

Chair: Chris Cowie

WRCPC Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2015
WCSWR – Anselma House
700 Heritage Drive
Boardroom, Second floor
9:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. (8:30a.m. networking)

Present: Jane Mitchell, Helen Jowett, Shayne Turner, Peter Rubenschuh, John Shewchuk, Michael Beazely, Chris Cowie, Jennifer Mains, Laurie Strome, Courtney Didier, Christine Bird, Pari Karim, Bill Davidson, Mary Zilney, Andrew Jackson, Derek Haime, Judith Lodi, Marla Pender, Irene O'Toole, Frank Johnson, Joe-Ann McComb, Mark Pancer, Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Alison Scott, Elizabeth Vitek, Tom Galloway, Felix Munger

Regrets: Barry Cull, Denise Squire, Doug Thiel, Sharlene Sedgwick-Walsh, Bill Wilson, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Angela Vanderheyden, Don Roth

Staff and Students: Christiane Sadeler, Anthony Piscitelli, Mary Anna Allen, Asnake Meshesha (student), Eleanor McGrath (student), Alison Scott, Felix Munger

Recorder: M. Allen

Welcome and Introductions: 1. Chris Cowie welcomed WRCPC members and guests and introductions were made. Chris Cowie, on behalf of the WRCPC, congratulated Marla Pender as one of the recipients of the Volunteer Impact Award. This award was presented at the Gala Dinner on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. 2. Approval of the Agenda: The order of agenda items were moved on the agenda to accommodate the presenters. WRCPC office move to the Governors House was added under Other Business. Moved by Mary Zilney and seconded by Irene O'Toole. Carried. 3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None** 4. **Approval of the Minutes February 20, 2015:** Moved by Bill Davidson and seconded by Shayne Turner. Carried 4.1 **Business Arising:**

Facilitating Committee:

Shayne Turner asked for a motion to accept, with great regret, Christine Bird's resignation from the Facilitating Committee. Christine is unable to participate on the Facilitating Committee at this time due to other commitments.

Moved by Shayne Turner and seconded by John Shewchuk. Carried.

Nominating Committee is currently looking for a replacement.

5. Approval of the Smart Update (consent agenda):

Moved by Peter Rubenschuh and seconded by Irene O'Toole. Carried.

A Council member requested for more information about the progress of the Community Engagement League.

Action: Juanita Metzger will provide a progress report about the Community Engagement League at the next WRCPC meeting on Friday, May 8, 2015.

6. Debrief of Friends of Crime Prevention Meeting March 13th 2015

The WRCPC debriefed about the Friends of Crime Prevention meeting that was held on March 13th, 2015. The feedback from the community and from the WRCPC members about taking this type of meeting approach has been positive. These types of meetings are engaging for the community and productive for the WRCPC.

Andrew Jackson asked if there would be some follow-up with the Conestoga College students that attended the meeting and with the College administrators. The Accelerator Centre works closely with the technical department at the College and has helped develop some of its curriculum. Andrew suggested that there might be an opportunity for the Centre and the WRCPC to interchange some knowledge and ideas.

WRCPC staff have followed-up with Marion Evans, Professor of the Community and Criminal Justice Degree program, about the students' participation at the March 13th, 2015 meeting. In addition, Christiane continues to represent the WRCPC on the Program Advisory Committee for the Criminal Justice Degree Program. On many occasions, the Council members and staff have been invited by the instructors to speak to students in that program about crime prevention and about the WRCPC and other crime prevention topic areas.

The Friends of Crime Prevention event was a great opportunity to engage a variety of stakeholders and to listen to what the community was saying about priorities and where they believe organizations should focus their energies and make improvements. It was also a good opportunity for organizations to look at their communication and messaging into the community.

During the WRCPC's inception 20 years ago, public consultations were held as the Council developed its first strategic plan. At that time, when the public was asked about Council directions the focus was often on lobbying the federal government for toughen the

criminal code. More recently, the data collected from the March 13th 2015 meeting show a shift in the dialogue in the community. Participants have a much greater appreciation and understanding for root causes of crime, risk factors and community capacities.

Staff developed a summary report of the data collected and distributed it to the participants.

Action: An overview of the report will be presented to the WRCPC at the May 8, 2015 WRCPC meeting. A full report will be given at the WRCPC June 12th, 2015 Retreat. All the data collected will help to inform the WRCPC Strategic Plan 2015-2018.

7. Sector Round Table Approach;

The WRCPC discussed how staff might assist Council members to move forward with the new Sector Round Table approach and streamline the process as sector representatives begin to engage their sectors.

The Sector Round Table Framework was redistributed to Council members for this discussion.

The Framework for the Sector Round Table approach was developed by the Nominating Committee to help encourage sector engagement. The approach was then brought forward to the Facilitating Committee for feedback and forwarded to Council for approval at the Council meeting that was held on May 9th, 2014. To date, several of the WRCPC members have held sector round tables.

The Council also discussed the Sector Round Table reporting process to the WRCPC and what this might look like. It was suggested that information could be shared from the Sector Round Tables through brief reports in the consent agenda or as attachments to the Council minutes. There was a request for the Council to build the reporting process into the Council agenda.

The older adult sector has currently had two meetings and has identified two areas that WRCPC staff could assist with. There is currently a research project about crime prevention and older adults that is being developed in Guelph. Additionally the Woolwich Community Health Centre has taken some leadership in research in the northern townships. The older adult sector group would like the opportunity to present to the WRCPC and would like staff to assist in providing resource material to this sector to support their work.

The WRCPC is in the process of developing its next Strategic Plan 2015-2018 and it is important for this community to share identified directions that the WRCPC might focus on particularly before the June 12, 2015 Retreat. By way of example, fraud against seniors is a major growing concern in the community.

Actions:

- The Facilitating Committee will review the request of building the sector reporting into the Council agenda and report back to the WRCPC
- Staff will begin to develop an overview of available resources so that the WRCPC can choose the material resources they need for their sector round table. The staff

- are in the process of developing a generic resource package for Council members to use for their sector meetings.
- Each request from the sector round tables for staff or Council member participation will be considered based on the sector's needs. This Sector Round Table approach is still in its infancy and the process needs time to develop.
- Council members can encourage their sectors to become Friends of Crime Prevention and to attend these types of meetings.
- Friends of Crime Prevention meetings are a good venue for sector table presentations.
- It would be beneficial for the strategic planning process for the staff to provide
 questions to sector leaders to take back to their tables. This would help each sector
 provide a summary based on the questions provided. Action: Anthony Piscitelli will
 provide these questions to the WRCPC members to take back to their sector
 tables. Feedback from the sector tables is due at the end of May 2015.
- The WRCPC will forward the background information about the design and adoption of the Sector Round Table approach to newly elected WRCPC members.
- Christiane encouraged the WRCPC as ambassadors to share their sector round table stories. Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders shared a story of how the THINK campaign featured in recent meetings of a childcare center and how he used that opportunity to provide some additional information and materials to staff after that meeting because of his role on WRCPC.

8. | Psychology of Citizenship and Civic Engagement: Mark Pancer

Mark Pancer, author of the new book, **Psychology of Citizenship and Civic Engagement** presented to the WRCPC. The book is about the social science research behind civic engagement and the impact it has on people and on communities. Please see PPT presentation attached.

Mark Pancer donated a copy of his book to the WRCPC library.

John Milloy, now a new professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, is also teaching from his perspective as a former political figure about faith based civic engagement.

inREACH project is an example of the positive impacts of civic engagement.

Pari Karem shared that civic engagement is the ultimate goal for many agencies. Currently, with the recent changes to the Canadian Immigration laws have made it extremely challenging to become a Canadian citizen. This difficulty may make it hard for civic engagement and this is not beneficial for the Canadian public. Immigration Partnership Council is also concerned about the issue of civic engagement. Christiane shared that she was meeting fairly regularly with Tara Bedard the Manager of IPC because of common areas of interest.

9. Region of Waterloo Strategic Plan Input: Mike Murray and Lorie Fioze

The Region of Waterloo is currently in the process of developing a Strategic Plan 2015-2018. Regional Council updates the Strategic Plan on a 4-year cycle, which is reflective of a 4-year cycle of the Council. Part of the process in the development of the strategic plan is engaging the community through community consultations.

Mike Murray, the Regional CAO, provided a presentation of the current Regional trends and issues and Lorie Fioze, Manager of Strategic Planning and Strategic Initiative, asked the WRCPC members for their input into the Strategic Plan. A background document was distributed to the WRCPC for information along with worksheets for Council members to provide feedback.

The WRCPC were asked the following questions:

- 1. Are there major trends or issues you feel the Region of Waterloo needs to pay attention to in the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan?
- 2. Based on the trends and issues shared, what do you think should be the top priorities for the Region of Waterloo's 2015 2018 Strategic Plan?

The WRCPC members provided feedback. In addition, they were asked to submit their worksheets, to share the survey with their networks, complete survey online and to join the discussion forum. For ongoing information about the Plan please go to http://bit.ly/regionstratchat

The information collected from the community consultations will go forward to Regional Council as they consider priorities and objectives for the next 4 years.

10. Update on Ambiguous Loss Work: Maureen Trask

Maureen Trask (Friend of Crime Prevention) provided an update about Ontario Missing Persons Legislation petition that was forwarded to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, with the assistance of MPP Catherine Fife, asking to allow Police in Ontario to investigate missing persons' cases where there is no evidence of crime. Currently, the Police do not have access to vital personal information in these types of missing person cases. The WRCPC provided a letter of support along with other local organizations. To date Maureen has received letters of support from MPPs Catherine Fife, Daiene Vernile, and Michael Harris. Five other provinces are either working on or have the legislation in place.

Maureen has received a response from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services about the Missing Persons' Legislation petition. The need for a missing persons' legislation and its potential framework are being discussed as part of the Futures of Policing Advisory Committee (FPAC) review process. Maureen asked the WRCPC if any of the members are aware of the process. Families of missing persons would like to participate in the process of any legislative change. Maureen is currently seeking letters of support from the local government. The WRCPC offered to make some inquiries about the process.

Maureen invited the WRCPC to a 2-hour session to help educate the community about Ambiguous Loss. This session is planned for April 22nd, 2015 at the Canadian Mental Health Association. For more information please contact Maureen at trasker@rogers.com

11. Community Safety and Well-Being Plans (Christiane Sadeler):

Christiane provided a brief update about the Community Safety and Well-being Plan. The March Community Safety and Well-being Plan meeting was cancelled and the initiative is currently on hold locally until further notice. This was communicated from the Chief of Police, Bryan Larkin.

Ontario has appointed nine members to the Premier's Community Hub Framework Advisory Group. The group will work with the Premier's Special Advisor, Karen Pitre, to review provincial policies and develop a framework for adapting existing public assets to become community hubs. Link to announcement here

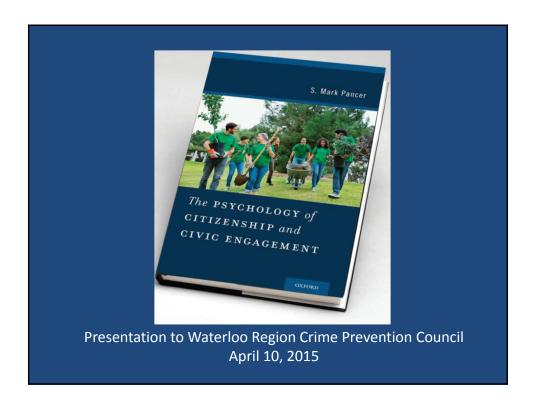
This is a good opportunity to reflect on the process and direction for this initiative and to review the information that was collected by the Community Safety and Well-being Plan Facilitator, Kathy Hogarth through her consultations with organizations. Alison Scott suggested that meanwhile the WRCPC might want to look at doing a mapping exercise to clarify language and get a better sense of current capacities in the community that contribute to safety and well-being.

12. Presentation on Human Animal Violence: Mary Zilney and Alison Scott. Carried forward to a future meeting

13. Other Business:

The moving date for the WRCPC office from the Public Health and Social Service building on 99 Regina Street South to the Governors House on 73 Queen Street North is on August 1st, 2015. An open house is being planned for September 18th, 2015. An update and an open house announcement will be provided in July 2015 consent agenda.

14. Adjournment: Moved by Irene O'Toole. Carried at 11.36a.m.



Think back

• What are the activities that you most remember from your high school years?

Civic Engagement: What is it?

- The process of connecting with your community by getting involved in things such as
 - Volunteering
 - Participation in community groups, teams, clubs & organizations (religious, sports, interest, ethnic, cultural)
 - Political activities
 - Social, political & environmental activism

What happens when people become civically engaged?

- Civically engaged young people are less likely
 - To use drugs or alcohol
 - To be involved in delinquent or criminal behaviour
 - To skip classes, fail at school, or drop out
 - To become pregnant or cause a pregnancy
 - To smoke
 - To suffer from depression & other mental health problems

What happens when people become civically engaged?

- Civically engaged young people are more likely
 - To have high self-esteem & be satisfied with their lives
 - To have positive relationships with peers & parents
 - To feel a sense of community
 - To continue their civic involvement well into adulthood
 - To have fewer stereotypes & greater appreciation for diversity
 - To have a sense of social responsibility
 - To have a variety of skills social skills, problem-solving skills, leadership skills & others
 - To achieve success at school & go for higher education
 - To have a well-established sense of right & wrong

Which youth benefit the most?

- Those who are at highest risk!!!
- According to a study by Mahoney & Cairns
 (1997), at risk youth who didn't participate in
 any extra-curricular activities were 3 times as
 likely to drop-out compared to non at-risk
 youth who were not involved in any activities
- At risk youth who were involved in 2 or more activities had the same low rate of drop-out as non at-risk youth

What happens when people become civically engaged?

- Civically engaged adults
 - Have higher self-esteem
 - Have more friends & social support
 - Are more accepting of diversity
 - Smoke less & eat more nutritious foods
 - Have better health, fewer illnesses & are more active
 - Live longer
 - Are less likely to suffer from depression & other mental health problems
 - Have a better quality-of-life

What happens when societies have high levels of engagement?

- Civically engaged societies have
 - Greater sense of community
 - Lower rates of disease & health problems
 - Better mental health & lower rates of suicide
 - Less crime
 - Greater economic prosperity
 - Lower drop-out rates
 - Lower juvenile arrest rates
 - Better governments

Why is it that some people become civically involved, while others don't?

- Factors that initiate civic engagement
 - Values
 - Social influence***
 - Instrumental motives
- Factors that sustain civic engagement
 - Positive outcomes
 - A supportive social milieu

What are the major influences on these factors that initiate & sustain civic engagement?

- Parents & families
- Peers
- Schools
- Neighbourhoods
- Religious organizations
- Work-places
- Society

What can we do to get people more civically involved?

- Importance of social influence
- High quality involvements
 - Done in groups
 - Provide a sense of accomplishment ("making a difference") & belonging
 - Are supported by family & friends
 - Are appreciated by leaders & organizations
 - Help develop new skills & form new relationships
 - Are interesting
 - Are structured
 - Allow participants voice & choice in what they do (more than tokenism)

What kinds of activities, programs & policies do we need?

- Start with the young
- Provide quality programs
- Reach out to those who are disengaged
- Provide more opportunities
- Make organizations more inclusive & participatory
- Overcome barriers (program fees, bus fare, child care)

What is the book all about?

- It describes what happens to people, programs, organizations & society when people become civically engaged
- It discusses the ways in which families, schools, neighbourhoods, organizations, work-places & societies influence civic engagement
- It talks about how knowledge of these things can be used to enhance & increase civic engagement through research, programs & policy

To order

- www.oup.com/us
- Enter ASPROMP8 at checkout for 30% discount
- http://www.amazon.ca/Psychology-Citizenship-Civic-Engagement/dp/0199752125/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UT F8&qid=1428487380&sr=1-1
- I have a few copies that I can sell at author's rate (\$40)