Community Safety Committee
Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, April 29, 2008
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Civic Auditorium Complex, Bobby Orr Lounge

Present: Committee Members
Mayor John Gray, Acting Chairperson
Councillor Louise Parkes
Councillor Robert Lutczyk
Cathy Coxhead, Downtown Oshawa Board of Management
Larry Jacula, Durham District School Board
Suzanne Roche, Durham Catholic District School Board
Paul Harris, South Oshawa Teen Council
Dave Wilson, Durham Region Police Service

Staff Advisors
Helen Break, City Manager’s Office
Kevin Feagan, Corporate Services
Noel Hutchinson, Community Services
Bruce Kovack, Durham Region Police Service

Guests
Robert Alan, OSCC (for John Vestors)
Jennifer Laffier, UOIT (for Jim Greenlaw)
Christiane Sadeler, Region of Waterloo

Regrets:
Gary Pitcher, UOIT/DC
Jim Greenlaw, UOIT
John Vestors, Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres
Cris Douglas, Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce
Valerie Field, Development Services
Craig Kelly, Community Services
## Discussion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Approval of Minutes</th>
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<td>Minutes of March 19th were not approved.</td>
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<th>Follow-up</th>
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<td>To be approved  May 27/08</td>
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<th>2. Waterloo Region, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Council</th>
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<td>Christiane Sadeler, Executive Director of the Waterloo Region, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Council gave a powerpoint presentation to the Committee covering the history of the Council, its growth, partners, membership, governance model, key success factors, projects, budget, staffing, etc.</td>
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| Helen to circulate a copy of the powerpoint presentation. |

Christiane noted that there is no cookie cutter projects/processes that can be passed from one community to the next – each community is different and Oshawa needs to customize its projects to fit its community needs.

The history of the establishment of the Waterloo CSCP Council was overviewed. All CSCP Council members were asked to express their interests. Nine common areas were identified, followed by public consultation, which resulted in the creation of their first action plan. Christitane also noted that it took 5-6 years for the Council to develop a set of common values – an on-going process as membership changes. A team building exercise is held annually.

The first project was “Project Safe and Sound”. The Council identified 4 neighbourhoods to be targeted based on a number of criteria e.g. number of police calls, number of drop-outs, etc. However, the Council also advertised for any neighbourhood to identify if they would like to work with the Council on crime and disorder issues in their area. Nine neighbourhoods applied, including the 4 identified by the Council. This process ensured a grass-roots approach and not a top-down process.

The CSCP Council has three roles: public education; focused problem solving; and partnership building. Christiane stressed the importance of the third role.

The CSCP Council is served by 6 staff and has an annual budget of $480,000, serving a population of 450,000 over 7 municipalities (3 urban and 4 rural). The budget is the equivalent of $2 per household. Christiane noted that the Council leverages significant in-kind contributions, in effect doubling the budget by the end of the year. The Council was formed and the Executive Director position created afterwards.

The CSCP membership includes the media but not the newsroom, instead a marketing representative. Council members were executive level. Christiane noted that Waterloo Region staff were members not just advisors.
Christiane covered effective prevention approaches and key success factors in her powerpoint presentation, as well as a governance model. The CSCP Council reports directly to Regional Council. Decisions are made by consensus unless a vote is desired to support a priority or sensitive issue or Council asks for a vote. Three standing committees are in place, co-chaired by a Council member and a community member. All subcommittees terms of reference are approved by the CSCP Council. More than 100 people are involved in the program overall.

Christiane noted Jim Diers, a speaker on building neighbourhoods is coming to Waterloo, which may be of interest to Oshawa. Dates and times will be provided.

Examples were given of community surveys completed. Examples of public education pieces were provided to the Committee members. Christiane noted that data drove the Council priorities and not vice versa. An emphasis is placed on evidence-based research/projects. The key is to have a comprehensive, concerted effort and not to take an ad hoc approach to projects.

Christiane noted that small education projects like the "Say Hi" campaign worked well, which brought together seniors and youth. What does not work is to tell the community that their perceptions are wrong.

Christiane will endeavour to provide information on the percent of businesses in Kitchener's downtown that are social services.

Mayor Gray thanked Christiane for her thought-provoking presentation and presented her with a small token of the City's appreciation.

3. **Comment on Two Circulated Reports**

Helen referred the Committee members to two reports handed out at the first meeting, entitled Primer on Municipal Crime Prevention, and the Key to Safer Municipalities. The Primer on Municipal Crime Prevention speaks to the value of municipal crime prevention council's e.g. they provide leadership; coordinate activities; ensure the early recognition of crime and disorder problems; seek out best practices; provide training; ensure crime prevention programs are available to vulnerable groups; ensure sustainability of programs; and ensure accountability.

The document overviews: the European experience; steps to organizing a community safety council or committee; steps to plan crime prevention programs; and crime prevention strategies.

The second document, The Key to Safer Municipalities, is a practical tool kit that provides examples and addresses why communities should take action, how to do it, who should take action and what can be done. Helen encouraged all Committee members to read through the two reports for background information.
**Discussion**

**4. Introduction of Items**

Helen introduced the need for information sharing among Committee members. The goal is to share information about what each member is doing regarding community safety and what their areas of interest are. The objective is to have members do presentations at upcoming meetings.

Jennifer Lafler of UOIT agreed to a presentation for the May meeting on graffiti and hot spots/issues for the College/University.

Dave Wilson agreed that DRPS will do a presentation on their projects/interest areas at the June meeting.

The second item introduced were three referrals to the Committee from the Council meeting of January 28/08.

Referral #1: DRPS - Project Clean Sweep. This item comes from the Strategic Initiatives Committee and was referred to the Community Safety Committee for consultation with DRPS on Project Clean Sweep and its permanent establishment.

Referral #2: Community Policing Centre for North Oshawa. This item comes from the Audit, Budget and Corporate Services Committee. The Community Safety Committee is being asked to provide comment on the need for community policing centre in north Oshawa.

Referral #3: First Step Methadone Clinic. This item comes from a motion made at Council that asks the Community Safety Committee to review the Council motion regarding the development of tools to allow municipalities to regulate clinic locations and forward any relevant information or comment to City staff for inclusion in a briefing note to the Province.

Helen noted that these referrals will be placed on future Committee agendas.

**5. Review of Terms of Reference**

Helen reminded the Committee members that the Committee terms of reference need to be reviewed, ratified by them and returned to Council. It may take two to three meetings to complete the review. Discussion followed on the proposed mission statement, mandate and objectives.

**Proposed Mission Statement:** To work with the community to build a safe Oshawa, free from crime, where residents, employees, students and visitors are proud to live, work, learn and play.
The Committee brainstormed on the wording in the mission statement. The following suggestions were made:

- delete “free from crime”
- statement should be a positive statement that addresses what it means to be safe
- statement should create an atmosphere of belonging and security
- refer to mobilizing the community and building a safe Oshawa
- replace “students” with “youth”
- replace “residents, employees, students and visitors” with “everyone”
- replace “proud” with “free”

**Revised Mission Statement:** To work with and mobilize the community to build a safe Oshawa where everyone is free to live, work, learn and play.

**Proposed Mandate:** The Committee shall:

- Facilitate discussion, education and co-operation on community safety issues and the root causes of crime among concerned individuals, agencies, governments and community/neighbourhood groups;
- Coordinate and facilitate partnership development;
- Seek out best practices;
- Seek out funding support; and
- Educate and provide information to the public on community safety issues.

The Committee offered the following comments. The Committee should:

- find solutions – focus on problem-solving;
- reach out to partners – build strategic partnerships;
- motivate and encourage the community to take action;
- educate;
- facilitate implementation of identified solutions;
- engage the public - two-way flow; and
- take a comprehensive/intensive approach.
Discussion

Revised Mandate:

- Engage the community (individuals, community/neighbourhood groups and agencies) in a discussion of community safety issues and the root causes of crime;
- Educate the public on community safety issues;
- Build strategic partnerships;
- Seek out and implement best practices;
- Problem solve, motivate and encourage the community to take action;
- Seek out funding support; and
- Facilitate comprehensive implementation of identified solutions.

Committee to comment on revised mandate statement.

Proposed Objectives (10): The Committee shall:

- Advise and assist Council and the community on the root causes of crime (economic factors/poverty; social environment; and family structure);
- Investigate best practices in crime prevention;
- Work cooperatively with key partners on crime prevention strategies;
- Provide a liaison/forum between the City and the local community and key stakeholders on community safety issues;
- Identify and respond to the variance between community perceptions of safety and crime levels and reality;
- Promote community safety through public education initiatives and projects;
- Investigate potential funding sources from both the private and public sectors;
- Assist the City in ensuring its facilities are safe;
- Submit to Council an annual report that includes a performance report for the previous year and a business/work plan and budget for the upcoming year; and
- Liaise with other municipal community safety committees, across Ontario, Canada and internationally, to share ideas, stay informed of current issues and seek out best practices of crime prevention.

The Committee offered the following comments. The Committee should:

- consider environmental design as a root cause of crime;
- work cooperatively on the development, implementation and monitoring of crime prevention strategies;
- promote socially responsible citizens;
- build partnerships with Durham College/UOIT – use as a resource;
- address perceptions versus reality;
- get public to develop and buy into projects and initiatives of the Committee;
- assess risk factors;
- develop a strategic management plan (?) and
- complete an annual report, including a debriefing of the year's activities, and a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis.
### Discussion

**Revised Objectives (8):**

- Identify, with input from the community, the risk factors and the root causes of crime (economic factors/poverty; social environment; family structure; and environmental design);
- Work cooperatively with key partners on the development, implementation and monitoring of crime prevention strategies;
- Build a crime prevention/education partnership with Durham College/UOIT;
- Promote socially responsible citizens through public education initiatives and projects;
- Identify and respond to the variance between community perceptions of safety and crime levels and reality;
- Investigate potential funding sources from both the private and public sectors;
- Assist the City, as required, in ensuring its facilities are safe; and
- Submit to Council an annual report that includes a performance report for the previous year, a SWOT analysis, and a business/work plan and budget for the upcoming year.

Helen noted it was 9 p.m. The review of the terms of reference will be placed on upcoming agendas, as permitted.

### 6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 27th at 6:30 p.m.** at the **South Oshawa Community Centre, Meeting Room 1, 1455 Cedar Street.** Agenda to follow.

Please also book the following meeting in your calendar:

Tuesday, June 24th at the Civic Auditorium Complex, Bobby Orr Lounge.