



Board Meeting Minutes | Monday, June 21, 2021
Via Google Meet

Attendance : Rob Carter, Donna Kalailieff, Karen Donnelly, Norbert Gieger, Jesse Boles, Taylor Mynlieff and Karrie Haynes.

Staff: Mary-Lou Ambrose-Little.

Guests: Judith Boroniec and Candace Armstrong.

Guest Speaker: Jason McKnight, Niagara Region Police Services.

Regrets: Ed Cleveland, Alicja Kniffen, Amy Thibodeau, Bonnie Beres, Larry Beverly, and Tracy Macleod.

Welcome

Chair Jesse Boles welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 5:10 PM.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None

Approval of Agenda

Motion to: "Approve Agenda" Moved by: Karrie Haynes; Seconded by Norbert Gieger. Carried

Approval of Minutes

Motion to: "Approve Minutes from the May 17, 2021 Board Meeting" Moved by Karen Donnelly; Seconded by Norbert Gieger. Carried.

Guest Presenter – Jason McKnight (NRPS)

- Jason has 20 years with Niagara Police Services. His current role is a community engagement role where he works with the grassroots of the community. He is basically a community outreach officer, much like the Community Policing. Much of his work is with high-risk mental health and addiction at community level. He works in partnership with municipalities, mental health and addiction services.
- Current crime rate is not up from previous years and every Niagara community is experiencing the same thing. Social media is drawing attention to crime incidents. When information and names appear on platforms, it can cause the cause to be thrown out of Court as a privacy issue. Jason is recommending that the BIA and public report incidents immediately to the police. Videos can be submitted directly to police as well and names.
- Use the on-line reporting
<https://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/community/reportacrimeonline.aspx#>
- Use 911 when it is a serious incident and let the police handle it.
- Rob asked if there are a lot of repeat offenders. Yes, there are, currently repeat offenders are not being held but are obligated to show up for court cases in future. Those who don't are in breach of the court. Those individuals then appear in the Niagara Most Wanted list published by the police. <https://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/news-and-events/Niagara-s-Wanted.aspx>



Downtown Port Colborne BIA

Board of Management

MAIL: PO Box 272 | Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 4W1

OFFICE: (289) 836-9006
www.exploreportcolborne.ca

- Jason mentioned that often offenders often have multiple issues with mental health and addiction. Often it is difficult to get the services to work together.
- Karen mentioned several incidents with people screaming, harassing customers for money, spitting, and threatening people. With these incidents, call 911 immediately.
- Candace spoke about the incidents occurring at the Portal Village Plaza with theft of copper wire, and damage to along the Killaly St. West properties which is still continuing. Jason mentioned that camera footage does help so send them to police. Again, he stressed to report everything.
- Candace also mentioned a tent “city” behind the plazas on private property. The police can not go on the property without the permission of the owners who often are “out of town landlords”.
- Mary-Lou mentioned the problems with using the market washroom for an injection site, leaving needles and other biohazards for staff to deal with. No other washrooms are available and this create a problem for vendors and the public.
- Has any consider been given to creating a safe injection site for addicts? Jason indicated that Port Cares has been assisting with housing and some addiction issues. Jason knows of 23 homeless people, also dealing with mental health and addiction issues. He works with them all. They are local people not the reported out of are people that social media has been mentioning. It is a local issue and will need local solutions. It may take police, mental health and addictions to work together which will be a challenge. A community approach is the best method Jason indicated.
- How do these criminals get rid of their stolen property? Jason indicated that there are many ways – getting somethings out of the region, post on Niagara Sell sites, sell to pawn shops, junk/scrap yards. Then use the money for drugs which will only be exchanged with cash payments.
- Jason mentioned that he could assist with making properties safer in downtown using the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a multi-disciplinary approach of crime prevention that uses urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments.
- Jason will assist local businesses with making their businesses more secure.
- Mayor Steele has been working toward more cameras to be installed in downtown and other areas of the city. More details will be available soon.

“Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 PM with the balance of reports to be discussed at the next Board Meeting.”

Motion to adjourn by Norbert Gieger.

NEXT MEETING

July 19, 2021 at 5:00 pm

In- person at 21 Charlotte Street