

# Community Safety Conversation and AGM



# Agenda

## Community Safety Conversation

- Approx. 90 min

## Break

- Approx. 15 min

## SVRA Annual General Meeting

- Approx. 45 min

# Community Safety Conversation

# SVRA vision, mission, values

- Our **vision** is of a thriving community where everyone feels they belong.
- We will achieve it through our **mission**: to foster community well-being *in South Valour*, connecting residents to build an inclusive and supportive neighbourhood.
- Our Values:
  - Caring
  - Inclusivity
  - Positivity
  - Collaboration
  - Evidence informed

# Safety in South Valour

- 2021 community survey - safety identified as a key priority
- Importance of inclusive and caring approaches to safety
- Working with UofW - Dr. Julie Chamberlain & Dagen Perrott
  - Defining and identifying approaches
- Community safety conversation
  - Gathering together to learn, explore use in community of South Valour and what we as individuals can do

# Community Safety Conversation Agenda

- Welcome and overview - Stacy Cardigan Smith
- Overview of facilitation process - Nanette McKay
- What is safety? - Dagen Perrott
- Facilitated table discussion #1 - All attendees
- Caring and inclusive approaches to safety - Dagen Perrott
- Approaches in practice - Jesse Gair
- Facilitated table discussion #2 - All attendees
- Discussion synthesis - Nanette McKay
- Next steps - Stacy Cardigan Smith

# What is a facilitated community conversation and why does it matter?

**Nanette McKay, Peacing It Together**

# Talking about Safety

Dagen Perrott  
Co-Author: Grassroots &  
Anti-Oppressive Approaches to  
Safety

- What is Safety?
  - How do we approach feelings versus facts of safety?
  - How do we experience Safety?
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# What is Safety?

- Safety is more than protection from being harmed or security
- It is an active experience of trust, community, and support
- It can be thought of in positive terms or negative ones

Discussion of safety are at their best when they are:

- Collaborative involving many diverse people
- Aware of inequities that makes us vulnerable in different ways
- Focused on how to share and expand safety for all
- Go beyond security and surveillance

# Safety Feelings vs Safety Facts

- Individual feelings about safety are important, but often are based in fears and stereotypes rather than facts
- Research shows that violent crime is generally decreasing and exclusionary approaches to security are flawed
- Harm is not always a rational decision but a by-product of survival
- Fear of crime can be used to justify harmful policies and approaches
- Discussions of safety can and sometimes should be slow

# Experiencing Safety

- Safety is a sense of ownership or belonging within a community, it is both something you participate in and do (Syvixay, 2017)
- Safety is something we should all benefit from

Safety can be the experience of:

- Caring and being cared for
- A good quality of life
- Knowing your neighbours
- A sense of belonging
- Accountability when harm occurs

# Table Discussion #1

Answer this question:

- “What did you hear that is new to you?”
- *1 minute personal reflection, followed by 8 minute group discussion*

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# Doing safety

Six approaches to expanding how we create safety together

1. Nurturing social capital
  2. Cultivating good greenspace
  3. Promoting harm reduction
  4. Doing street outreach
  5. Caring responses to crisis
  6. Seeing your neighbours
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# Nurturing social capital

- Social capital is the strength of trust and reciprocity in our communities
- It exists within groups and between groups
- Examples include volunteer childcare, borrowing tools, getting a ride, or any time we rely on others within our communities
- Safety often increases as social capital does
- It can be built through events that bring people together, that strengthen existing relationships, provide new connections, art-based programming, and others

# Cultivating good greenspace

- Usable and accessible greenspaces such as parks and gardens contribute to safety.
- Well-maintained green spaces has a positive impact on the perception and actual safety within a neighbourhood
- It can be cultivated through redeveloping vacant lots, advocating for increased municipal spending on greenspaces, and community projects

# Promoting Harm Reduction

- Includes providing supplies, supports, and spaces to make sure risky activities can be done safely or with minimal harm
- Harm reduction has been shown to improve community quality of life and may also help reduce crime
- Approaches can include distributing and training people with Naloxone kits, creating support groups not based on abstinence models, providing safe sex supplies, and others



# Doing Street Outreach

- Meeting people where they are at
- Providing an accessible point of support and safety for people who otherwise might not feel connected
- This does not include patrols based on surveillance or guarding
- Approaches can include doing neighbourhood walks, offering food, water, clothing, or other supplies, safe rides, and others

# Caring Responses to Crisis

- This includes many methods of supporting de-escalation rather than criminalization of people in distress
- This builds safety for everyone
- For example raising awareness of crisis response lines, outreach supports, safe spaces, and advocating for expanded social supports, and others

# Seeing Your Neighbours

- Active communities that see and care for each other
- As the amount of outdoor activities and public connections in a community grows, so does a sense of safety
- Building a culture of seeing your neighbours can include developing diverse public spaces used at various times and by various groups and advocating to increase access to public spaces and free facilities, and others

# Caring and Inclusive Approaches in Practice

**Jesse Gair, West End community leader**

# Table discussion #2

Select which approach you'd like to discuss. Move to the appropriate table:

- Table 1 - Nurturing social capital - Rachel
- Table 2 - Cultivating good greenspace - Kyle
- Table 3 - Doing street outreach - Hillary
- Table 4 - Caring responses to crisis - Teresa
- Table 5 - Promoting harm reduction - Jesse
- Table 6 - Seeing your \_\_\_\_\_ neighbours - Liz

# Table discussion #2

Answer these questions:

- What could this look like in our community?
- What is one thing you as an individual can do?
- *1 minute personal reflection, followed by 15 minute group discussion*

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# Feedback & Next Steps

Please provide your feedback about today's session, via written or electronic survey

- What was your "aha!" moment?
- What did we miss today?
- Was there anything you wanted to get to that we didn't get to? What are you still curious about?



SVRA's next steps

- SVRA will share back what it has heard with the community
- It will influence our planning and activities
- Follow up meeting with Nanette in the new year

BREAK followed by AGM