



# City of Surrey

## Social Planning Committee

### Minutes

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2003**  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

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**Present:**

Chairperson - Councillor J. Villeneuve  
S. Blown  
R. Day  
J. Grafton  
A. Khanzadeh  
S. Moore

**Absent:**

J. Brown  
S. DeRapp  
P. Joshi

**Staff Present:**

B. Beblo, Planning & Development  
K. Swaele, Administrative Assistant

**Also Present:**

L. Vincent, Community Liaison  
Commissioner M. Martin, Parks, Recreation &  
Culture Commission

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The Chair introduced Commissioner M. Martin from the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission. Members and guests introduced themselves for the benefit of others in attendance.

The Chair advised that following an automobile accident, Paul Joshi is still in hospital. The Chair asked members of the Social Planning Committee to keep Paul in their hearts and minds.

#### **A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

##### **1. Social Planning Committee Minutes – Thursday, March 27, 2003**

It was Moved by J. Grafton  
Seconded by R. Day  
That the minutes of the Social Planning  
Committee meeting held on March 27, 2003, be adopted.  
Carried

#### **B. DELEGATIONS**

1. Suzanne Noel, Project Coordinator, and Toni Courchene, Youth Coordinator, Surrey Aboriginal Cultural Society, were in attendance to present an overview of the programs and services provided by the Society.

Suzanne Noel presented a copy of the Strategic Plan for the Surrey Aboriginal Society and noted that:

- Surrey has the second largest aboriginal community in British Columbia, with 2400 aboriginal students in the schools.
- The Society has very inclusive services and offers programs from pre-birth all the way to elders.
- When an individual comes to their office, an assessment is done to see which of the Society's programs will meet that person's needs.
- If the Society does not have a service to meet the individual's needs, they are referred to another organization which will.

- The Society has many early childhood development programs, and they are looking at a program where parents teach other parents.
- Presently the only significant programming gap is for “tweens” aged 6 to 12 years old.

Suzanne Noel continued by briefly commenting on the following programs offered by the Surrey Aboriginal Society:

*Homelessness Project* – this is a support centre for homeless youth or those at-risk of becoming homeless. Activities for the centre focus on providing youth accessibility to services that will help better themselves.

Ms. Noel noted that there is no shelter or safe house in Surrey for children under 19 years of age, but they have been fortunate to have a North Shore safe house take some Surrey children. She noted the case of a young aboriginal traveling every day from the North Shore to a Surrey school because of the individual’s commitment to graduating this year.

*Aboriginal Youth Employment Resource Centre* – this project helps young people up to age 29 with financial arrangements and support for school or training. The program provides them with the support needed to guide them in their job search.

*Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Council Project* – provides recreational, educational, social and cultural activities to support youth in the community and provide a link to their culture, languages and history of First Nations. Dance classes are offered for traditional dance, as well as more modern, popular dance such as hip hop. Although focused on the aboriginal culture, youth do not need to be aboriginal to participate.

*Renovations Project* – a trades training program to hire and train youth in a trade that will provide an opportunity to learn about and seek employment in a particular trade.

*Culinary Arts Program* – directed by Chef Ben Genaille, and which is a 23-week training program providing comprehensive knowledge of classical techniques and a solid foundation of the basic culinary skills, and methods necessary for building a professional career and obtaining employment.

*Unloading Zone* – funding has been cut and there are waiting lists. Ms. Noel noted that if you have an angry child, they should not be told they have to wait a year. Tom Oleman, of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation is very good with kids and helps them with anger management. Young people have been trained and will be going out to school system so that the program can continue.

*Teepee Construction Project* - youth who are not able to get jobs are taught how to make canvass teepees and market them. This program has been quite successful with 6 of the 10 kids from the program now fully employed.

*Heart/Stroke/Diabetes Project* – provides support for Aboriginal people through education and promoting awareness.

*Summer Student Project* – 25 youth were hired to work on projects for camps that ran concurrently through the summer. For most of the students this was their first job and a lot of skills were learned.

*Upcoming Projects* – the Surrey Aboriginal Society has the following proposals for which they are seeking funding:

- Law Foundation
- Court worker
- Diabetes (to be combined with Heart and Stroke Project)
- Community Garden
- Elders Lodge an intergenerational project, which would bring elders and youth together.
- A chef training program, which will be open to the public.

In response to questions Ms. Noel stated:

- That the Society would like to find families in Surrey who could board some of the homeless youth so that they can remain in the community and be in a family situation, but there are challenges with this arrangement as well.
- That capital money is available for a youth shelter, but they need to show sustainability through day-to-day operational money, which is not available under any government program.
- That they are looking to form partnerships with the community towards a youth shelter.
- That there is a lot of community support for a youth shelter, and it would not be aboriginal specific.
- That a shelter would need to have 2 staff on at all times.

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The Social Planning Committee discussed the possibility of a youth shelter in Surrey and made the following recommendations to the delegation:

- That the Society should consider making a presentation to some of the community churches in the community as they are always looking to do good work and it may open some doors.
- That the Society should set up a meeting with the Social Planner, to discuss housing options and City regulations.

The Chair will keep the Surrey Aboriginal Society apprised of what happens with restructuring of the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

The meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m. and reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

2. Suzy Blown, Committee member, was in attendance to discuss her thesis proposal for the Graduate Program at the School of Community and Regional Planning at U.B.C. examining "The Impacts of Provincial Restructuring of Programs and Services on Families."

Suzy Blown requested permission from the Social Planning Committee to videotape her presentation, which will be used as a learning tool for presentation skills and to aid in incorporating media into her thesis. The Social Planning Committee indicated that it had no objections to the videotaping of Ms. Blown's presentation to the Committee.

Suzy Blown advised that her thesis proposal is in the early stages, and she is interested in the topic of social programs and services, the restructuring of these programs and services, and the impact on Surrey families.

Ms. Blown gave an overhead presentation on her thesis proposal that included:

*Research Problem* – In May 2002 cuts began to BC's social programs. These cuts are on average 25% across all ministries and impact the lives of children and families.

Ms. Blown referenced a paper from the Caledon Institute of Social Policy, which notes that the cuts over three years amount to \$500 million in year one, \$1.2 billion in year two, and \$1.9 billion in year three. Taken together, these are among the largest budget and public sector cuts in Canadian history.

*The CHILD Project* – comprised of partners from UBC, SFU, UNBC, UVic, SPARC BC and CCPA. This project has received major funding from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada and will look at government responses to poverty, income inequality and the effect on children and families.

*The Surrey Project* - will explore the impacts of social program restructuring and its impact on families in Surrey. There is a possibility that the project will receive funding through the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

*Research Question* - "How have the programs for children and families been restructured in Surrey and how has this affected the lives of families living in Surrey?"

*Goals and Objectives* – research to help inform advocacy work and public policy and to gain an understanding of the effects of the cuts to social programs.

Ms. Blown advised that she would analyze data from service providers and hopefully interview families who have been affected by the change. She noted that there are ethical considerations and an ethical review will be conducted through UBC to ensure confidentiality and consent, and to safeguard individuals or agencies.

Ms. Blown presented her work plan, which will conclude in the summer of 2004 with writing up of the data.

The Chair thanked Suzy Blown for her excellent presentation. The Social Planning Committee discussed the proposed thesis and made the following comments:

- That perhaps a third goal should be to look at what creative solutions are coming from the community to replace some of the programs and services.
- That a focus group of service providers could be considered to look at what they are experiencing in terms of cuts and how they are rebuilding.
- That as Surrey is multicultural, a consideration might be looking at how cultures within the community are affected and how they are addressing the issues.
- That community groups could be approached, as they may be able to provide some statistics on how the programs may have shifted to other organizations.
- That one of the challenges of the thesis proposal will be that results may be preliminary as provincial restructuring is ongoing and the full impact, both positive and negative, may not be known until after the thesis is put forward.

The Social Planning Committee then noted that members of the Committee can contact Suzy with suggestions as to groups to be interviewed, and can also assist with knowledge resources. The Committee remarked that it will benefit from the work done by Ms. Blown, as it will allow the Committee to learn more about what is happening in the community and the affect of service cuts.

The Chair suggested that the Social Planning Committee think about the thesis project and if there are suggestions, to contact Ms. Blown at [sblown@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:sblown@interchange.ubc.ca).

## C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATIONS

### 1. Suzanne Noel, Project Coordinator, Surrey Aboriginal Cultural Society

The Chair advised that the Surrey Aboriginal Cultural Society will be holding its grand opening on June 21 at its new home at 13629 – 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue (old Cap's Building), and encouraged Committee members to attend.

The Chair also remarked that a youth shelter is a common need in the community and noted an upcoming housing forum which will be held June 12 and 13 at Kwantlen College.

### 2. Suzy Blown, Committee member, to discuss her thesis proposal for the Graduate Program at the School of Community and Regional Planning at U.B.C. examining "The Impacts of Provincial Restructuring of Programs and Services on Families."

## D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### 1. Presentation of the film, **Fix: The Story of an Addicted City.**

The Chair commented that "Fix" is a powerful film and the filmmaker would appreciate the support of the City. The film makes it clear that together with

dealing with crime, drug addiction is a health issue. She advised that the film was originally planned to be shown for 3 days in Victoria, but because it is so successful, has now been there for three weeks.

The Chair advised that there is a potential for a partnership with the Drug-Crime Taskforce/ Crime Prevention Subcommittee, however they have a full agenda at the moment with a particular focus on younger children and prevention. The Chair suggested that perhaps the two committees can review the situation and look at something in the fall.

The Social Planning Committee asked that, if possible, the Social Planner arrange for a viewing at 4:30 on May 15, prior to the next Social Planning Committee meeting for members who did not have the opportunity to view the film when first presented in March. An invitation is also extended to members of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission interested in seeing the film

## **2. Update on the Housing and Homelessness Forum.**

The Chair briefly reviewed the history of the Surrey Social Futures Homeless Report and the Task Force that was formed as a result. The Homeless Task Force is made up of individuals/organizations dealing with different aspects of homelessness such as funding, cold weather emergencies and how an emergency response can be done.

The Chair continued that the Homeless Task Force is taking a lead role with the housing forum to be held on Thursday evening June 12 and the morning of Friday June 13.

The Chair advised that final details are being firmed up, and speakers will include Terry Roberts, executive director, of the Calgary Homeless Foundation. Mr. Roberts will review how the Homeless Foundation got started and how business people became involved in addressing the issue.

Thursday night will include display booths between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. to highlight community resources, with the evening session opened by Mayor McCallum. The evening will include presentations by 2 or 3 people who have been homeless, who will give their experience and perspective.

Workshops will be held on Friday morning, and include:

- Identifying community resources and gaps, with information from the workshops included in the Surrey Social Futures Homeless Plan.
- Successful Projects – such as the Greater Vancouver Housing and multi use projects in Richmond and Port Moody.
- Partnership of the Vancouver Police and the Drug Squad to address housing and social issues.

The Chair advised that the wind-up luncheon will include presentations from three levels of government – Human Resources Development Canada, BC Housing, and the Planning & Development Department, for the City of Surrey.

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**G. UPDATES**

1. Surrey Social Futures
2. Surrey/White Rock: Child, Youth & Family Network

A. Khanzadeh reported that he attended a recent meeting of the Surrey/White Rock: Child, Youth & Family Network, where they discussed proposed budget cuts of \$342 million dollars. It is hoped that the economy will improve and cuts may not have to be made, but they are looking at their service delivery plan.

The Network also discussed a '211' call-for-information service, which will provide information on services available to the public. The CRTC has given approval and funding will come from the Lower Mainland United Way. They are also hoping to make links with community resources to disseminate some of the information.

The Social Planning Committee noted the Surrey Chamber of Commerce web site has a good profile of Surrey and is a real enhancement to Surrey Connections.

3. Joint Youth/Family Court Committee

J. Grafton noted that a meeting is set for Wednesday, April 30, 2003.

4. Highland House – Shelter Advisory Committee

L. Vincent, Community Liaison, reported that the construction timeline is on target and the Shelter was set for opening April 22. She noted that it is a beautiful project, which provides clients with their own rooms.

**H. CORRESPONDENCE**

**I. INFORMATION ITEMS**

It was received. Moved by S. Moore  
Seconded by J. Grafton  
That the Information Items 1 through 5 be

Carried

1. Council resolution of April 7, 2003.
2. Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services
  - (a) Brochure, A New Era for First Nations
  - (b) Overview of the Aboriginal, Multiculturalism and Immigration Programs Department
  - (c) Overview of the Office of the Aboriginal Directorate
3. Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, and Ministry of Health Services
  - News Release, April 10, 2003, Independent Living Proposals Sought for Lower Mainland
4. Fraser Health Authority
  - (a) Information about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) – Website
    - The website contains a very comprehensive "Frequently Asked Questions" page and a detailed "Fact Sheet on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome"
  - (b) Message from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer
  - (c) Update on SARS
5. Veterans Affairs SARS Information and Procedures

**J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

L. Vincent, Community Liaison, provided community updates which included:

- A senior parents' forum to provide them with a chance to speak out and look at issues and solutions.
- Introduction to supporting people with disabilities - which was an excellent presentation done by a cross section of Surrey Community Partners.

**K. NEXT MEETING**

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Social Planning Committee is Thursday, May 15, 2003.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Jane Grafton  
Seconded by S. Moore  
That the Social Planning Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Committee adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Chairperson