



CITY OF
FORT SASKATCHEWAN
POLICING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minute
Thursday, Jan 20th, 2022 at 5:00pm
Webex Video Call

In attendance: Mardoche Kapseu, Steve Hull, Gloria Brathwaite, Heather Boonstra, Coreen Rayner, Sgt. Hardman, S/Sgt St. Pierre, Stew Begg, Kabir Randhawa, Lauren Reid

1. Welcome and Call to Order: Coreen at 5:04pm

2. Consent Agenda Approval (Agenda & Minutes)

Amendment to change Nov. meeting adjournment. Motion to accept agenda with amendment by Gloria, all in favor

3. Swearing of Oaths for new Members

Welcome to Kabir who is a 16 year Fort Sask resident, family of local business owners, and a realtor taking criminal justice at Lethbridge College. Welcome to Mardoche, a 7 year resident of Fort Sask, who works with BMO, is originally from Cameroon, and loves in Fort Sask with his family.

Both Sworn in by Sgt. Lee Hardman

4. 2021 Election and Appointments

a. Election of Chair

Nominations for Chair:

- 1st call: Steven nominated Stew
- Stew let his name stand
- 2nd and 3rd request
- Chair Stew Begg

Election of Vice Chair

- 1st call: Gloria nominated Heather Boonstra.
- Heather allows her name to stand.
- 2nd and 3rd request.
- Heather Boonstra is Vice Chair

b. Appointment of Public Complaints Director: Steven is appointed

c. Appointment of AAPG Representative: Gloria is appointed

5. RCMP Officer in Charge Report-S/Sgt. St. Pierre:

Stats Update: Overall this quarter same numbers for crime stats. Person's crimes have increased this quarter,

but that may also be because victims are more apt to report. 58% decrease in break and enters, 15% for theft of motor vehicles and Domestic Violence files are down 31%.

Staffing Update: 5 new members coming in. 2 new recruits from Depot, 3 new experienced members coming from B.C, St. Paul and Cold Lake.

Covid Update: We had the first 4 cases of Covid in our detachment. Everyone has recovered.

Catalytic Converter Update: New provincial group has started working on solutions to this problem.

Discussion: Are the catalytic converter thefts still happening, is there a plan for tracking the sales?

Yes, it is still an issue in Fort Sask. The converters are being sold all over, even outside of Alberta, so very difficult to track the sales.

6. General Manager Report- Heather Cowie:

Heather shared that she oversees the Community and Protective Services department, which consists of Recreation and Culture, Fire, FCSS and Emergency Management. The City is managing Covid the best they can, but Omicron has hit the staff harder than ever. Heather is concerned about some hate posters that have been posted on light poles around Fort Sask. The posters had Nazi symbols a message promoting a pro-white agenda. Cst. Mowbry went and took them down. S/Sgt. St. Pierre reports that the K Div. hate crimes coordinator was contacted, and fortunately there has only been one that was taken down. The RCMP are keeping an eye for more.

7. Director Report -Coreen Rayner

Coreen is the Director of Protective Services and has been involved with the policing committee of almost 20 years.

New inspector: We are in transition, and interviews will occurring in February, with a hopeful start date in March. Thanks to S/SGT St. Pierre for acting as Office in Charge until then.

AAPG Conference: St. Albert Conference coming up in April 29th. All committee members are invited.

Provincial Police Update: Many meetings and consultations are happening right now. Alberta Municipalities Association recently hosted a seminar. Coreen and Heather Boonstra attended and found it very helpful. It was a huge meeting with many people. Over 670 people including our City Councilors. Heather Cowie shared new knowledge that if this government makes this decision, no other incoming government can reverse the decision. Coreen reports that the general consensus was that a Provincial Police force would not solve the policing issues in Alberta. There will be a big financial implication, and municipalities will need to understand that. Gloria shared that the financial break out was overwhelming, and raised more questions about level 1 vs. level 2 officers. Coreen shared that there will be a provincial engagement session on Feb. 1st in Fort Sask. The RCMP Union (NPF) is also hosting an information session. Coreen will share all engagement opportunities coming up.

Discussion: Potential a new Alberta Police Force: It partly stems from the Fair Deal Report that suggested Alberta should take control of their own police force. There have been some criticism of how the RCMP deals with rural crime, and although the government can request more RCMP officers, they have not, and instead are looking at switching police forces. Coreen will continue to share with the committee information relevant to this topic.

Speed Limit Changes: Decrease in some residential areas to 40km/hr

Traffic Ticket Changes: Safe Roads Alberta is a new branch of Transportation Alberta. As of Feb 1st all traffic tickets will move to an online adjudication process, instead of going to court. To challenge your ticket you will need to pay \$50-\$150 to have your case adjudicated.

Staffing Update: 2 new positions coming to Protective Services, 1 Admin and 1 Municipal Enforcement Officer

Automated Traffic Enforcement: This will become a contracted service.

Discussion: Why the change in automated traffic enforcement? It was reported that no other municipalities own the cameras and equipment. The City would like to get away from the risk of owning the cameras (damage and up-keep). Our officers also do not have the capacity to send our officers to do mobile enforcement, primarily because we prioritize calls for service over mobile surveillance.

8. Municipal Enforcement Services (MES) Report- Sgt. Lee Hardman

- 101 calls for service in January so far
- 29 tickets issued in January so far
- MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) secured with the RCMP for modernization of our in car video to wirelessly download.
- Secured alternate to EHS (Edmonton Humane Society) for animal kennel services
- Staffing. Council approved a CVE (Commercial Vehicle Enforcement) /Traffic position for MES in 2022. We have posted this position internally closing tomorrow. Once this is filled we will be recruiting externally for a new member.
- Vehicles – 3 new vehicles ordered in December 2020. 2 are operational and one just arrived. Should be on the road in the next month.
- APIS JTI integration. Fitting vehicles with required cables to connect printers to online system APIS. Going live Feb 1
- ATE (Automated Traffic Enforcement) will be contracted in 2022
- Traffic Bylaw review underway, slated for committee of the whole in April
- Deployable speed sign arriving tomorrow. Will be used for speeding complaints.

Discussion: Are the speed signs calibrated? They are calibrated by satellite wirelessly.
Will there be a pathway speed limit bylaw? MES is working on introducing a micro mobility bylaw to help with that in the spring

9. New Business

- a. **Policing committee Shirts Inventory:** We currently have magnets, a large sign, and table cloth for community events. We also have Policing Committee business card if anyone would like.

ACTION: Lauren Update website with new committee members.

- b. **Policing Committee Annual Event Update:** Gloria suggests that we hold an open house, or a Sunset Ceremony. Gloria also shares that we could go and attend other community events to better engage with our community. S/Sgt St. Pierre reports that he is planning on hosting a virtual Town Hall in the community in March – which the Policing Committee could be involved with. Coreen also suggested that the Policing Committee could spearhead an engagement survey to see what concerns the community might have.

It is also time for us to begin the Policing Committee Award process. Gloria will chair this sub-committee with Steven and Mardoche.

- c. **AGM Attendance Update:** Gloria reports that there is an AGM for the Fort Black Society. Gloria will attend and report back. Gloria will also update the google drive with the members. Mardoche suggested that we should have a checklist of things to ask about at these meetings. Coreen asked what the goal of us going to the AGM? Gloria responded that it is our chance to learn about other groups, and report back to our committee about the group. Stewart suggested that maybe at the end of the meetings we can ask if there is anything our group can help with.
- d. **Chamber of Commerce Trade Show:** Stew and Steven are in favor, it has been a great opportunity for engagement and information sharing. Some concerns were raised regarding cost, the date, and the time commitment. Coreen suggests that we might need to choose either the Trade Show or the AAPG Conference because they are at the same time. Consensus that we do not attend this year.

10. **Council Update** n/a

11. **Public Complaints Director Report** n/a

12. **Strategic Plan Update:** We need a wholesome discuss about the plan for the next year.

ACTION: Lauren to Send out the plan to all members and add to February meeting

13. **Round Table:**

Mardoche: suggested that the committee starts engaging people through social media. There are many advantages to having social media. Coreen supports exploring this concept, but also advises that there are some logistics to consider in regards to the Facebook Page. We can also use the city Facebook page to help communicate. Heather and Gloria both agree that we could use the City's page to start.

ACTION: Coreen to consult the City further to share some of our committee's information

Gloria: Advises that there is a new grant and project that will address hate crimes in Fort Sask against LGBTQ2+ and minorities.

Coreen: A radio interview would be a great way to share the Policing Committee with the community

Stew: We should consider creating a PowerPoint that we can share with the community in AGM's or meetings.

Heather: Welcome new members!

Adjourned Meet at 7:00 by Stew Begg

14. In Camera Session

X 
Stewart D. Begg