



Minutes of the Ad Hoc Community Safety Task Force held on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at 10:00 am in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office.

Present: Gord McKay, Mayor
Doriano Calvano, County of Simcoe
Scott Campbell, Midland BIA
Barb Kettle, Midland Public Library
George Dixon, Police Services Board
Kathy Charlebois, OPP
Julia Van Dyk, CMHA
Steve Pelletier, Guesthouse Shelter
Denis Laurin, Salvation Army, Street Outreach

Staff Present: Angela Grenier, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Amanpreet Sidhu, Director of Corporate Services/Solicitor

1. Review Draft Agenda

Mayor McKay called the meeting to order at 10:00am. There were no declarations of pecuniary interest. The Committee reviewed and accepted the agenda as printed.

2. Review of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the meeting held May 7, 2018; following which, it was

Moved by George Dixon

Seconded by Barb Kettle

That the minutes of the Ad Hoc Community Safety Task Force held May 7, 2018 be approved.

CARRIED.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Mayor McKay requested nominations from the Committee for a Vice-Chair. Nominations closed and it was

Moved by George Dixon

Seconded by Barb Kettle

That the Ad Hoc Community Safety Task Force nominates George Dixon as Vice-Chair.

CARRIED.

4. Problem Solving Workshop

Mayor McKay recapped briefly the Committee's mandate to submit its final report to Council by August 31, 2018, and that Mr. Amanpreet Sidhu is managing the RFP process to engage a consultant to support the Committee. The consultant will add the benefit of expertise to the efforts of the Committee. Mr. Sidhu was unable to attend the meeting, however will provide an update to the process at the next meeting.

Mayor McKay noted that the first step in meeting our objective is to understand the problems facing the larger community, and to engage the community to obtain buy-in so that all can participate in and support the solution. The Mayor suggested that a two-phased approach should be used: by first identifying the problems (Problem Statement), and then working on solutions to those problems.

Mayor McKay indicated that in terms of identifying the issues, we can recognise a number of "visible" problems, such as witnessing crimes, needle use, sale of drugs, etc., but these are usually the result of larger "underlying" problems such as homelessness, mental health issues, addiction, and lack of support from the community. We can engage core stakeholder groups in the discussion including those identified, the general public, and individuals with lived experience. The Mayor then opened the discussion up to the Committee.

As a follow up to the May 7, 2018 meeting, K. Charlebois advised that she was able to obtain an analytical review report that includes three years of data from OPP calls for service; however the document needs to be fine-tuned, with data broken down further before being shared with the Committee. The report will also compare the data for calls received since the OPP began policing Midland on Feb. 8th of this year to last year's data, and identify any differences between calls.

Potential Stakeholders for Problem Solving Workshop

The Committee discussed methods in which to engage broader stakeholders within the community. A number of suggested stakeholders were previously identified to the Committee. The Committee members also suggested adding additional groups including the YMCA Employment Centre, the Midland Cultural Centre, La Maison Rosewood Shelter, Wendat Community Programs, Chigamik/Waypoint, and First Nations.

Suggestions for outreach and engagement included:

- A round-table discussion;
- An on-line survey that can also be filled out manually;
- Request stakeholders to come forward with their own problem statements;
- One-on-one meetings or interviews with key stakeholders;
- Certain stakeholders may wish to conduct their own internal process with hard to reach populations.

It was concluded that the Committee will consult with the stakeholder group through an on-line survey which can also be printed and manually filled out. After the survey has been completed and results compiled, a workshop will be booked for mid-June 2018. The Committee will also identify five key stakeholder groups to then be invited for one-on-one interviews. Suggestions for key invitees include Rosewood Shelter, Wendat, Chigamik/Waypoint and First Nations. An additional group will need to be identified. The problem solving work should be completed by the end of July, with the final report to Council at the end of August.

A question was posed with respect to the timing of embarking on the community stakeholder outreach prior to the consultant being engaged in the process. It was concluded there are tight timelines for a report to Council in August, and it would be best for the Committee to begin the work as quickly as possible.

Mayor McKay will prepare a draft survey to be distributed to the Committee for review and comment.

Broader Community Consultation

The Committee discussed setting up a broader community consultation to include the general public. It was noted that this consultation would need to be scoped in order to keep the focus on the community safety mandate and not on other community issues.

The Committee settled on developing multiple approaches to the public consultation including preparing an on-line and paper survey, and holding a town-hall meeting to include an open forum where the public can provide feedback. Given that St. Paul's United Church had expressed interest in being engaged with the Task Force, it was suggested that they be asked to host the town-hall meeting.

It was noted that the public survey should be focused on the public's perception of community safety and wellbeing, and to be kept to a limited number of questions (eg. 8).

Lived Experience Individuals

The Committee discussed engaging people with lived experience, including guests from the Guesthouse Shelter, Salvation Army Street Outreach and possibly other tenant partners of the Guesthouse to take part in the public consultation and the survey. It was noted that there are different levels of lived experience, and assistance may need to be provided to some individuals. Staff at the Guesthouse and Street Outreach can work with individuals to complete their surveys (either electronic or paper). It is important that the Committee understands that when engaging those with lived experience there is a need to focus on their key experiences: is there a sense of inclusion, civil participation, and access within the community.

Midland Public Library

The Committee discussed the specific needs of the Library, and considered whether a special focus group made up of staff and patrons should be engaged. B. Kettle indicated that a good deal of work has already been completed with staff. In terms of general feelings of safety at the Library, this could be identified within a survey modified for the Library.

It was noted that as a public institution open to everyone and as a hub for the community within the downtown core, we need to be able to provide security for people to participate in a library setting. As the Library is used by people for several hours at a time (including children without their parents/guardians), the Library experience is different from other experiences in the downtown such as retail and dining.

5. New Business

A general question was posed to the Committee with respect to feelings of safety within the downtown core. The Salvation Army Street Outreach and the Library are having better experiences at this time. B. Kettle noted that there have been some modifications at the Library, including changes to shelving, book placement and removal of some books, visits from the OPP drug dog unit, training for staff, and engaging the security guard. She indicated the problems are not completely solved, but the additional measures and word of mouth has resulted in incidents being less severe and being dealt with quickly.

The BIA has received negative feedback from their organization on safety issues identified in the downtown core. A question was posed as to whether the membership is reaching out to agencies to report incidents, and if they are following the email protocol for reporting. S. Campbell will follow up actively and directly with the BIA members to engage them to become more involved, and to help identify or suggest potential solutions.

6. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place within two weeks. Staff will reach out to the Committee with a potential date in early June. It was then

Moved by George Dixon

Seconded by Barb Kettle

That this meeting of the Ad Hoc Community Safety Task Force be adjourned at 11:17am.

CARRIED.

Mayor G. McKay, Chair