



VISION: We will be a vibrant, dependable and clean city where services are delivered innovatively and effectively.

MISSION: To provide effective operations of the city through collaboration of members, management and staff.

City Hall, Hamilton
Residents Advisory Committee
10 January 2019
4:00pm

Present: Councillor Carlton Johnson (Chair)
Councillor RoseAnn Edwards
Councillor Henry Ming
Tracy Marshall, Associate Member
Erica Smith, Associate Member

In Attendance: Patrick Cooper, Acting Secretary
Jessica Astwood, Event Project Manager
Zoe Mulholland, Communications Manager

Apologies: Councillor George Scott, JP
Michael Bradshaw, Associate Member

1. **Confirmation of Notice:**

The Acting Secretary confirmed that the notice of the meeting and the agenda were sent out according to the meeting guidelines.

2. **Role of the Chairman:**

Councillor Carlton Johnson assumed the role as the Chairman.

3. **Open Meeting:**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 4:00 pm.

4. **Apologies:**

The Acting Secretary confirmed that apologies had been received from Councillor George Scott and Michael Bradshaw, Associate Member.

5. **Public Participation/Presentation:**

There was no public participation/presentation.

6. **Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

7. **Minutes of Previous Committee Meeting dated 6 December 2018:**

Associate Member, Tracy Marshall commented on:

Page 4 of 4, Paragraph 11(vi): "Ms. Marshall said she was pleased that the Communications Manager was now on this Committee and would like to discuss the KBB Clean-ups for 2019 which was part of a three (3) year budget and was missed in 2018.", **should read:** "Ms. Marshall said she was pleased that the Communications Manager was now on this Committee. Ms. Marshall hoped that there would be communication early in the year to ensure opportunity for the Residents Committee to contribute to any of the events in 2019. Of note were a couple of KBB Clean-ups as part of a three (3) year budget, which had been missed in 2018, among others events."

Associate Member, Erica Smith commented on:

Apologies: Ms. Smith had sent her apologies for not being able to attend the last meeting but this was not recorded.

Proposed: Councillor R. Edwards

Seconded: Tracy Marshall

The Minutes were accepted as amended.

8. **Matters arising from the Minutes dated 6 December 2018:**

(i) **Various methods of communicating with residents would be researched and costs would be presented to the Finance Committee in due course.** The Communications Manager said that she had considered various methods for the survey and considered the best way to conduct a survey would be door-to-door. She had identified a company, Total Research Associates Limited, who would send a quote which would be presented at the next Finance Committee meeting. Approval would be expected by the end of February, beginning of March. A strategy discussion with Total Research Associates Limited would be the next step. The Communications Manager tabled a summary of the results of the last survey. Action item completed.

(ii) **Contact the police regarding the repair of the broken CCTV camera at the top of Till's Hill on the western side at the Ewing Street and Court Street junction.** The Acting Secretary reported that the camera had been reinstalled by the police and the electrical supply had been connected. He was not sure whether anyone had a right to view the CCTV footage. Action item completed.

(iii) **Forward to the Infrastructure Committee as it relates to the placement of larger dumpsters at the top of Till's Hill or an alternative site.** The Acting Secretary said that this item had been added to the Agenda for the next Infrastructure Committee Meeting. Action item completed.

(iv) Inform the Residents Advisory Committee of the issue with the 3-year Budget. **(Acting Secretary)**

9. **Status Update:**

(i) **Events:**

- **Drive-In Movie:** April 2019 - Bulls Head Car Park

The Event Project Manager said that a new Events & Marketing Coordinator would start work in February 2019. The Public Art Installations will continue in 2019 with a Press Release going out this weekend asking the public if they had any suggestions for suitable sites for art installations in the City. The 2019 Calendar would be finalized soon.

10. **Recommendations for Review:**

There were no Recommendations for Review.

11. **Any Other Business:**

(i) The Chairman said that he noticed that black poles were being erected on the eastern side of Court Street, between Victoria Street and Church Street. He asked when work would start on the other two blocks going towards Front Street. The Acting Secretary said that the work on the block between Victoria Street and Church had been completed. The block after that, between Church Street, Reid Street and Front Street, was ongoing.

(ii) Ms. Marshall was concerned about what happened with footage from the police CCTV cameras. The Acting Secretary said that he believed the cameras were monitored daily at the Bermuda Police Service COMOPS at Prospect, by a contractor. If there was an incident, the camera covering the incident would be looked at and either the live feed or recorded footage would be used. Ms. Marshall asked how the police could give the public confidence that this was happening. The Chairman said the public could write a letter to the Bermuda Police Service to ask questions about a particular incident. He said that we must have confidence in the Bermuda Police Service. Councillor Ming said that the onus was on the public to call the police if they had concerns. The Acting Secretary said that CCTV cameras, especially single cameras, had limited use and could only be pointed in one direction at any time. He had asked the police whether the camera at the top of Till's Hill could move around but was informed that it must stay in one direction. He assumed it would be directed at trouble spots on Court Street rather than in its immediate vicinity.

(iii) Ms. Smith asked whether it would be possible to invite the new Police Commissioner or a deputy for the Commissioner to speak to the Residents Advisory Committee to give information about their strategy for policing in the City. Councillor Ming thought this would be beneficial and would give opportunity for the COH's to voice concerns.

ACTION: Invite the new Police Commissioner or his representative to speak to the Residents Advisory Committee on the strategy for policing in the City and give opportunity for the Committee to voice concerns about the use of CCTV cameras. **(Acting Secretary)**

(iv) The Acting Secretary said that the resurfacing schedule included Union Street, then Victoria Street between Union/Court Street, then the remainder of Court Street. Ms. Smith complimented the COH for making these improvements. She noted that she did not receive the PR notice for the work at Till's Hill in time for her to distribute it to stakeholders before the work started. The Acting Secretary apologised and said that the paving contractor had changed his schedule to ensure the work in the City was undertaken promptly. The COH did make efforts to inform the stakeholders of the short notice before work started.

(v) Ms. Smith said that during the period of Christmas shopping, she had been approached by several shop owners on Court Street who complained to her that the police were parking in public bays. The police had parked both police vehicles and their private vehicles, for the whole day, in non-designated police bays. The Acting Secretary said that there were a total of 13 police parking bays on four (4) streets in the area. Ms. Smith said she witnessed two police officers park police vehicles in public bays on Court Street, they attended their adjacent private vehicles and then walked to the Police Station. The Acting Secretary said that this was an ongoing issue which had been raised at the monthly meetings with the Chief Inspector in charge of Hamilton Police Station. He said that the Traffic Wardens had recently been moved to the COH for work scheduling. They had been instructed to ticket police officer's private vehicles, where they had been parked inappropriately and this was supported by the Chief Inspector.

ACTION: At the presentation of the Bermuda Police Service, address the issue of police officer's private vehicles inappropriately parked in non-designated police parking bays. **(Acting Secretary)**

(vi) Ms. Smith said that the Residents Advisory Committee had commissioned magnets for distribution to the residents and she had a box of magnets left over. She wondered if there would be an opportunity to distribute them in another way. The Communications Manager said that they could be distributed provided the information on the magnets had not changed. She suggested that they be distributed during a walkabout and would raise the issue with Total Research Associates Limited.

ACTION: Raise the issue with Total Research Associates Limited as it relates to the distribution of the left over magnets. **(Communications Manager)**

(vii) Ms. Smith said she appreciated that the police were doing all they could to combat loitering and vagrancy in Court Street. Ms. Smith also said that the frustration of the residents had been raised again. The Police Station, which was an institution of law and order, was located at one end of Court Street, from where the whole street could be clearly seen from the top floors of the police building, together with CCTV cameras covering the street from the other end. There seemed to be no change in behaviours, specifically in the two (2) block area between Dundonald Street and Angle Street. Ms. Smith asked if the COH had a strategy to combat this behaviour. She said that the COH had previously discussed a high frequency noise device which was designed to deter loitering and vagrancy by young adult people. She wondered if any research had been carried out on this concept.

The Chairman said that historically the culture of Court Street was a concern. He said that this issue could be raised at the visit by the Bermuda Police Service. The COH and the police could work together to change the custom and practice between Dundonald Street and Angle Street and also, to some extent, between Dundonald Street and Victoria Street. He said that many years ago, for a brief period, there was a police presence on the street which deterred the behaviour. He noted that when the police presence was withdrawn, the behaviour returned. He also noted that generally the public were unwilling to park and walk within the vicinity. He said that our focus for 2019 must be to clean up Court Street.

The Acting Secretary made the distinction that the issue was not about loitering and vagrancy but rather it was about the anti-social behaviours and actions of those who loiter and are vagrant. He said that visitors to this area should be welcomed and the perception was that anyone who loitered or was vagrant, was assumed to behave badly. He said the COH wanted to provide seating areas where the public could sit and talk and have a sense of community. It was the anti-social behaviour that needed to be addressed.

Ms. Smith agreed with the Acting Secretary and added that infrastructure improvements over recent years had benefitted the area. The main concern she had was that for many people, perception was reality. Her concern was for the random acts of violence which often took place at the junction of Elliott Street and Court Street. She said there were always between six (6) and 20 persons actively participating in an open air drug market. She raised the possibility of an incident involving an innocent bystander which would be of grave concern. She made the point that shops in the area who were aware of the sale of drugs, were accepting that money as payment for their goods and this was seen to condone the bad behaviour.

The Chairman said that the taxpayers in the area are responsible for reporting these behaviours. He said that this discussion was bigger than this table and we need to have something in place that would address this issue so that everyone involved can be a participant in making a change.

ACTION: At the presentation of the Bermuda Police Service, address the issue of anti-social behaviour in Court Street. **(Acting Secretary)**

(viii) Councillor Edwards said that there had been a serious pedestrian accident at Princess Street and Angle Street, which was a regular accident spot. On the corner of Princess Street and Angle Street is a railing which could block the view of the road and any traffic coming out of Princess Street could cause an accident. She suggested that a speed bump be laid to slow the traffic down. The Acting Secretary agreed that there was no visibility on that corner as there were no set backs from building lines.

ACTION: Consider what could be done to make the corner of Princess Street and Angle Street safe as it relates to pedestrians crossing the road. **(City Engineer)**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4.54 pm.