



PUBLIC MINUTES

STREET ACTIVITY STEERING COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 11:04 a.m.
Committee Room E, City Hall**

PRESENT: Mr. B. Penner, Chair
Ms. V. Charles
Ms. S. Marchildon
Mr. R. Pshebylo
Senior Planner E. Miller, Planning & Development Division

ABSENT: Inspector R. Friesen

ALSO PRESENT: Community Support Program Supervisor L. Prefontaine
Committee Assistant J. Fast

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved By: R. Pshebylo

That the agenda be confirmed as presented.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By: R. Pshebylo

That the minutes of meeting of the Street Activity Steering Committee held on March 18, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REPORT (File No. CK. 225-74)

The Chair provided the following update:

- Further to the motion made at the March meeting of the Street Activity Steering Committee regarding a review of *Bylaw 7850, The Panhandling Bylaw*, attended the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services meeting on April 13, 2015 and presented a request to examine the current panhandling bylaw and street use bylaw to ensure they were adequate in light of the current context and that the Committee was willing to participate in that process. The matter was referred to Administration for a report with all committee members voting in favour of asking for a report back.
- Attended a meeting with Saskatoon Police on May 14 – others at the meeting included The Lighthouse, Midtown Plaza, Transit, City Centre BIDs, City of Saskatoon – the purpose was to continue the dialogue on community issues and the group wants to continue to work together on finding solutions and ensuring information is properly shared to allow the best possible response.
- The survey work being conducted by Inshtrix is continuing - hope to have a final report by June 19, 2015.

Moved By: S. Marchildon

That the information be received.

CARRIED

5. COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

5.1 Community Support Program Supervisor's Report (File No. CK. 5605-3)

The Committee Assistant submitted a revised report from the Supervisor, Community Support Program and noted that Community Support Program (CSP) staff attended a total of 276 calls and assisted a total of 399 individuals.

Community Support Program Supervisor Prefontaine reviewed her report for the reporting period March - April 2015 and the following was noted:

- This reporting period there was a 38% decrease in the number of calls to groups of two or more individuals. In January and February 69% of the calls

involved two or more people as compared to 31% in the months of March and April.

- Of the 399 individuals that were assisted, 243 (61%) of the calls for service were calls directly to the CSP office followed by 86 (22%) on view or patrol calls, 36 (9%) police dispatches and 31 (8%) were self-initiated.
- 288 (72%) of the individuals assisted this reporting period were cleared by the CSP with no additional assistance needed on scene.
- There were 111 individuals that required on scene or immediate referrals and there were 36 independent referrals recommended to individuals for their own follow-up.
- Of the 399 individuals, 52 (13%) required Police assistance. In March there were 33 calls to the Saskatoon Police Service for assistance versus 19 in April which can be attributed to the initiative taken by the CSP aimed at targeting groups of panhandlers; dealing with aggressive panhandlers; drinking in public; and harassment.
- A total of 288 business connections were made; many of these contacts included distribution of the window clings and there were numerous positive comments provided.
- With the change in the weather the hotspot areas identified by regular foot patrol duties as well as collaboration with the businesses in the 3 BIDs resulted in new and in some cases familiar areas of concern surfacing.

Community Support Program Supervisor Prefontaine answered questions put forward by the Committee.

Discussion followed and it was noted that the success of the program should not be based on the number of tickets issued, but rather the number of individuals assisted, intercepted or linked to the services they need is the true measurement of success of the program.

Moved By: V. Charles

That the information be received.

CARRIED

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved By: R. Pshebylo

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Mr. Brent Penner, Chair