

Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety, Security & Well-Being January 29, 2021 - Meeting Minutes

Subject:	Minutes of Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety, Security & Well-Being - Meeting No. 1
Attendees:	Mayor Dan Carter, Chair Bob Chapman, Cindy Malachowski, Noel Coppins, Stephanie Skopyk, Audrey Andrews, Dave Saliba, Dr. Peter Stoett, Sandra Black, Fred Eismount, Steve Conaby, Todd Wilson
Staff:	Paul Ralph, Tracy Adams, Brenda Jeffs, Kevin Alexander, Haik Beglarov
Regrets:	Kelly Brown, Matt Bowles
Meeting location:	Cisco Webex Meeting
Date & time:	January 29, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Agenda Item	Discussion/Actions
1. Welcome	<p>Opening remarks and introductions by Mayor Carter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal is to have open and honest conversation regarding challenges the city faces. • It is important that we are open to new ideas, concepts and have a forward thinking, collaborative approach to address the complex issues the city faces. • Phase 1 will be concentrated on the Downtown core and then we will look at parks, trails and green spaces and then overall safety of the community. <p>Mayor Carter introduced Chair of the Task Force, Councillor Bob Chapman.</p> <p>Chair Bob Chapman thanked all members for joining and also commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Task Force will be addressing issues starting with downtown on a broader view rather than complaint-by-complaint basis. • It is important that criminal issues need to be reported to the police and non-criminal issues should be reported to Service Oshawa.

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2. Review of the Agenda	The Agenda was reviewed and no changes were made.
3. Review Task Force Draft Terms of Reference	The Terms of Reference were reviewed and no changes were made.
4. Communications	<p>Task Force Web Page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webpage information was shared with members. Any changes or updates should be forwarded to the City's Communications team. <p>Ongoing Communications</p> <p>Dave Saliba, DRPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some residents don't want to call DRPS for what they think is minor in nature. DRPS encourages residents to report both minor and significant incidents. • There are many ways to report including on-line and telephone. <p>Chair Bob Chapman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted the importance of calling in incidents so that there is an accurate record. • It would be helpful if the Taskforce members can help communicate to residents the importance of reporting incidents. <p>Stephanie Skopyk, Mission United/CAMH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security teams respond to a number of concerns that are not reported to Police Services or Service Oshawa, it's important to capture that information as well.

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4. Communications (Cont'd)	<p>Noel Coppins, Remax Jazz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hopes that, as the Task Force continues, all collected information can be shared with the community and we can show actual numbers and percentages. • If residents see success stories, they are more likely to engage. <p>Mayor Carter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages Task Force members to communicate with their contacts and networks. • This is the first time City has hired a Head of Security as the City understands that there needs to be a different approach and commitment. • We are committed to ensuring communication is sent out on a consistent basis and we are looking at a campaign similar to “Shop Local” to communicate that residents know we understand that there are issues but the community is safe. Let’s address issues together and use our contacts to get the message out. <p>Sandra Black, OSCC55+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OSCC55+ has teamed up with Fire Services to share fire safety messaging to OSCC55+ members. • OSCC55+ has also teamed up with the Oshawa Public Library, Oshawa Museum and the RMG to send out similar messaging <p>Steve Conaby, Oshawa Chamber of Commerce, Compute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Board meeting took place in preparation for this Task Force meeting where numerous stories about issues that impact businesses were discussed. The majority of issues are coming from the Downtown core. • A lot of the issues are not being reported to the appropriate authorities. • A “Business Watch” similar to “Neighborhood Watch” was an idea that came from the Board meeting where information on potential issues could be shared among businesses. Perhaps building pockets of “Business Watch” throughout the Downtown core so that businesses can share information, report it back to the Chamber and it can be brought to the Taskforce for discussion.

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4. Communications (Cont'd)	<p data-bbox="511 216 1344 247">Kevin Alexander, Director, Facilities Management Services</p> <ul data-bbox="565 254 1422 730" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="565 254 1422 394">• Recommended that a “Trend Log” that documents and tracks ideas or suggestions that require follow up be created. The Log can be used at future Task Force meetings to address and follow up on any issues. <li data-bbox="565 401 1422 541">• The Log would include key points discussed at this meeting including: graffiti; reporting process; key areas of focus based on feedback from this group; and how to measure activities. <li data-bbox="565 548 1422 653">• The Log would assist in reporting information back to Task Force members and the public to show that progress has been made. <li data-bbox="565 659 1422 730">• A Trend Log will be developed for the Task Force that will be distributed at each meeting. <p data-bbox="511 772 805 804">Chair Bob Chapman</p> <ul data-bbox="565 810 1422 1325" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="565 810 1422 989">• Community Improvement Grant Program provides some funds through the City but we want to add a broader eligibility requirement which in turn will provide a sense of safety, security and well-being to any given area (e.g. adding a light to a dark laneway). <li data-bbox="565 995 1422 1066">• The Community Improvement Grant would also assist business owners in reopening post-COVID. <li data-bbox="565 1073 1422 1213">• Tie in DRPS Crime Prevention officer and the City’s Corporate Security Manager to assist business owners to determine where the improvements are needed and will be effective. <li data-bbox="565 1220 1422 1325">• The hope is to encourage improvements and as more improvements are made, the crime and issues in the area would reduce and hopefully be eliminated. <p data-bbox="511 1367 1328 1398">Steve Conaby, Oshawa Chamber of Commerce, Compute</p> <ul data-bbox="565 1404 1422 1581" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="565 1404 1422 1581">• Reports of businesses that have been making area improvements at their own cost but now with COVID measures, many businesses are not operating and cannot continue to financially support the improvements so the Grant is good news for business owners.

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4. Communications (Cont'd)	<p data-bbox="513 220 1073 254">Cindy Malachowski, Lord Simcoe Place</p> <ul data-bbox="565 258 1422 730" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="565 258 1422 363">• As a business community member, it feels there is a lack of cohesiveness in the Downtown Core. Business owners are operating individually. <li data-bbox="565 367 1422 472">• Not only safety and security measures need to be taken but also the Neighborhood Watch is a great way to get businesses operating collectively. <li data-bbox="565 476 1422 619">• This Task Force is a great way of communicating with other businesses in each of the problematic areas representing a common theme/goal which results in a community operating together. <li data-bbox="565 623 1422 730">• Hope to see more supporting of each other and create a more welcoming atmosphere in the Downtown area, a sense of community. <p data-bbox="513 772 794 806">Dave Saliba, DRPS</p> <ul data-bbox="565 810 1422 1251" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="565 810 1422 953">• The Mayor's comments are very accurate; this is about community partnerships as community safety is about the community working together not just the responsibility of the police. <li data-bbox="565 957 1422 1024">• Oshawa is a safe community but does face challenges, as does any other city. <li data-bbox="565 1029 1422 1134">• There is more activity during the current pandemic because of stay at home orders and lack of everyday hustle and bustle of the Downtown area. <li data-bbox="565 1138 1422 1251">• DRPS can work with communities to create Neighborhood Watch initiatives and can reach out to them to establish a watch in the Downtown area.
4. Communications (Cont'd)	<p data-bbox="513 1260 1084 1293">Dr. Peter Stoett, Ontario Tech University</p> <ul data-bbox="565 1297 1422 1759" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="565 1297 1422 1474">• Ontario Tech University has a campus Downtown and several buildings through various locations of the city, which are monitored through Paragon Protection Limited. Communication between the Police and private security companies is significant and should be maintained. <li data-bbox="565 1478 1422 1621">• Believes that a "Smart City" approach could be taken with today's technology with the use of cameras and surveillance on Downtown conducted in a way that is non-intrusive on the community. <li data-bbox="565 1625 1422 1759">• Ontario Tech University and Durham College already has students working with DRPS, if there is a need for data management or communications students, let Dr. Stoett know.

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5. Parks By-laws and Nuisance By-law	Chair Bob Chapman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both by-laws are being reviewed and welcome input, feedback or suggestions on proposed amendments from Task Force members.
6. Community Improvement Plan	Chair Bob Chapman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are not amending the Community Improvement Plan but are looking at what could be included in the Plan. • Currently, the Plan addresses things such as accessibility and facades. However, there may be an opportunity to include enhancements such as security and are asking Task Force members to forward comments to Leah George.
7. Other Business	Audrey Andrews, Durham Region, Social Services Dept. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some interesting opportunities are developing to bring data together which could assist with a broader understanding of activities and the needs of the community. • Coordinating a Zoom call to help educate and communicate opportunities would be useful. Cindy Malachowski, Lord Simcoe Place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right now we are focused on data and reporting of incidents. However, the social aspect in terms of a sense of community also needs to be emphasized. • The conversation has been great and this is a strong team. Chair Bob Chapman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any ideas that any members have or wish to discuss at future meetings, please forward to Leah George to be added to the Agenda. Fred Eismount, Resident <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope to relay resident input to meetings and let them know that work is being done to better the community. • Can a “Business Safety Code” be put together and presented to include items such as tips on how to apply for grants to make businesses safer.

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7. Other Business	<p>Noel Coppins, Remax Jazz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excited about educating residents about the reporting process by communicating through the Remax network who can send the message out further. • It is very important to be able to return to a time where we are all connected, knowing who neighbors are and the stories behind the community members. <p>Sandra Black, OSCC55+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honored to be a part of the Task Force representing the needs of seniors. <p>Stephanie Skopyk, Mission United/CAMH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleased to be involved with the Task Force. • Would like to see a more human component in addition to the security and safety features we have discussed. • Let's look for opportunities for people to get involved. <p>Dr. Peter Stoett, Ontario Tech University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University is at the disposal of the Task Force and I am pleased to discuss any contributions that we can make, there are many resources that can be utilized. <p>Steve Conaby, Oshawa Chamber of Commerce, Compute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chamber is appreciative of this Task Force coming together as this is a very important issue that needs to be addressed. • We are happy to push communications out to 700+ members. <p>Dave Saliba, DRPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are stepping in the right direction putting together a significant partnership and hope to have a significant impact. <p>Chair Bob Chapman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was a good opening discussion and I believe we are all focused on the same goals as well as we are focused on communication within the Task Force and outward to the public.
8. Next Meeting	Taskforce Meetings will be held the last Friday of each month, the next meeting will be February 26, 2021.