



LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers
6:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Peter Deys, Chair
Simon Griffiths, Vice-Chair
Dawna Coslovi
Rachel Hopf
D. Jean Valgardson
Robert Van Spronsen
Jenn Ward (Recording Secretary)

Acting Chief Scott Woods
Inspector Jason Dobirstein
Inspector Russell Lawrence
A/Inspector Jason Walper
Sergeant Bruce Hagel
Kamran Ali
Kristen Harding

Regrets/Absent

Mayor Chris Spearman
Councillor Jeff Coffman
Victoria Chester

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by Chair Deys at 6:06 p.m.
- 2) Reconciliation Statement
 - Read by Chair Deys
- 3) Approval of Agenda
 - Addition to New Business: 8) c) LERB Report
 - **Motion by Dawna Coslovi, Seconded by Simon Griffiths that the agenda be approved as amended....Carried**
- 4) Approval of Minutes of June 26, 2019 Open Meeting
 - Addition: Pg. 2, 7.f. The letter was not shared in the Open meeting as it dealt with personnel issues.
 - **Motion by Simon Griffiths, Seconded by Rachel Hopf that the minutes be approved as amended....Carried**
- 5) Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2019 Open Meeting
 - **Motion by Dawna Coslovi, Seconded by Simon Griffiths that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**

- 6) Business Arising
 - None

- 7) Standing Items
 - a) Committee Reports
 - i. Finance Committee – Simon Griffiths
 - Report was circulated in agenda package
 - ii. Policy and Governance Committee – Robert Van Spronsen
 - Met since the last LPC meeting but nothing to report
 - iii. Website Committee – Dawna Coslovi
 - Substantially completed but having issues finding a company to do penetration testing. Need to ensure the website is secure before it goes live.
 - iv. Human Resources Committee – Dawna Coslovi
 - Continuing with the search for a new Chief. LPS employees – sworn and civilian – will be surveyed and have a chance to do a consultation with the executive search consultants.
 - A link has been set up on both the LPS website and City of Lethbridge website for members of the public who wish to have their opinions heard as to what should be looked for in the next Chief.

 - b) Information Unit Requests – Acting Chief Woods
 - Information distributed in agenda package
 - Question regarding if the Commission finds the report helpful. If information checks become a problem again the issue should be escalated to the Commission, but there is no value in it being reported out monthly.

 - c) Criminal Investigation Division Update – Acting Inspector Walper
 - September 2019 update of the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) distributed in agenda package

 - d) Calls for Service and Community Issues – Inspector Dobirstein
 - Information circulated in agenda package and summary provided
 - Commission inquired if there is a way to determine if crimes are directly related to the Supervised Consumption Site, would not be able to provide a clear statistical breakdown as we would have to follow from the point of crime to the drug transaction. There is a definite link between property crimes and drugs.
 - Commission inquired if the Supervised Consumption Site was gone would the crime rate go down, we would still have drug users in the community and a significant drug trade.

 - e) Monthly Compliments – Acting Chief Woods
 - June Compliments: 3 Citizen/External, 4 Internal
 - July Compliments: 3 Citizen/External, 2 Internal
 - August Compliments: 2 Citizen/External, 1 Community Partner, 2 Internal
 - Highlighted the following staff:
 - Compliment from August acknowledging the quick actions of our officers responding to a call where a male and female were causing a disturbance on the driveway of a local residence. Both subjects were believed to be under the influence of drugs and were acting irrationally.

- Compliment from July acknowledging Constable David Teerling and Constable Peter Wigand for their assistance in locating and returning a stolen bicycle.
 - f) LPA Communication – Chair Deys
 - Previously shared with the Commission.
 - The letter was not shared publicly as it dealt with personnel issues.
 - g) AAPG Report – Rachel Hopf
 - Two vacancies – Vice-Chair and Director – will remain vacant until the next AGM in January. The Vice-Chair position has been vacant since June.
 - The 2020 Annual AAPG Conference & AGM will be held in Brooks on April 24 and 25; registration should be opening the end of November.
 - AAPG all-member conference call is scheduled for October 21. Bill Sweeney, Deputy Minister of Alberta Justice, will be answering questions.
- 8) New Business
- a) Supervised Consumption Site Concentric ESZs – Acting Chief Woods
 - Information circulated in agenda package
 - Calls to the Supervised Consumption Site increased nearly 6,000% from March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2019. During its first year of operation, there were 424 calls for service, up from 7 the year before.
 - Top 5 calls include trespassing/unwanted persons, disturbance/nuisance, driving under the influence, supplemental, and drugs.
 - Calls for service have also increased in areas immediately surrounding the SCS.
 - Biggest increase in calls for service were regarding theft.
 - Questions/comments from Commission:
 - Clarification regarding what an ESZ is, Emergency Service Zone designed by City Planners for a certain geographical area.
 - Commission inquired if the increase in calls for service to the SCS has been detrimental to other areas of the city as far as the number of cops available, in some aspects, yes, it affects response times in other areas of the city.
 - Commission inquired if these numbers could be revisited in a year to see how the addition of The Watch affects calls for service in this area, would be done with the evaluation of The Watch and Community Peace Officer programs.
 - Chair Deys thanked Acting Chief Woods for his presentation.
 - b) CAPG acknowledgment of conference sponsorship – Chair Deys
 - CAPG letter of acknowledgment of conference sponsorship circulated in agenda package.
 - c) LERB Report – Robert Van Spronsen
 - 2018 Annual Report – 44 appeals in Alberta, only one in Lethbridge. That appeal upheld the disposition of the Chief.
- 9) Council Updates
- Nothing to discuss.
- 10) Inquiries by the Police Commission
- None

11) Inquiries by the Public

- Nathan Sherwood, a Grade 9 student, had his bicycle stolen four times. He discussed his experiences with Mayor Spearman and was invited to bring his ideas to the Police Commission. Nathan presented the following ideas:
 - Encouraging people to take their bike seats with them, easy to see that a bike is stolen
 - Placing special markings on bicycles that can only be seen in ultra violet light
 - Using the Bike Index website where people can report their bike as stolen. When this is done, a notification is immediately sent to pawn shops and police agencies.
 - Posting photos of recovered bicycles on the LPS Facebook page since it is difficult to see them in the bike cage at the Police Service.
 - Providing the option of shared electronic scooters and public bicycles
- Acting Chief Woods said the LPS is moving forward on a bike registry for the new website. Will look into the viability of ultra violet markings and provide an update at a future meeting
- Mayor Spearman and Councillor Coffman to present to City Council the idea of making shared electronic scooters and public bicycles available for residents.
- Chair Deys thanked Nathan for his presentation.

12) Meeting Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.



Peter Deys, Chair



Jenn Ward, Recording Secretary