

# A G E N D A

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2017 AT 4:00 PM  
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

### PRESENT:

#### A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Recognition of Traditional Territories.

*That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

#### B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Meeting held at 6:00 pm on December 19, 2017.

#### C. DELEGATIONS

1. **Alberni Valley Social Planning Council**

Mr. Ron Jorgenson, Alberni Valley Social Planning Council member, to speak to the formation of a Social Planning Commission to provide input to the City and Council regarding social issues in Port Alberni.

#### D. STAFF REPORTS

1. As background information, the report from the Director of Development Services dated February 1, 2016 regarding the creation of a City of Port Alberni Social Planning Commission.

#### E. PUBLIC INPUT

#### F. ADJOURNMENT

*That the meeting adjourn at      pm.*

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF  
COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017 AT 6:00 PM  
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Ruttan; Councillors Alemany, McLeman, Minions, Paulson, Sauvé and Washington

**A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*It was moved and seconded:*

***That the agenda be approved as circulated.***

CARRIED

**B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

*It was moved and seconded:*

***That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held at 3:30 pm on November, 2017, be adopted.***

CARRIED

**C. STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Strategy to Address Big City Problems in Port Alberni**

Continued discussion and review of the Chief Administrative Officer's report dated November 1, 2017 regarding a strategy to address the increase in crime and commercial property concerns.

Approximately 80 people attended the meeting. The Mayor advised that the purpose of the meeting was to hear from the community regarding issues of crime and potential solutions and invited speakers to address the Committee beginning with Inspector Brian Hunter.

**Inspector Hunter** commented as follows:

- Need to enhance safety and reduce crime rate
- Small percentage of criminals doing the majority of the crime. He noted there are hundreds of criminals and repeat offenders in the community but 26 are chronic offenders.
- Specifically addressed comments made by Councillor McLeman regarding police not doing their job noting that RCMP and Council need to work together as a team with the community
- members go from call to call to call prioritizing those calls and if not doing that, then they are working on files – many files not getting touched.

- Last week took down two major chronic offenders simultaneously in our community involving a dozen members – offenders were arrested and held over the weekend and on Monday morning they were released by Crown Counsel.
- Stated we are not going to arrest our way out of this
- Under resourced police department
- Stats just released for 2016 – Port Alberni highest per capita cost for policing for any community over 15,000 in the province
- Second most violent community based on crime severity index. Recalled one case with crime being stranger on stranger. People involved in the crimes know each other
- Want to move forward with ideas not criticism

### **Charlene Patterson**

- Lived here 8 years; run community space that is open to midnight
- This past summer experienced foot traffic that was scary
- Don't feel safe in my own home
- Affected my customers – people don't want to come out any more or park in parking lot
- We do have a problem and it's getting worse and worse
- Home broken into twice since September
- All of us need to be involved in the solution

### **Keith Ambrose**

- Noticed a great difference in last 6 months
- Walk the streets often at night; police doing the best they can
- Opened a market two years ago, haven't had any real problems in the market
- Not going to help ourselves by inviting the wrong people into Port Alberni to offer them services
- Big city people creating big city problems
- Addict on addict issues; not a problem just at street level; all kinds of people in all kinds of nice vehicles buy drugs
- Drug dealing brings more problem people to one spot
- Not scared of street; scared of the problem

### **Shaun Standley, Full of Beans café**

- Economic issue – economic development/small business is key to any community
- Need safety, security, prosperity
- Council has done some work to address issues but we have got to show force – make people feel insecure
- Need proactive action that is enforcement based

### **Jan Lavertu**

- In agreement re making life more uncomfortable (referenced CAO's report)
- Suggested hiring people (ambassadors) who walk around in yellow jackets providing information, answering questions, cleaning graffiti, picking up garbage, helping people – need to be visible
- Referenced City of Saskatoon who created bylaws to limit number of second-hand stores; foodbanks; shelters in one area
- Shoplifting a big problem – everyone affected city wide; people need to stop buying illegal goods

### **Jim del Rio**

- Commended police and commented on judicial problem in this town
- He noted there is no psychiatric care at hospital for those with drug and alcohol addictions
- Drug and alcohol problems don't exist between 8/4:30 – they are a problem after dark

### **Social Justice Grade 1 Students, ADSS**

- Port Alberni ranked #4 of dangerous places on the Island
- RCMP plays integral role – public safety is #1
- Asked whether Council would increase the RCMP budget to accommodate an additional police officer; the Mayor responded Council would consider but would also be looking at other options
- Suggestion re more Rec Centres for youth so they have stuff to do

### **Kevin Wright, Steam Punk Café**

- Commended local business owners
- Sees empty buildings as an opportunity not a detriment (Sprout program)
- Small business decaying and should be most likely way of encouraging employment
- Need to encourage small business programs
- Owners of empty buildings are able to use depreciation loss to their advantage
- Places like Nelson and Squamish have turned the corner
- Business people have great ideas

### **David Whitworth, Bread of Life**

- Not just a community kitchen they provide health services in the building
- Bread of Life is part of the solution – drugs, alcohol, homelessness are all issues – “cooklessness” also an issue. Many people don't have a place to cook meals
- Suggested Council could lead a coordination of services (not amalgamation)

- Discuss with Inspector using vacated thrift store space to relocate community policing office from the Harbour Quay where they are not visible
- Bylaw Enforcement should be proactive not reactive – consider expanding to weekends

### **Janine, Cloud City Owner**

- If we lose 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue things will go downhill fast
- There is one person on the block we would like to leave (aggressive panhandler)
- Suggested security cameras with footage live fed to RCMP would help
- Would like a resource/contact list provided to businesses
- Need for respectable affordable housing; need place for people not accepted by the Shelter – everyone needs a place to go

### **Rachel, Ocean Valley Ink**

- Businesses closing one by one
- Gets ticketed for parking in front of store – not safe at back
- People upstairs dealing drugs; landlord keeps adding more units
- Mental health issues
- Not safe in my space
- Community watch program for business owners.

### **Chris Washington, Flandangles**

- Multi-pronged issue
- Need to employ people
- Need strong bylaws/strong enforcement
- Issues are immediate for 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue business owners
- Looked at moving business to north Port – rent is 5x more
- Need both short-term and long-term approaches

### **Rebecca Standley, Full of Beans**

- RCMP professional and responsive
- Wanted to bring something to the uptown
- Until last month or two never felt unsafe
- Hanging on by their fingernails
- Referenced McLean's Magazine article on North Battleford, SK which has a lot of good ideas – a community that parallels Port Alberni

### **Gail Horvath, Port Posh Wash**

- Offenders not going to jail – someone needs to take this to the province; people need restitution
- Suggested installation of surveillance cameras at major intersections – perhaps funding for businesses to do that

**Ron Jorgenson, Alberni Valley Social Planning Council**

- Number of people in our community don't have a sense of belonging
- Food security and poverty implications
- Gradual degradation of community due to increasing expenses
- Need to take long-term view – Social Development Commission that becomes part of the City's operations – long-term coordinated solution
- Struggle with turf wars in community – need to move past trying to compete with each other;
- Need an umbrella organization to guide efforts of volunteers
- Provide a venue to bring forward recommendations to Council
- Potential to provide a lasting legacy that survives Councils.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

*It was moved and seconded:*

***That the meeting adjourn at 8:30 pm.***

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

*Dawne Hartwell*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



# CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

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## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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TO: Tim Pley, Acting City Manager

FROM: Scott Smith, City Planner  
Theresa Kingston, Director of Community Services

DATE: February 1, 2016

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**SUBJECT: Alberni Valley Social Planning Council**

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### **Issue**

To consider the creation of a City of Port Alberni Social Planning Commission.

### **Background**

City Council met with the Alberni Valley Social Planning Council (AVSPC) in March of 2015. The meeting was at the request of AVSPC to discuss the relationship between their organization and the City of Port Alberni. The AVSPC does not deliver services, but instead educates, coordinates, and raises awareness of social issues in the community. The Alberni Valley Social Planning Council will remain an independent group, but would like to see a means to provide City Council with relevant information, regarding local social planning issues, during the decision making process.

Council directed staff to meet with the Alberni Valley Social Planning Council to identify an appropriate mechanism for establishing a direct relationship, with the City of Port Alberni to provide input regarding social issues.

### **Discussion**

Many municipalities have a Social Planning Advisory Committee/Commission to provide advice to their City Council for planning and information on social issues. There are limited resources within the City's current organization to provide Council with advice on the variety of social issues facing many of our residents.

City Council receives information on social issues from a variety of sources. Island Health regularly reports to Council on the status of the local area. A Vital Signs report was recently published by the Alberni Valley Community Foundation, identified a number of social factors in the Alberni Valley. Council has directed the creation of the Seniors Housing Committee, based on a recommendation from the Senior Committee and a new plan to improve housing and end homelessness has just been completed. There are also several agencies working on and providing services on the various social issues in the community.

**Conclusion**

A bylaw to create a Social Planning Commission, similar to the City's Advisory Planning Commission would cover the mandate and objectives for a commission. A Social Planning Commission would be available for Council and staff to access their expertise respecting social issues for consideration during decision making.

**Recommendations**

That the report from the City Planner and Director of Community Services dated February 1, 2016 be received.

That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to prepare a draft bylaw that would support a Social Planning Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



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Scott Smith, MCIP  
City Planner

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Theresa Kingston  
Director of Community Services