

JAMES BAY NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION MINUTES - General Meeting Aug 9th, 2017

1. **Welcome** 7pm; 35 in attendance

Linda Carlson: meeting chair, Laura Neil recorded minutes

2. **Approval of Agenda as amended:** m/s/c

3. **Correspondence/Announcements** m/s/c.

- Question was asked about #5 of correspondence list with a request that VicPD board member attending the meeting to leave. Chair declined request as agenda had already been approved.

4. **Minutes of July 17th 2017 meeting** m/s/c

5. **VicPD update and discussion of issues;**

- Cst.. Sean Hand – Community Resource Officer
- Cst. Cody Lapierre – Traffic Section
- Maureen Shaw – VicPD board member (James Bay rep)

Cst. Sean Hand – Community Resource Officer: Cst. Hand provided a report of incidents that occurred in the James Bay area over an 18 month period that spanned from January 1 2016 to July 31 2017. Some of the active areas of James Bay are;

- 5 Corners
- Rithet/Menzies/Lewis St
- The Bellville St area
- Eastern Niagara/Dallas Rd area
- Superior/Government/Douglas St area

Included in the calls were the following type and general areas:

	Property Crime	Public Disorder	Traffic	Violent Crime
5 Corners	91	171	8	25
Niagara/Menzies	34	126	15	10
Bellville St area	24	64	25	8
East Niagara/Dallas Rd	10	16	6	3
Superior/Government/ Douglas St area	14	27	20	3

Calls stats included both 911 and non-urgent calls. Overall, for the 18 month period January 1/16 to July 31/17:

- 852 calls were abandoned 911 calls
- 502 wellbeing check requests
- 360 suspicious circumstance
- 341 assist another agency – ie Saanich PD
- 287 theft calls
- 286 unwanted person calls
- 283 property calls
- 267 disturbance calls
- 164 assist a person calls
- 142 domestic calls

In the last 2 months a team including VicPD, VIHA, Pacifica Housing, Portland Housing and the

MOSDPR (Social Development & Poverty Reduction) have been working in tandem to assist homeless people who are camping in Beacon Hill Park and other area parks with social assistant benefit applications, housing applications etc. Sweeps occur daily at Beacon Hill Park between 7am and 8am to meet these individuals and provide assistance. Currently there are no stats however anecdotal data would indicate this approach is having a positive effect. Concerns about camping in the park should be reported to Cst. Hand.

Cst. Hand encouraged those present to not hesitate if they had a concern and that it was best to call 911 even if the resident felt it may not be an urgent issue. The dispatcher would determine the immediacy of the response required. Furthermore, the VicPD records statistical data on incidents reported and those statistics can assist in requesting additional resources for our community as well as being able to target areas requiring additional patrol.

In response to a question, Cst. Hand informed that the acronym SWAT is an American term for urgent response police teams. In Canada the acronym is ERT, Emergent Response Team. The ERT in Victoria are specially trained police who are assembled when urgent situations occur, otherwise these police officers are assigned to regular patrol duties. The ERT also work with the ACT team – Assertive Community Team and Trained negotiators. Policing staff have mental health and addictions training.

Cst. Hand encourages anyone who wants to discuss an issue that may be a police matter to contact him by email at sean.hand@vicpd.ca

Cst. Cody Lapierre – Traffic Section: Cst. Lapierre reported his section oversees enforcement ie speeding vehicles, erratic driving, etc. Traffic issues account for 8% of calls received from James Bay. Several residents reported concerns about speeding taxis' especially during cruise ship season. Cst. Lapierre encouraged residents to call the non-urgent (250-995-7654) line to report their general concerns.

The Traffic Section has input to city council regarding placement of lower speed limits, school signage and park signage. He noted that simply lowering the speed limits does not result in compliance. The combination of using school and park signage is what helps in countering speeding. Residents asked Cst. Lapierre's to support the JBNA's request to the City for a four-way stop at Oswego and Simcoe Streets. Additionally it was felt that a four-way stop would be beneficial at Niagara and Oswego St and a four-way stop at Niagara and Montreal Streets as well as signage for the Todd Parkette children's park on Montreal be installed. Also recommended to Cst. Lapierre was for him to review the 2016 survey conducted by the JBNA regarding "How do you Get Around in JB".

Maureen Shaw – VicPD Board member: Started off by stating she was unable to address any questions regarding the Elsner case as it was still before the courts, however, she was pleased that the police department had a new Chief of Police – Del Manak. Ms. Shaw outlined the responsibilities of the board members. They provide civilian oversight and guidance to the police. They oversee the police budget, human resource issues, hiring, firing, discipline, training and policing resources for policing in Victoria and Esquimalt. The Board also conducts the bargaining with the police members in contract negotiations. The Board was proud of their initiation of the ACT team which has been incorporated in other cities across Canada. The Board will also be presenting a report to the provincial government regarding the current Police Act and where they feel improvements/changes should be made based on the experience of the Elsner case.

Q – Is there cost sharing agreements with other police departments in the GVA?

A – Yes, not in all areas, but currently have an integrated traffic section, K9 units – more work to be done.

Q – Is there integrated communications?

A – Still working on this (Crest system) which will only apply to police depts. will not include fire depts.

6. Tim VanAlstine – Resilient Streets/Resilient Neighbourhoods:

JBNA has partnered with “Resilient Neighbourhoods” as the project is about building connections with neighbours and community group. Some of the examples of building resilient neighbourhoods/streets are: community gardens, applications for micro grants to facilitate block/street parties, community arts projects, block preparedness co-ordination. The JBNA encourages everyone interested to attend a workshop to be held on Sunday September 17th from 7pm to 9pm at the James Bay Community School. Additional information can be found at the website; <http://resilientneighbourhoods.ca/contact-resilient-neighbourhoods>

7. Kathryn Pankowski - JBNA Garden Advocate: Given the impressive success of the Spring Plant Swap and Sale, there will be a Plant Swap and Sale on Saturday September 9th from 10am to 12pm at the James Bay Community School. The sale will include plants for winter vegetables, house plants and perennials. You can set up a table to sell plants yourself or drop off plants for the garden committee. Come one come all.

7. Community Concerns (as time permits)

Q - To councilor Margaret Lucas - is there a MOU between the City of Victoria and GVHA?

A – There is no signed MOA that the councilor is aware of.

8. Adjournment – at 9pm