

# Richmond Citizen's Crime Watch Patrol

## *Executive Meeting - April*

Richmond City Hall  
Monday, April 4, 2005

**Present:** Fermie Wilder, Steve Scott, Rod Bruchet, Jim Howard, Vena Lanji

**With regrets:** Darren Gallvitz

-Meeting called to order by Rod Bruchet at 19:08.

-Previous meeting minutes were not approved at this point as there was a special agenda for the meeting. Minutes from numerous meetings (Special Executive Meetings, General Meeting, Etc.) are to be approved at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

-Rod outlined the agenda for the evening. The primary focus for the meeting was to discuss the potential role of the RCMP Member within the Crime Watch Executive.

-The Executive felt that the role of the RCMP Member should be an advisory type role. This person would be there to provide a more direct form of communication between CW and the RCMP.

-The group felt this Member should attend all of our meetings and not have a vote on decisions. The group didn't want the Member to have "veto" power over the decisions that the Executive made.

-The Executive felt that it was important for us to lay out our expectations in writing to the RCMP. By providing them with our thoughts and what we believe the "relationship" should look like, we have a stronger chance of having that adopted by the RCMP.

-It was expected that we would be appointed a new Liaison who would be more actively involved in the program. It was agreed upon that this new Liaison should become educated as to what CW does, including observing a patrol night, sitting in on dispatch etc. This person would prepare patrol briefings, assist in having the program involved in special projects/operations.

-Rod pointed out that in the Policy and Procedure Manual the duties of the Liaison officer were already listed on page one, and this manual was approved by the RCMP.

-It was felt that the RCMP are not carrying out their role as defined within the Policy and Procedure Manual.

-It was suggested that we need to add a page to the Manual for the RCMP to sign off on that they have approved of the Manual and will complete the duties as outlined within this Manual.

-Vena felt that we should put in to writing that we will require the RCMP to fund our radio licensing fee, gas allowance, and other operating costs. She said the RCMP should budget a certain amount, possibly \$5000 at least that would be earmarked for CW use. She added that we should be allowed to solicit external funds on our own beyond the funds already provided.

-Erik felt that it should be added to the Policy and Procedure Manual that the Liaison must be present at all Executive and General Meetings.

-Erik also requested that the Liaison member should provide the Patrol Supervisors with e-mailed briefing reports each week. As well as coordinate Special Operations, such as Salmon Fest, CounterAttack, etc. Presently we receive no briefings or information from anybody with regards to ongoing events, trends, problem spots, etc.

-Erik added that this Liaison officer should also assist where possible in securing funding for CW. It was pointed out that in the P&P Manual it already says that this Liaison is to liaise with the OIC on behalf of CW in such areas.

-Fermie said that it would be great to have more Member interaction. Erik pointed out that with the move to YVR, we will be around Members constantly during Patrol nights. The group agreed that more interaction with the Members would make out volunteers feel appreciated and enjoy the experience more.

-Vena requested that the RCMP provide us proof of insurance in writing. The group wanted clarification as to what we are covered for and by whom. The group wanted in writing proof of all forms of coverage we are provided with.

-Jim pointed out that all of these suggestion, especially the request for things in writing came specifically from Cst. Kevin Kwast.

-Jim wanted to clarify our status as to whether we want to be an RCMP program or an RCMP affiliated program. Vena pointed out that we must remain as an RCMP program or else ICBC is lost as sponsor, we would lose the use of the SARS program and more items would be lost.

-The group agreed that we would CONTINUE to be an RCMP as we have always been.

-Jim said that we should also put in to writing that we should be able to solicit funding on our own, beyond the funds that are provided to us.

-Vena received a message today from Cathy Cowie regarding the status of the grant we were given. She said Cathy was unable to provide a current statement due to accounting changes at the city. Vena would be providing the grant to one of our RCMP members to forward to Cathy.

-Jim noted that at our special executive meeting we asked Kate Anderson about the status of insurance coverage. At that meeting Kate said that we would be covered similarly to Auxiliaries if we were directed by an RCMP Member to do something. The group reiterated that we MUST be provided with written proof of insurance.

-Steve will prepare a letter to the RCMP outlining all of our concerns and requests. Fermie will review and revise the letter.

-Rod asked the group their thoughts on having this RCMP Member on the Executive having a vote. The group felt that this Member could have a voting position, so long as this Member was comfortable holding a vote, and as long as this person was familiar with the program and understood the decisions being voted upon. This vote would not hold any more power than other Executive Member's votes.

-Erik felt that this Liaison member should be the one to nominate the program for awards and provide recognition for the volunteers.

-The group felt the RCMP through previous comments at the Special Executive Meeting was trying to take over the CW program. Fermie outlined that we need to remain in control of our program. Erik noted that he felt the RCMP wanted to take us under their umbrella to assist in areas such as funding.

-Fermie noted that other RCMP programs such as Victim Services and Block Watch currently have paid coordinators. She wanted to point out to the RCMP that we currently do all of the work that those coordinators do, but for free. If the RCMP would like to hire a full-time coordinator then that is fine, but otherwise they should allow us to continue to operate as we are.

-The group agreed that we don't want an RCMP Member coming in to take over and dictate to the group how things will be. We currently function effectively.

-A concern was raised with regards to the RCMP perhaps attempting to move volunteer Walter Tyrell in to the CW coordinator's role. The group felt that he could provide guidance but should not be taking over the program.

-Erik wanted the RCMP Member to act as a "director" of the program but not as the overall coordinator. He wants this person to come in and hold a guiding and leading role.

-Rod felt a meeting needs to be held soon with our incoming Liaison Member.

-The letter that Fermie is preparing will be sent to the RCMP in advance of the next meeting we hope to have with Sgt. Maria Salzl, Cpl. Kate Anderson and Cst. Kevin Kwast. This would allow them to prepare a response to our requests at the meeting, rather than provide the typical "we'll get back to you" type response.

**Rod left the meeting at 20:29.**

### **Communications Received**

-Erik received a letter from Volunteer Richmond regarding CW setting up a table/booth at Richmond Centre on April 16, 2005 from 0930-1800. The group felt it was important to be involved in this event as in the past we received a lot of applications from this specific event. Erik will advise Volunteer Richmond that we will participate.

-Erik noted that Darren Sutherland took a Crime Watch laptop and radio without permission. He noted that Darren also returned this laptop later than he had stated he would return it. Erik said that he got a phone call Thursday from Darren saying that he would be returning the laptop by Saturday morning. Erik noted that Rod was aware of Darren being in possession of the equipment and had given him permission; he felt that as Equipment Manager he needs to be made aware of people borrowing equipment.

-Erik has received an e-mail from Darren requesting the use of this laptop for this week. The Executive said that if Darren needs this laptop for the training program then he should be able to use it. It was noted that he should be sure to return this equipment on time.

-Fermie noted that she is waiting to hear back from Kevin and Darren Sutherland about their availability for a training meeting. She will follow up with them and others so that this meeting can happen soon.

-Jim will check with Darren Gallvitz about the clearance status of current applicants to see if there are any applicants ready to be trained.

-The next meeting was called for Monday, May 2, 2005.

- Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim. All in favour.

*Minutes recorded by Steve Scott.*