



Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 3:04 p.m.

McNaughton Room - 3rd Floor, City Hall

1. Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee Meeting 02-2023

Chair: Jeff Upton

2. Members

Mayor Ken Boshcoff

Councillor Kasey Etrene

Darcy Fleury - Chief of Police

Vacant - Thunder Bay Police Services Board

William Bradica, District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

Albert Brule, United Way Thunder Bay

Paul Capon, Matawa First Nations Management

John Dixon, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care

Jennifer Hyslop, Canadian Mental Health Association

Brice Morriseau, Fort William First Nation

Shannon Robinson, Thunder Bay District Health Unit

Diane Walker, Children's Centre Thunder Bay

Vacant - Advisor - Multicultural Community

Vacant - Advisor - Indigenous Community

3. Officials

Karen Lewis, General Manager - Development & Emergency Services

Shane Muir, Chief - Superior North EMS

Cynthia Olsen, Manager - Community Strategies

Lee-Ann Chevrette, Community Safety & Well-Being Specialist

Rilee Willianen, Policy & Research Analyst

Kelly Hell, Council & Committee Clerk (Acting)

4. Guests

Gwen O'Reilly, Executive Director and Jen Hastings - Gender-Based Violence Navigation Advocate, Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

5. Welcome and Disclosures of Interest

The Chair called the meeting to order. There were no disclosures of interest declared.

6. Land Acknowledgement

Diane Walker, Children's Centre Thunder Bay, provided a land acknowledgement.

7. Agenda Approval

MOVED BY: Jeff Upton
SECONDED BY: Diane Walker

WITH RESPECT to the May 24, 2023, meeting of the Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

8. Minutes of Previous Meeting

MOVED BY: Jeff Upton
SECONDED BY: Diane Walker

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 01-2023 Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee, held on February 8, 2023, be confirmed.

CARRIED

9. Deputation - Systemic Response to Inmate Partner Violence

Gwen O'Reilly, Executive Director, and Jen Hastings, Gender-Based Violence Navigation Advocate, Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre provided a thorough presentation relative to the above noted.

The presentation will be emailed to the Community Safety & Well-Being Advisory Committee.

The presentation confirmed Intimate Partner Violence and Gender-Based Violence has reached epidemic levels. The violence is pervasive and entrenched in our society and often pre-meditated, intentional and in many cases worse after police involvement.

Another concern is the children. When they experience violence in their formative years, they need to unlearn the behaviour so the violence does not continue with them.

A discussion was held regarding declaring Intimate Partner Violence and Gender-Based Violence an epidemic in the City of Thunder Bay.

There is an increased and urgent need of support from the Solicitor General to ensure accountability of those charged.

MOVED BY: John Dixon
SECONDED BY: Diane Walker

WITH RESPECT to Gender Based Violence being a priority area in the Community Safety & Well-Being Plan, the CSWB Advisory Committee supports bringing a recommendation to Council, for their consideration, to declare Intimate Partner Violence and Gender Based Violence an epidemic in Thunder Bay.

CARRIED

Next steps will be to prepare a report and presentation for City Council. Jeff Upton will keep the Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee informed regarding the progress.

10. Terms of Reference - Working Group Update

MOVED BY: Councillor Kasey Etreni
SECONDED BY: Albert Brulé

WITH RESPECT to suggested edits to the CSWB Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, the CSWB Advisory Committee approves the changes as presented.

CARRIED

A discussion was held relative to who is responsible to move the Community Safety and Well-Being plan forward. The City of Thunder Bay is mandated to prepare and adopt the plan.

11. Community Strategies Update

Cynthia Olsen, Manager - Community Strategies, provided the following update relative to the above noted.

A Corporate Report was presented to City Council in regards to adopting a human rights-based approach to respond to unsheltered homelessness/encampments. Council approved the recommendation, which also included a recommended to conduct community consultation on the feasibility of designated locations in Thunder Bay, and to continue with advocacy related to housing and homelessness.

The Opioid Task Force of the Drug Strategy has completed an updated situational assessment on opioid-related morbidity and mortality, including information in the District. When the report is available to share, will be distributed to the CSWB Advisory Committee.

Community Strategies and Recreation & Culture are co-leading a Youth Gang Prevention Project. In early stages, have hired a consultant team to assist. A Steering Committee has been established and held their first meeting last week. The consultants will be conducting an environmental scan, and facilitating community engagement through individual interviews, insights table and design labs. Will bring updates as appropriate to the CSWB Advisory.

12. Roundtable

Pride Month is next month. The Thunder Bay Children's Centre staff is planning an event around inclusivity in hockey. The children's book 'Who's Hockey' validates that everyone is welcome to play hockey.

A copy of "Who's Hockey" will be at the Children Centre location for the month of June to allow citizens to go in and sign it. Once all of the signatures are received, the Children's Centre would like to gift it to the City of Thunder Bay. A discussion was held regarding a plan moving forward that will have a positive spin when the book is presented. Cynthia Olsen will reach out to Krista Power, City Clerk to

provide direction as to who and how the book is to be presented.

Councillor Kasey Etrene will provide a list of the hockey organizations in Thunder Bay to the Children's Centre in the hope they will take part in the presentation of the book donned in their team jerseys.

The Release for Custody Task Force recommended that a proposal be submitted to apply for a Community Justice Centre in Thunder Bay, which would include both an Ingenious reconciliation and gender-based violence component. Proposal due to Federal Public Security in mid-June. The Community Re-integration Planning Table will be starting in June and planning for the fall.

Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board received 5.6 million dollars in 2022 and 16.5 million dollars for 2023 as of April 1, 2023 for 3 years. Some of the funding can be allocated to capital expenses.

Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board is seeking an Expression of Interest from non-profit organizations wishing to create transitional and/or supportive housing within the District of Thunder Bay. The link was emailed to the committee for their review.

13. CSWB Specialist's Report

Lee-Ann Chevrette provided the following update relative to additional CSWB-related activities.

Respect Award 2023 recipients, Carolyn Karle and Roots Community Food Centre.

To view video [Respect - City of Thunder Bay](#)

14. New Business

Westfort Ward Meeting was held at the West Thunder Community Centre on Tuesday May 23, 2023. The meeting revolved largely around a May 2, 2023, daytime exchange of gunfire at an apartment complex that saw over 20 rounds of ammunition fired wildly across the building's parking lot.

Lack of adequate resources around mental health facilities, substance addiction facilities, detox centers are assumed to play into what is happening in the city.

The citizens that attended the meeting expressed concern, fear of their safety and frustration.

A discussion was held regarding making assumptions that all crimes are a result of the impoverished population.

15. Meeting Schedule

Meetings of the Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee will be scheduled from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.