



Corporation of the City of North Vancouver  
**Community Safety Advisory Committee**

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## MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at City Hall in Conference Room A,  
141 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver, BC on February 6, 2025

*The City of North Vancouver respectfully acknowledges that this meeting is held on the traditional and unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlíl̓wətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.*

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### **Members Present**

Cllr. Holly Back (Chair)  
Cllr. Shervin Shariari (Vice Chair)  
Evan Damkjar  
Nicholas De Lucrezia  
Brian Fixter  
Olga Kens  
Ann McAlister  
Gursimran Gill (Squamish Nation Commissioner,  
Public Safety)  
Andrew van Eden (Tsleil-Waututh Nation  
Community Safety Manager)  
Chief Greg Schalk (Public Safety Director and Fire  
Chief)

### **Absent**

Insp. Matthew Turner (RCMP)

### **Staff Present**

Tanis Huckell, Administrative  
Coordinator I  
Eleanor Parrott, Committee Clerk –  
Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

## **1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

1.1 The Agenda for February 6, 2025 was adopted as circulated.

## **2. INTRODUCTIONS**

2.1 Members introduced themselves, and provided an overview of their background, experience and reasoning for joining the committee.

## **3. WELCOME ORIENTATION**

3.1 The Public Safety Director and Fire Chief presented the welcome orientation:

- This is the inaugural meeting of the committee.

- In 2021, the City began the process of consolidating public safety under one umbrella in order to move away from individual teams working independently. Elements of public safety are encountered across departments including people and culture where a trauma informed approach to customer service is being adopted. Safety needs are also incorporated into public spaces such as parks.
- The Public Safety Committee includes representatives from different departments and discussion led to departments recognising the need for community representatives to help align public safety with community needs.
- Best practice has been adopted from other Municipalities.
- Members are encouraged to provide input and ideas to shape the evolution and key focus of this committee.
- There are a range of key public safety supporting organisations active on the North Shore addressing different aspects of safety in the community. The City also collaborates with the North Shore Municipalities, the Squamish Nation and the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to support each other with safety issues.

### 3.2 Members presented the following notable questions and comments:

#### *Community Safety Strategy*

- What was the Public Safety Committee's vision for this committee? **A:** To provide an overview of the community's priorities, needs and opinions. The committee can also inform the Community Safety Strategy and provide opportunity for public engagement.
- Will other community engagement be included in the strategy development? **A:** Yes community engagement will be critical. Engagement will be led by the Communications department.
- The development of the Community Safety Strategy will likely be a top down initiative, but committee agendas can be driven by members, or organisations that attend to present on public safety issues.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) is currently open for a consultant to lead the Strategy development. The Strategy will provide a big picture, 10-year plan.
- Will the consultant lead on generating the data content and language of the Community Safety Strategy? **A:** The committee will be included in the engagement process, provide input and help to shape the development of the plan. Yes, this committee can provide input rather than driving its development.
- The consultant may take a different focus to that of the committee. Will the consultant present an overview of the outline strategy direction to a future meeting? **A:** Yes, after the RFP has closed and the consultant has been appointed. The consultant's work will be feedback driven.
- The Community Safety Strategy should align with other strategies, such as the Environment Strategy which relates to climate safety and the Mobility Strategy which relates to safety when travelling on the City's streets and roads.

#### *Safety-related City strategies*

- Initially, the City's Wellbeing Strategy intended to cover community safety but the development process highlighted that both aspects could not be encompassed by one strategy.
- The Social Planning Advisory Committee reviewed the Wellbeing Strategy which covers how the community feels well and how they access wellbeing needs. Feeling safe should be the minimum level and the foundation on which wellbeing is built.

- The 2022-26 Council Strategic Plan outlines the aim to become the healthiest small city in the world, and the five key priority areas shaping the work to realise this vision are the creation of a City for people, a resilient City, a connected City, a prosperous City, and a vibrant City. Some examples of actions being taken in line with these priorities are the City's work to provide safe transport, equitable access to health and wellbeing services and creating a sense of place.
- Existing strategies should be reviewed to avoid duplication in the Community Safety Strategy.
- Public engagement carried out to develop other City strategies may have collected feedback on safety concerns. Could previous engagement be analysed and themes identified? **A:** Staff can summarise themes and gaps from previous engagement and present to the next meeting.

### *Safety-related organisations*

- It is beneficial to think about how the City can support other community safety organisations, in addition to how they support the City.
- Different organisations have different safety concerns and it would be helpful to understand what safety means to these groups.
- The perspective of those experiencing homelessness should be incorporated into the community. Non-profit organisations such as Lookout, North Shore Neighbourhood House and food bank operators could provide input. In addition, Hollyburn Community Services Society and the Foundry could provide an overview of the youth homelessness perspective.
- Different groups face different safety issues that impact the actions they take. For example, many women do not feel comfortable using homeless shelters.
- The Business Improvement Association could provide an overview of actions being taken to implement safer building designs. WorkSafe BC could also provide input.
- Teachers could be invited to share their classroom experiences.
- The Squamish Nation Public Safety Report focused on the feeling of safety and was developed holistically. The focus began on home life, was expanded to the community and then to the land. Learning from the history of people living on the land was used to inform the strategy which covers physical safety, wellbeing and housing.

### *Subjective safety concerns*

- Perception is a factor in safety levels. Some situations are considered safe by some, and dangerous by others due to individuals' lived experience.
- Some City policies may appear contradictory to those with certain safety concerns. For example, some residents view bus stations as unsafe and therefore view the drive to increase public transit usage to be unaligned with the drive to create a safe community.
- People internalise fears which impacts their view of safety and the actions they take, even if the situation is objectively safe. An actual reduction in crime does not always correlate to greater feelings of safety. **A:** The Fire Department focuses on response and prevention but there is value in education and strategies should also consider how best to increase awareness.
- A survey would enable residents to easily share subjective opinions and stories that shape their views on safety. Incidents that might shape someone's feeling of safety could happen at any time so an open-ended way for residents to communicate their

perspectives would enable continuous monitoring of safety perceptions. It would be beneficial to collect responses into themes for easier analysis.

- The existing City Fix App may address the need for an open-ended means of submitting feedback. Residents use the app to report unsafe aspects of street infrastructure such as protruding tree roots, cleanliness issues and maintenance.
- Downtown Vancouver recently implemented a new app for reporting cleanliness issues. Users can upload photos, pin locations and write descriptions. There are some concerns that the photo function may lead to safety issues by increasing tension in confrontational situations.

#### *Objective data*

- Objective safety statistics would help members to understand the impact of existing measures and provide a benchmark. They would also highlight the impact of subjective views. **A:** Many organisations already collect safety data and staff can aggregate statistics from sources such as the Fire Department and RCMP.

#### *Other*

- Safety should be considered at the beginning of land use planning stages in order to positively influence the safety outcome of developments.
- The pedestrian-first approach on Grand Boulevard is positive and the lights make walking in this area at night safe and pleasant.
- A greater understanding of the causes of unsafe behaviour and designated places for people to carry out unsafe behaviour such as drug use, whilst limiting the impact on other citizens should be considered.
- The committee has only been granted Council support for this initial year, allowing a limited time to demonstrate value. **A:** The initial trial period is largely intended to provide the committee time to consider its direction and focus. Staff will report to Council after the first year and can request updates to the terms of reference and set out a more clear purpose for the committee at this point.
- Public safety issues can be present even in places which ordinarily have positive connotations for health and wellbeing, such as public parks.
- All individuals in the community have a role to play in public safety.

- 3.3 The Public Safety Director and Fire Chief informed members that they can contact him in between meetings with any new thoughts, feedback and suggestions as they arise.

## **4. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT**

- 4.1 The Committee Clerk - Secretary provided an overview of the resolution recommended for adoption. Information provided to members is the property of the City and only the City can determine whether the information may or may not be shared outside the committee in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

- 4.2 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Corporate Officer and the Records Management and Privacy Coordinator of the Corporation of the City of North Vancouver be appointed as the Head and Coordinator respectively for the purposes of administering the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act as it relates to the Community Safety Advisory Committee.

**CARRIED**

## 5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

5.1 There have been no key community safety items considered by Council recently.

## 6. ROUND TABLE

- Community engagement for the Lonsdale Great Streets project is currently open. Staff could review the feedback to find any safety concerns and themes that may have been raised.
- Do Councillors receive queries and concerns from residents regarding safety? **A:** Councillors receive a range of communication from residents, including concerns around noise and its impact on safe spaces, drug use in public transit areas and homelessness and unsafe living conditions on streets.
- Who are the main points of contact for residents to raise safety concerns in the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation? **A:** The Squamish Nation Commissioner, Public Safety is the key point of contact. Squamish Nation uses a designated safety email account and phone number, and patrol teams provide in person engagement opportunities. Staff review safety reports and identify themes as they arise. The Tsleil-Waututh Nation has a low crime rate. The Tsleil-Waututh Nation Community Safety Manager receives calls related to weather hazards and those requiring emergency response. Elected Officials also deal with safety concerns from residents directly.
- The safety themes noted in the Fire Department are often seasonal and related to world events. For example, the department noted an increase in communications from residents regarding wildfire preparedness during the Los Angeles wildfires in January 2025. Other themes noted include the opioid crisis and homelessness.
- Members agreed the next meeting should include discussion on safety data and statistics, existing City strategies, best practice learned from other organisations including the Squamish Nation, and working towards identifying a narrower focal point for the remainder of the year.

## 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.1 The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2025.

## 8. ADJOURN

8.1 The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:38pm.

Certified Correct by the Chair

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Councillor Holly Back, Chair

April 10, 2025

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Date