women's Safety Advisory Committee (WSAC) that was established by the CVRD in December of 1996. The WSAC was a standing committee of the Board, replacing a regional Task Force which oversaw a pilot project in 1996. Its mandate was to *"advise on women's safety issues with the Regional District including review of land use application referrals, conducting of safety audits, representation on Official Community Plan reviews and other similar items referred by the Board."*

Activities of the committee included:

- Conducting safety audits to assess safety issues and define solutions.
- Developing tools and resources such as the Cowichan Valley Safety Audit Guide, Planning for Safer Communities Guide.
- Providing education and training through workshops and seminars for citizens, professional groups such as planners, developers, architects, and community organizations, in the Cowichan Valley, in other communities around the province, and for regional and provincial organizations.
- Responding to local and other community inquiries for information and assistance.
- Engaging in policy and guidelines development.
- Conducting specialized initiatives for community safety.
- Sharing information about this work with many other communities around the province, some who have requested information, education and assistance to develop similar programs.

This committee oversaw a series of community safety audit projects undertaken in the Cowichan Valley between 1996 to 1999, that examined issues around women's safety in their community environments and ways in which these issues could be addressed at the community level. These projects were carried out in partnership with the Cowichan Valley Safer Futures Program. They were funded by the CVRD, as well as the National Crime Prevention Centre and Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.

Community Safety Audit Work

During 1996 – 2000, five broad community safety audits and several smaller site studies were done which involved extensive research and community consultation.

The audits revealed a range of safety issues and barriers faced by women in their communities, and identified solutions ranging from improving physical environments, to changing long term planning policies and processes, to community programming and education to change attitudes and behaviours that allow violence to occur.

Community and site specific audits to 2000 included the following areas:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Cowichan Lake | 11. City of Duncan – Transit / Cinema |
| 2. Cobble Hill | 12. Mill Bay Elementary School and area |
| 3. Mill Bay/Malahat | 13. CVRD Transit stops |
| 4. Cowichan Bay | 14. Malaspina University College |
| 5. Beverly to Alexander | 15. Beverly Corners |
| 6. Davis Road, Ladysmith | 16. James Street |
| 7. Cowichan Lake Sports Arena | 17. Mill Bay Centre bus stop |
| 8. Kerry Park Recreation Centre | 18. Mount Brenton |
| 9. Laidlaw Bus Depot | 19. Cowichan Community Centre |
| 10. City of Duncan Downtown | |

These audits resulted in over 500 recommendations. A process for implementing audit recommendations, and to make personal safety a regular consideration in all local government processes was developed. Hundreds of recommendations have been implemented including:

- Development and incorporation of community safety principles and policies into long term planning and development processes, to ensure ongoing attention and sustainability.
- Improvements to physical environments to reduce obstacles and opportunities for violence and enhance accessibility for women and other marginalized groups.
- Development of new and enhancement of existing community services and programming to address community and social development.

Challenges

In this work, the challenges and obstacles have been:

- ✓ Financial constraints / budget priorities
- ✓ Jurisdictional complexities
- ✓ Fragmentation of service / project-oriented work
- ✓ Community capacity and communication

To address these challenges and to better meet the needs of the communities, the work was expanded in the direction of a more comprehensive approach to community health and safety, and to involve more community sectors that are needed to address the range of safety issues and solutions that are often identified through our community research.

The CSAC continues its work as a standing committee of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. With strong representation of all regional areas of the Cowichan Valley, the committee responds to community safety issues as they arise. Supported by Safer Futures, a work plan is

established and appropriate action is taken, resulting in recommendations being presented to the CVRD board for approval. These recommendations are then responded to by way of community based actions. These targeted safety needs are addressed in a collaborative manner, involving local government, the business sector, community agencies and local residents working together to find solutions. Regional (cross jurisdictional) involvement is important because it recognizes the numerous inter-relationships among the causes and symptoms of crime and violence, as well as between communities. This approach helps motivate and support collaboration because it emphasizes every partner's contributions and incorporates the priorities of all involved.

Community Safety: What is it and why do we need it?

INTRODUCTION

All across Canada, local governments and community groups are increasingly recognizing that community safety is a fundamental quality of life issue - a safe community is a livable community, a healthy community, and an economically viable community.

The defining feature of a safe community is the ability of all of its citizens - regardless of gender, race, age, sexuality, language, income or ability - to participate fully and freely in all of its environments. This requires that citizens both feel, and are, safe, and that they have meaningful opportunities to participate in local decision-making processes.

In the Cowichan Region, there is a growing awareness of the need to promote a healthy and safe community in order to foster economic and social vibrancy. A healthy community is one that works to provide all citizens with equitable opportunities for a good quality of life, to narrow the gaps between advantage and disadvantage, to ensure healthier children, stronger families and stronger neighbourhoods.

A healthy community is also a safe community. Yet, the reality of crime, victimization and fear means that many people, especially those who are the most vulnerable are severely limited in the way they can use and be part of their communities. This includes everyday activities like shopping and recreation, and also major life decisions about education, work and where to live. Crime, violence and fear erodes sense of community, constricts civic and economic activity, puts strains on hospitals, requires funds to be spent on increased security and vandalism repairs, and equals lost money for other things. But what needs to be understood is that crime and victimization are only the visible results of problems. The challenge is to address the *root issues*, and increase or support the factors that offset the causes of violence. This means working to reduce risks for offending AND address the vulnerability of individuals and neighbourhoods.

Prevention of Crime

In Canada we have traditionally dealt with crime in a reactive way - through police, courts and corrections. However, over the last two decades, Canada, like many other countries has focused more on the benefits of a preventative approach - one that recognizes that in order to prevent crime, victimization and fear, we need to do something about the factors of social and economic inequality that lie at their root.

There have been two broad categories of crime prevention strategies:

- **situational crime prevention:** strategies that attempt to reduce the opportunities for crime and victimization;
- **crime prevention through social development:** - strategies that attempt to focus on the root causes of crime and victimization

Situational crime prevention

Situational crime prevention strategies are those that people most often think of when they think "crime prevention", e.g.: locking your doors, not leaving valuables in your car, better security, design factors, neighbourhood watch etc. These strategies tend to be fairly common sense and tend to be property focused. They all reflect three basic premises, aimed at the offender: reduce the opportunity, increase the risk, and reduce the reward.

Situational crime prevention strategies often respond to specific types of crimes, or crimes in a particular place. You're probably familiar with concepts such as "defensible space", "eyes on the street", and "crime prevention through environmental design". These concepts are in use in many communities around BC, for example:

- **Target hardening:** you reduce the opportunity for a crime to take place by making it harder for the crime to take place: e.g. putting bars on basement windows.
- **Problem-oriented policing:** more community policing, where the police work with the community to look at a particular crime problem and develop a tailored, community solution. This goes well beyond simple enforcement.

Crime prevention through environmental design: or CPTED, community planners and architects in many communities take into account what we know about people's use of places and how factors of both the physical and social environment can combine to increase and decrease the probability of a crime taking place. You've probably heard of or thought about lighting, entrapment spots, movement predictors - again fairly common sense notions that allow us to increase visibility, reduce isolation, encourage casual surveillance, and so on.

While we might encourage the use of situational crime prevention techniques as part of a broader community safety strategy, they are problematic if used in isolation, and/or as the only approach. When used as the only technique, situational crime prevention can merely displace opportunities for crime - they move along to neighbourhoods and people that can't afford to or are not organized enough to take action. Often these techniques work least in areas that need them the most.

Crime Prevention through Social Development (CPSD) describes an approach that recognizes that in order to prevent crime and victimization in the long run, we need to address the associated risk factors. Factors of social, economic and political inequality are understood to come together in complex ways to contribute to patterns of crime and victimization. CPSD strategies focus on addressing "risk factors" associated with crime and victimization: e.g. inadequate housing, poverty, poor parenting, low educational achievement, lack of training and employment, etc. Conversely it encourages programs and policies that build "projective factors" - employment training, adequate housing, workshops, family support, support to individuals etc. This approach recognizes that many of the things that will ultimately make communities safer from crime actually lie beyond the jurisdiction of police, courts, and corrections. Communities must play a vital role in building safety and well being at the local level by their combined actions in such areas as housing, schools, employment, recreation, and social services. It also recognizes the importance of taking a long-term, holistic approach to the prevention of crime, based on broad ranging, comprehensive partnerships.

The Safer Communities Approach

Over the last decade or so, municipalities have been increasingly adopting what's known as a safer communities approach to crime prevention. This approach recognizes that:

- the community is the focal point of effective crime prevention;
- the community needs to identify and respond to both short and long term needs;
- efforts should bring together individuals from a range of sectors to tackle crime; and

- strategies for preventing crime should be supported by the whole community.

While each area is different, in general, the goal of enhancing community safety involves improving the quality of life for people by reducing crime and fear and providing the support that people need to feel safe and secure in their living environments.

And safer communities initiatives have indeed been most successful when they have focused on a vulnerable group as a means of making communities safer and healthier for everyone. Toronto's much admired community safety strategy emphasizes that "focusing on those most likely to be victims and/or offender, and focusing on places where crimes are most likely to take place, is a good way to use scarce resources" (City of Toronto, 1999: 13).

Adopting a focus on women helps to ensure that the needs of people who are vulnerable to violence are considered. In fact, unless we ensure that women are a strong focus, safer community initiatives will miss a critical piece of the puzzle. In order to address the full spectrum of crime and fear of crime, and in order to build communities which offer equitable opportunities to women and other vulnerable groups in our society, issues specific to women must be fully acknowledged and be a formal and integral part of a comprehensive community approach. Focusing on issues specific to women will ensure that communities will ultimately be safer for everyone.

(Cowichan Valley Safer Futures, 1999)

‘Public Safety’ and ‘Community Safety’– what’s the difference?

The goal of ‘Public Safety’ is to lead the communities throughout the region to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency situations, and includes:

- Emergency planning
- Emergency/crisis response
- Fire rescue services
- 911
- Emergency social services
- Search and rescue
- Public safety education including emergency preparedness

‘Community Safety’ focuses on creating:

- a place that considers the root causes of crime; poverty, violence, social isolation, and others issues that affect quality of life
- a community that works towards narrowing the gaps between advantage and disadvantage
- a place where of all of its citizens have the ability to participate fully and freely in all of its environments
- a place where of all of its citizens have meaningful opportunities to participate in local decision-making processes
- a place with healthier children, stronger families and stronger neighbourhoods
- a safe community is a livable community, a healthy community, and an economically viable community