



The Strathcona Community Council
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SCC Executive Meeting: Monday, January 21, 2019

Location: Erskine Presbyterian Church

Attendees:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Jason Morse | SCC, Vice President | Chair |
| Dominic Sorbara | SCC, executive member at large | |
| Thomas Bernacki | SCC, Secretary | |
| Rosemary Baptista | SCC, executive member at large | |
| Terry MacDougall | SCC, executive member at large | |
| Roy Raghavan | SCC, executive member at large | |
| Chris White | SCC, Treasurer | |

Guests:

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Maureen Wilson | Councillor, Ward 1 | |
| Stephanie Hilson | Community Engagement & Strategic Initiatives Advisor, Ward 1 | |
| Sgt. Dave Brewster | Hamilton Police Services | |
| Wayne MacPhail | Strathcona resident | |
| Barbara Ledger | Strathcona resident | |

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM.

Last month's minutes

Will be automatically approved next week after two weeks of review and edits by executive, via email.

Changes/Additional items to be added to agenda:

Move Sgt. Dave Brewster up in the agenda.

Item 1: Introductions

Attendees introduce themselves and their respective roles.

Item 3: Updates from Sgt. Brewster

In the past there were four crime managers – now there are three and work has been divided between them. Dave was previously in the HEAT unit, now plain clothes unit. Works varied schedule, days and nights, sometimes weekends. HEAT unit would target major centres of crime, e.g. crack houses, which would generate considerable peripheral crime.

He is available to meet monthly, as well as at other SCC events such as AGM and crime info nights, subject to being able to work it into his schedule.

Work downtown for 6 years, BEAR unit (B&E).

Question re: safe injection site. He responded that the location is too new to comment on its impact.

Question re: tent city. He doesn't specifically work in the area. General discussion re: homeless need places to go, on church property, limited ability for police to get involved.

Sgt. Brewster summarizes crime stats for December through January 14:

- 0 robberies
- 5 B&E – back window, side windows, jewelry taken.
- 1 business B&E – rock thrown through window
- Mischief to auto – 4 smashed windows, reports lack further details (e.g. on street or in driveway, etc.). Reminder to residents to specify details in reporting.
- 1 tire slashed, wiper broken, plus 1 incident of rude writing in snow on car
- 1 truck stolen
- Graffiti – 1 report.

General discussion re: reporting graffiti. City bylaw reporting web page for graffiti; Sgt. Brewster says to also report to police for graffiti on public property (on private property it is the business of property owner to do so).

Dominic: discussion re: incidents of “checking doors” on cars – please report to police. Incidents of stolen plates subsequently used in crime.

Rosemary: senior victimized at Queen and Napier, re: con artist.

Sgt. Brewster: Police group is working on it.

Rosemary: can Police do outreach in this respect?

ACTION: Sgt. Brewster: will look into it and report back.

Sgt. Brewster emphasizes reporting individuals spotted “checking doors”. Please report – they recently caught someone after such a report, and thefts from cars stopped.

Item 2/4: Councillor's Office Updates & King/Queen construction update

Maureen: Re: Queen/King developments. Planner (Shannon Mackie) cannot be here. We would like to be able to bring specific questions back to the planner. Could prepare an agenda for the next meeting where she might be able to join and provide answers.

Councillor suggests discussion of opportunities for residential engagement in the development process.

Wayne explains his interest: trees were cut down all of a sudden. Traffic concerns – already difficult to cross Queen. Area is heavily used by pedestrians. Wind study was described – did it happen? What were the results? Wants to get a sense that the developer is listening, because residents are talking and have questions/feedback. Would appreciate a meeting with the developer.

Maureen: City meeting with the developer. Expectation is that within 2-3 weeks they will have a meeting with him.

Tom: could you ask about meeting with community with developer? We understand he might not want to – perhaps he agrees to a community meeting, perhaps not.

Councillor: even if he doesn't meet with community, a meeting can be held to help residents understand process, capacity building, sharing concerns with neighbours, understanding where the formal entry points for consultation are.

Discussion re: driving and parking.

Terry: requested to know if they modeled what the impact of the development would be on EMS response times.

Maureen: they had not.

Discussion re: meeting with developer. In 2-3 weeks the councillor/City staff will have met with the developer and will be able to say whether or not he is willing to meet with the community.

ACTION: Councillor's office will be in touch with us. We'll decide at that stage how to proceed. General agreement.

Other updates from Councillor:

Invitation to all 4 community councils to share experiences, best practices, etc. Invitation, not prescriptive. Meeting on the 28th – several SCC executive members said they'd be going.

2 special meetings happened: re: cannabis. Council opted-in. Hamilton has highest number of dispensaries in province. Maureen voted in favour. By opting in funding will be received, which will help offset legal, policing, etc., costs. If we opted out we would still have those costs. Amounts to province totaling >\$100M will be shared with municipalities in coming years.

Terry: discussion re: prices for cannabis.

Councillor: Municipality does not have jurisdiction over pricing.

Councillor: delegations forthcoming re: operating budget. 5 minutes can be provided on budget. February 11 at 3:00 pm reserved solely for delegations. Deadline is Friday February 8 to request. All budget material made available at Locke and Westdale libraries.

Tom: Are four cannabis stores coming to Hamilton?

City can't confirm details of locations, 4 is the number for wider area than just Hamilton. No timeline besides April 1 for date of private sales starting. Talks with police, etc., ongoing. City still talking with province.

Terry: can issue of cost be brought up with province? Re: affordability for medical users.

Councillor: outside of municipal jurisdiction.

Dominic: any info on the dispensary being shut down and locked up?

Councillor: Police can shut down. Courts issue peace bond. Place makes \$85k/day, pay the peace bond and be back up and running. Now police can put locks on doors – costs go up for being caught. Police have better authority to enforce, however, police assume liability for building. Enforcement cost will always be there whether or not you opt in.

Item 5: AGM Debrief

General discussion of AGM. Well done. Extra 30 minutes to consider using for additional event/speaker for next year. Will raise again for next AGM planning in fall.

Item 6: 2019 events

Many events could conceivably happen in first half of 2019, will be very busy:

1. Community meeting re: King and Queen developments (possible)
2. Public health meeting re: homelessness (possible)
3. Easter Egg hunt (happening on April 20, Saturday before Easter)
4. Team up to clean up (happening, usually in April, date to be decided)
5. LRT impacts on Dundurn/York traffic flow, bike lanes and pedestrian crossings (possible)

Next month we need to discuss insurance for events and detailed event planning.

ACTION: Jason will raise the potential of co-hosting the homelessness meeting with other neighbourhood associations at meeting on January 28. Will report back.

Other items to be discussed

None.

Next meeting:

Next executive meeting February, third Monday: February 18, 2019

Meeting adjourned 9:10 PM