Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City of Airdrie Municipal Policing Advisory Board, in the Province of Alberta, held in Council Chambers with the following:

PRESENT

Deputy-Mayor A. Hunter (Chair)
Alderman D. Belyk
C. Gourlie
C. Jacyk
P. Prescesky

RCMP:
Insp G. Sage

STAFF:
K. Kitiuk
L. Mackenzie
S. Pollyck
M. Locking

K. Rushford (Recording Technician)

ABSENT WITH REGRETS

J-P. Dubreuil
T. Schulz

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Question Period was added to the agenda.

MINUTES

Alderman Belyk moved "that the minutes of the regular meeting of November 18, 2014 be approved as presented."

CARRIED

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Ms. Charlene Maines, Range Road 13, distributed a handout and presented questions regarding Airdrie Peace Officers performing the duties of Animal Control Officers. Ms. Maines asked that the information be available for people at the upcoming open houses. M. Locking thanked Ms. Maines for bringing this information forward and confirmed that the information will be made available at the open houses and brought forward to Council. In response to the questions, Mr. Locking confirmed that Peace Officers are legislated to have a certain level of training which includes animal control training, and that Airdrie Officers do work with Calgary Animal Control and the Calgary Humane Society/Pound.
NEW BUSINESS

Drinking Establishment Bylaw

S. Pollyck presented a revised version of the proposed Drinking Establishment Bylaw addressing the concerns raised at the last meeting.

A comment was made that it is not clear that the definition of Drinking Establishment in Section 2(f) is applicable to both Class A and Class C establishments. S. Pollyck advised that staff will review the definition to make sure that it is clear.

It was questioned whether the information required in Section 6(a) and (b) should also be required in Section 17. S. Pollyck advised that the City Manager would not need to know that information but could specify that the information must be provided upon issuance of the license.

It was suggested that Section 15(e)(ii) be changed to require the manager and staff to "point out the location of the Drinking Establishment License so that it may be identified."

It was questioned why Section 16(c) requiring the owner of a drinking establishment "to remove Persons who are involved in illegal activities" contains the qualifier "such as drug possession or trafficking". The qualifier narrows the scope of activities that the drinking establishment will be looking for. S. Pollyck advised that the wording came directly from the City's legal counsel. Insp Sage noted that Section 69.1 of the Gaming and Liquor Act gives the RCMP the ability to immediately remove people associated with known gangs from drinking establishments. Section 69.1 targets individuals, whereas Section 16(c) targets the drinking establishments which allow them entrance and also gives the owner of the establishment the tools to ask people to leave. Deputy-Mayor Hunter recommended that Section 16(c) mirror Section 69.1 of the Gaming and Liquor Act. Insp Sage noted that there could be incidents every night under Sections 16(a) or (b) - "To refuse entry to Persons who appear to be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, or to remove persons whose behaviour becomes quarrelsome, riotous or disorderly".

It was suggested that Section 17(e) requiring the installation of a metal detecting security gate be broadened to include metal detecting devices. It was questioned whether metal detecting wands would be required for a festival. S. Pollyck advised that special events may receive a different kind of license. Staff will check on that.

A question arose with respect to Section 32(f). S. Pollyck advised that an incident could go straight to a Provincial ticket; a municipal ticket does not have to be issued first.

It was noted that the Board's hope was to recoup some of the costs of Police attending at trouble establishments. A lot of administration is involved with the proposed Bylaw and it may actually cost the City money at this level. Insp Sage suggested that the program could be enforced through Airdrie Safe Nights, which is cost neutral to the City. M. Locking noted that with Airdrie...
Safe Nights, the RCMP proactively go to establishments, whereas this Bylaw is based on calls for service. Insp Sage will work at creating a specific survey code for this type of call so that actual numbers can be presented to Council.

A question arose with respect to the collection of fines. S. Pollyck advised that establishments receiving a number of fines could be billed monthly or quarterly. A comment was made that fines need to be high enough to create a consequence. M. Locking noted that if the Bylaw is too onerous, it could put establishments out of business. Insp Sage suggested that establishments could receive one free call for service. The one free call who bring their attention to the Bylaw. The number of fines will likely be higher at the beginning and then taper off as information gets out.

Insp Sage recommended that since there have not been any major issues lately and the RCMP do have the tools to deal with problems, that approval of the Bylaw be delayed until all concerns are resolved.

Alderman Belyk moved "that the Drinking Establishment Bylaw be tabled and brought back with further information."

CARRIED

RCMP Police Report

Insp Sage presented the Police Advisory Report for Fourth Quarter/Year End 2014 including statistical comparisons for Q4 and Year To Date.

Concern was raised over the increase in robberies. Insp Sage advised that a program is coming that will target "travelling criminals". It was questioned whether there is a correlation between the number of robberies and the use of offensive weapons. Insp Sage advised that the level of violence and the number of people willing to use violence is definitely going up.

It was noted that the Board had moved to go ahead with strategic plans for the 2016 budget season to have eight more officers hired by April of 2016. Insp Sage noted that a letter must be sent to the Minister of Safety in Ottawa by the middle of June. The public expects that the level of service will go up. The RCMP need to know the areas they need to target and where they need to grow in the community. It was suggested that the Board work at engaging the business community to support programs such as COP and SRO's. We should also ask Corporate Communications to line up a public engagement evening to dialogue about trends and concerns. L. Mackenzie commented that the engagement for the Animal Control Bylaw will put the police in a good light with the public.

Municipal Enforcement Statistics

L. Mackenzie, Team Leader, Municipal Enforcement, presented December Month End Statistics. There were a number of vicious dog incidents in 2014 and M.E. is looking forward to feedback on the new Animal Control Bylaw. Members of M.E. took part in the Events Committee and received positive feedback from the team. M.E. is working well with the RCMP on traffic and helped with the evacuation at the recent gas leak and the Crown Shores condo flood.
A question arose as to what is driving the big increase in Bylaw warnings and why there is not a similar increase in tickets issued. L. Mackenzie advised that M.E. has a full complement of staff who are proactive about educating people. M. Locking advised that a large number of the warnings related to the snow clearing Bylaw. The fees have since been adjusted so Bylaw officers feel more comfortable issuing tickets now.

ROUND TABLE

C. Gourlie - Is the second floor in the RCMP building operational now? Insp Sage advised that Major Crimes and GIS are occupying the second floor and another District is coming. Parking has not been a problem.

P. Prescesky - Residents want more police visibility on the streets. Insp Sage advised that there were gaps with the three watch system. The eight new officers will be 100% front line, including the supervisor on the watch. The priority is to have a supervisor on the road to deal with potential threats. At the next meeting, Insp Sage will present where he foresees the gaps will be.

Alderman Belyk - Contractors are going door-to-door without a license and are speeding through residential areas. There are unattached trailers and bins on roadways.

Alderman Belyk - Have any groups come to the RCMP to get information out to the public on anti-bullying charges being laid? Insp Sage advised that there has not been much pressure from groups coming to the police. Alderman Belyk suggested that the Anti-Bullying group could bridge the gap between citizens and the police. M. Locking noted that Insp Sage has been tasked with bring forward a report on the logistics of the anti-bullying Bylaw. Insp Sage advised that the police have lots of tools to deal with bullying, including the Criminal Code which is stronger than the Bylaw, so it is unclear when the Bylaw will be used. Concern was raised that money has been put into a fund that will never be used if charges won't be laid. The dollars may need to be moved elsewhere so they can be used. M. Locking advised that after Insp Sage brings forward his report, amendments may be needed to the Bylaw.

Insp Sage advised that there have not been many bullying issues in Airdrie. The priority should be awareness and education. There is also disconnect with the schools - the Justice Minister and Education Minister need to educate school boards that they do not have the right to decide what is bullying. Deputy-Mayor Hunter advised that he will be following up with the School Division. It was recommended that Deputy-Mayor Hunter wait until after Insp Sage gives his report (likely early in March).

Deputy Mayor Hunter - City needs to track the number of times large trucks use the rural roads around Airdrie.

Deputy Mayor Hunter - Fences are being cut so that people can cut across the CPR tracks. After the young person's death some years ago, there was a lot of emphasis on fixing fences and working with the CPR police. M. Locking will follow up with Parks.

Insp Sage advised that Constable David Wynn's family has said their goodbye's. Constable Wynn's funeral will be held in St. Albert and a few
members from Airdrie will be attending. This tragedy may result in auxiliary constables in Alberta being armed.

**ACTION PLAN**
- Send letter requesting more officers to Minister of Safety in Ottawa by middle of June.
- Ask Corporate Communications to line up a public engagement evening to dialogue about trends and concerns.
- Follow-up with Parks re fixing fences adjacent to CPR tracks.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Municipal Policing Advisory Board will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary