

Transit Police Chief's Community Council Meeting  
April 25, 2017  
Sapperton, Room 427  
287 Nelson's Court, New Westminster, BC

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**Attendees:**

Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair	Chief Officer Doug LePard
Barbara Spitz (for Wanda Mulholland)	Deputy Chief Officer Ed Eviston
Dave MacDonald	Lance Talbott
Diane Gillis	Pat Koch
George Hill ( <i>arrived at 5:07 p.m.</i> )	Taryn Barton
Heather Cowie	
Lianne Ritch	
Jane Dyson	
Kimberly Wood	
Rick Parent	
Sherman Chan	
Tyler Lee	

**Guests:** Trevor Leyenhorst (ASL Interpreter), David Pereira (BCIT)

**Regrets:** Anne Peterson, Wanda Mulholland

**1. Call Meeting to Order, Introductions and Welcome - Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. The record notes that prior to the call to order, the Chair shared a recent example of a successful collaboration resulting in the return of stolen bikes. TPCCC members were encouraged to register their bikes with the 529 Garage app.

**2. Review – Chair**

- **Approval of January 31, 2017 Minutes:** Moved and Seconded – All in favour: Minutes Approved.
- **Additions to the agenda/timekeeper:**
  - There was a request to reorder the Agenda so the Roundtable would follow Item 4.
  - It was Moved and Seconded to adopt the agenda as amended – All in favour: Agenda Approved, as amended.

Members went around the table and introduced themselves.

**3. Chief's Update and Q&A – Chief LePard**

Chief LePard provided a PowerPoint presentation on some of the recent key activities happening at Transit Police (TP) around safety on the system.

**\*5:07 p.m. George Hill arrived**

The presentation included:

- The integral role of the Neighbourhood Police Teams.
- Evergreen Line and the opportunity it has provided for partnerships with Coquitlam RCMP and Port Moody Police.
- Vulnerable people on transit – close working relationships with health service agencies; leadership education and awareness role; external recognition for work being done.
- Opioid crisis – all front line officers are equipped with the Naloxone first responder kit which has been successfully administered multiple times.
- Sexual offending – continue to encourage reporting, outlined behavior to be aware of.
- Partnership with TransLink/TP to address a gap in legislation that has led to changes to the Greater Vancouver Transit Conduct and Safety Regulations.
- Fare Gates – benefits to TP over the first year.
- Leveraging technology and the SceneDoc Pilot Project which includes a digital notebook and allows for real time information sharing.
- Crime against person and against property going down.
- Forgotten officer who died in the line of duty in 1915 was uncovered by a TP Officer and recently recognized in a ceremony.

The presentation concluded with a video that was created by [CBC – Keeping Canada Safe](#) and featured the Metro Vancouver Transit Police. It was noted that captions would be beneficial for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

#### **4. Election of Co-Chair – Karen Reid-Sidhu**

There was a call for nominations for Co-Chair and the responsibilities of the position were outlined. Rick Parent was nominated and accepted the nomination. The TPCCC was in favour and Rick Parent will be Co-Chair for the 2017-2018 term.

#### **5. Roundtable**

The TPCCC members were asked to share high level items occurring with their communities.

- **Heather:** walk for Alzheimer's on May 7<sup>th</sup>
- **Barbara:** Coldest Night of the Year was February 25<sup>th</sup>. Homeless count in Metro Vancouver has been completed.
- **Sherman:** MOSAIC is moving into a new space and is very close to the Joyce/Collingwood transit station.
- **Lianne:** Sexual Assault Team is made up of doctors and nurses and provides care out of Vancouver General Hospital. It is available as a 24 hour on call service. Also provides urgent care at UBC from 8 am – 10 pm.

- **Diane:** annual KINA community clean-up is on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Transit Police Neighbourhood Policing Officer (NPO) Constable Biggs will be in attendance. Also working on getting more people to report suspicious activity through the call-line.
- **David:** Looks forward to participating on the TPCCC.
- **Dave:** Recently held a business breakfast to recognize supporters, including Transit Police NPO Constable Bruce Shipley. Funding received has been very encouraging to provide safe homes in Richmond.
- **Rick:** Thanked the Chief for presenting to his class. Also scheduled to present in the fall.
- **Kimberly:** Outlined a recent traumatic event experienced by a member of her community when transferring from the Surrey Skytrain to the bus loop at Surrey Central.
- **Jane:** Will provide comments during next agenda item/presentation.
- **Tyler:** IRAYL approved 2 more workers increasing the team from 4 to 6. Have also been approved for summer students, expanding to Coquitlam.
- **Karen:** Holding the annual symposium for volunteers and expecting 250 people. TP NPO Constable Woolley is presenting. Recruiters from all agencies will be coming out.
- **George:** Provincial government has mandated all universities to develop a sexual assault policy. Students at UBC are using 'safewalk' more to get to transit; the new bus loop is well lit, has CCTV monitors and feels like a safe environment.

Following the Roundtable there was some discussion about self-defense training and safety for women. TPS is involved in the Vancouver Police Department's annual Safety for Women Conference. It was decided to table further discussion on this topic to another meeting.

## 6. Presentation: Disability Alliance of BC – Jane Dyson

The Disability Alliance of BC (DABC) just celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was founded in 1977 by people with disabilities. The legacy continues and is employed by staff and board members with disabilities. A large portion of the work is about poverty reduction. DABC helps approximately 1000 people each year access income assistance and disability benefits. As part of their financial literacy work, DABC works in partnership to get people to open a registered disability savings plan.

Jane outlined funding and advised of other work the DABC does including helping victims of crime go through the justice system and emergency preparedness. The DABC puts out a quarterly magazine. Metro Vancouver Transit Police wrote an article for the upcoming edition. (Copies of the current edition provided on table.)

The DABC works collaboratively with the government to change policies that govern disability benefits. They also work closely with TransLink in regards to Handy Dart and have seen great improvements, as well as finding a solution for those who cannot tap their Compass Card.

Jane spoke about a recent forum in regards to bringing in a guaranteed basic income. There is a project being piloted in Ontario as modelled after a paper from head of Massey College at University

of Toronto and former cabinet minister, Hugh Segal. It is a goal to have this implemented when the new government is formed.

**\*6:15 p.m.      *Barbara exited the meeting.***

Jane answered questions and closed her presentation noting that there needs to be more of a focus on employers to encourage the employment of people with disabilities.

#### **7. Transit Police at Community Events – Karen Reid-Sidhu**

This item was covered during the Roundtable. TPCCC members were encouraged to email Taryn if they are aware of any events or communication opportunities in their communities for Transit Police to be involved in.

#### **8. Membership – Karen Reid-Sidhu**

The TPCCC was asked to consider what communities are not yet represented around the table and the following were noted:

- LGBTQ Community: Karen suggested Alex Sangha of Sher Vancouver. The TPCCC was in support of having Karen reach out to him.
- Youth: should be between the ages of 18-25 and involved in their community.
- Transit Driver: there was one in the past, but there could be potential labour relations barriers.

#### **9. Piggybacking at Fare Gates – Chief**

Chief LePard provided an update on questions and concerns raised at the last meeting:

- Concerns raised around Commercial/Broadway and to increase monitoring at ground level has been brought forward to the Skytrain Attendants.
- Tapping on the middle of busses was outlined.
- Piloting of technology to assist those who cannot tap is in progress and results will be shared when available.

#### **10. Roundtable/Closing Comments**

Metro Vancouver Transit Police will be co-hosting a two-day conference May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> on Policing Urban Transit Systems. Topics will include sexual offending on transit, terrorism and responses to vulnerable people suffering mental illness. Further details can be found on the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police website.

**11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 1700 hours, Room 427, Transit Police Building, 287 Nelsons Court, New Westminster, BC.

**12. Closure**

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:27 pm.

Certified Correct:

*Original Signed Minutes on File*

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Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair

*Original Signed Minutes on File*

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Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary