Minutes - Executive Policy Committee – June 4, 2008

REPORTS

Minute No. 335 Winnipeg Committee for Safety – 2007 Annual Report
File GF-2.7.1

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received as information the 2007 Annual Report of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Steeves,

That the 2007 Annual Report of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety be received as information.

Carried

WINNIPEG COMMITTEE FOR SAFETY RECOMMENDATION:

On May 16, 2008, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety forwarded its 2007 Annual Report to the Executive Policy Committee for information.



Winnipeg

Winnipeg Committee for Safety

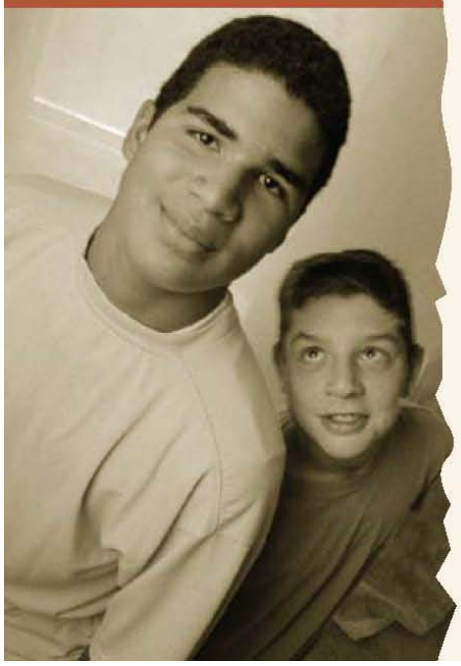
2007 Report on the Community

www.winnipegcommitteeforsafety.org

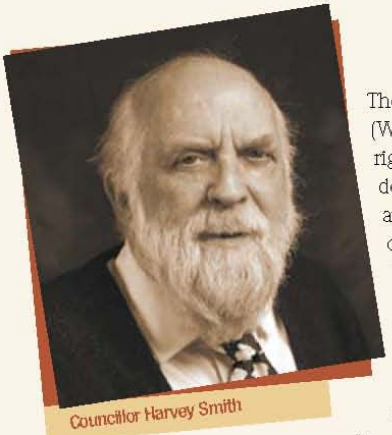


Breaking the Mould

The 2007 Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference was held from November 11 – 13, 2007 at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto. Winnipeg's contribution generated a considerable amount of excitement, especially concerning the city's recent adoption of the Safe Communities Program. The three-day conference examined a variety of issues surrounding community violence and crime, including strategies for creating safer communities. Winnipeg's enthusiasm for the safe community program was noted, as was the WCFS' strategy to integrate crime control and prevention into the existing safe community model. The city's innovative approach to the Safe Communities model, including its communication and cooperation with people from every area of the city, established Winnipeg as a major player in the safety initiative. As a result of the city's progress, Winnipeg will be hosting this fall's 11th Annual Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference.



Message from the Chairperson



Councillor Harvey Smith

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS) believes that safety is a basic right. Our pursuit of a Safe Communities designation is a public affirmation of, and testament to, our aspiration to create a safer life for all of our citizens. This past year was a building year for WCFS and our community, creating a solid platform for new creativity and innovation in 2008.

Not only did WCFS establish the Safe Communities Terms of Reference and the framework of its future operations; Mayor Sam Katz also expressed Winnipeg's official bid to achieve safe community status with Safe Communities Canada. To ensure the Committee's alignment with this bid, WCFS welcomed Brody Grusko as Coordinator of WCFS. Brody's vision for this committee is to help make Winnipeg one of the safest cities in Canada. Since his appointment, he has brought a new energy and direction to the Committee.

Throughout the last year, we continued to work actively toward declaring Winnipeg a Safe Community according to the principles of the Safe Communities Foundation of Canada. In a Safe Winnipeg, citizens and organizations work together to reduce injury and promote the safety and well being of all our citizens.

In October, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety formed a Leadership Table bringing together over 40 representatives from organizations across Winnipeg. Collectively, the members of this Leadership Table are setting priorities for action and laying the foundation for a safe community. By specifically targeting crime as part of a comprehensive safety program for Winnipeggers and consulting citizens on their opinions and ideas, they are establishing Winnipeg as a motivated and forward-thinking participant within Canada's Safe Communities Foundation.

Safe Communities founder Paul Kells, like the WCFS, is excited about Winnipeg taking the lead and initiating the process. Actively engaging in our city's future is the key to a lasting and sustainable change for the future. Communities across Canada have proven this time and again, and Winnipeg is no exception: we are the impetus for the move towards a safer and more cohesive city.

Connections and partnerships are at the heart of our approach. Safety is everyone's responsibility and we encourage you to join us in establishing Winnipeg as one of Canada's leading Safe Communities.

Councillor Harvey Smith
Chair, Winnipeg Committee for Safety

Our Year in Review - Working Towards a Safe Winnipeg

Since its conception in 1999, Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS) has been actively engaged in obtaining safe community designation for our city and its residents. We have been bringing together people from all areas of the city to encourage them to become active participants in their communities' future and to share their vision for a safer Winnipeg. With the cooperation of citizens, organizations and all levels of government, together we can realize our goal of making Winnipeg one of the safest communities in Canada.

New Energy, New Direction

Upon the appointment of Brody Grusko as Coordinator in August, WCFS has embraced a new energy and direction. With the results of November's "Towards Safer Winnipeg" forum, Mayor Sam Katz and Councillor Harvey Smith addressed a letter of intent to the Safe Communities Canada National Office stating the city's desire to be a candidate safe community. Most recently, WCFS has established a coordinated approach towards Safe Community designation, based on Safe Community Canada's Community Action Plan: Ten Steps to Designation. The action plan outlines the ten essential steps which the Committee must take to establish a sustainable safe community model in Winnipeg, including plans to more actively involve citizens in the implementation process.

Determination and Implementation

In October of 2007, WCFS established the Safe Communities Terms of Reference, providing a unified vision and mode of operations on which to base all of the Committee's further actions. Our immediate goal is to obtain "safe community" designation for Winnipeg, however, WCFS is ultimately pursuing an effective and coordinated approach to addressing safety issues within Winnipeg. The newly adopted Terms stress the importance of interagency collaboration and local participation in the creation of our safe community, and provide five guiding principles to direct WCFS' initiatives:

- Develop multi-sectoral partnerships and share responsibility
- Maintain culturally appropriate actions
- Utilize and promote evidence-based research
- Include crime and injuries (intentional and unintentional)
- Work with respect

These guiding principles will continue to guide our actions in the years to come. Our focus on partnerships and shared responsibility encourages the community to work together towards our shared vision of a safe city. Our new vision and direction has established the momentum for our campaign, and we will continue to build on the excitement we are generating throughout 2008. If you are interested in learning more about our community safety initiatives or want to become involved in a Safe Winnipeg, call us at 986-7924 or visit our website at **www.winnipegcommitteeforsafety.org.** For more information on Safe Communities Canada, visit **www.safecommunities.ca**.



Community Youth Connections

The Committee for Safety recognizes that our youth are the future of our city, and that they may benefit the most from a safe community. However, lack of information and communication can lead to a sense of isolation. In response, the committee launched their website, "Community Youth Connections." The goal of the website is to give youth a safe and anonymous place to go when confronted with conflict. Local information is provided on a variety of topics, including:

- Employment and education
- Entertainment
- Relationships, sexuality and pregnancy
- Safety
- Food banks
- Addiction

By accessing the information on the website, youth may make independent, informed decisions. The site provides a sounding board in which problems or opinions can be voiced and access to confidential aid is provided. Explore the youth community at **www.communityyouthconnections.ca**.

2007 Committee Members

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety is composed of one member of Winnipeg City Council, three members of the city's administration, eight members of the community and one representative of crime prevention from the Province of Manitoba.



Front Row: (L-R) Corinne Pierce, Angie Clark, Jennifer Ridge

Middle Row: (L-R) Councillor Harvey Smith, Mike Waite, Richard Page

Back Row: (L-R) Zoran Vicovac, Patrol Sergeant Peter Derksen, Winnipeg Police Service, Bradley McKay

Absent from Picture:
His Worship Mayor Sam Katz, ex officio
Ruth Ahenakew Madill, Manitoba Justice
Carolyn Buffie
Shawn Feely
Karen DeLaRonde
Brody Grusko
Rick Joyal

Committee Coordinator:
Brody Grusko
Phone: 986-7924
Fax: 986-4828
Email: bgrusko@winnipeg.ca

City of Winnipeg Administration:
Angie Clark, Planning and Land Use Division
Patrol Sergeant Peter Derksen, Winnipeg Police Service
Karen DeLaRonde, Community Resource Coordinator
Jennifer Ridge, City Clerk's Department

Upcoming Meetings

Location: West Committee Room
Friday, May 16, 2008
Friday, June 20, 2008
Friday, July 18, 2008
No meeting in August
- Council Prorogued
Friday, September 19, 2008
Friday, October 17, 2008
Friday, November 21, 2008
Friday, December 12, 2008

2007 Financial Report

Communication & Community Outreach:
$21,903.88

Contract Fee:
$24,615.20

In 2007, the expenditure was for 9 months due to Committee Coordinator vacancy

Education & Training:
$1,985.50

Meeting Costs:
$1,430.93

Office Expenditures:
$2,230.01

TOTAL:
$52,165.52

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