



City of Surrey

Social Planning Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003
Time: 7:04 p.m.

Present:

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

Absent:

S. Moore
M. Martin, Parks, Recreation, &
Culture Commissioner

Staff Present:

B. Beblo, Planning & Development
L. White, Parks, Recreation & Culture
K. Miller, Administrative Assistant

Also Present:

L. Vincent, Community Liaison
B. Barlow, Chief Librarian
M. Houlden, Deputy Chief Librarian

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Social Planning Committee Minutes - October 23, 2003:

It was Moved by R. Day
Seconded by S. DeRapp
That the minutes of the Social Planning
Committee meeting held on October 23, 2003, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. Beth Barlow, Chief Librarian, and Melanie Houlden, Deputy Chief Librarian, Surrey Public Library, were in attendance to provide an overview of the range of services and programs provided by the Library.

Ms. Barlow informed the committee that the Surrey Public Library supports the social well-being of the community through the following programs:

Literacy Programs and Resources:

- Storytimes for children (from birth to preschool) at all branches;
- Mother Goose Program will start in 2004 in collaboration with Make Children First;
- Storytimes in the community;
- "If You Give a Kid a Muffin", a drop-in storytime for children and parents with nutritious snacks, at the Whalley Library;
- Summer Reading Club;
- Young Adult Writing contest;
- Board books, read-alongs, and early readers for borrowing;
- Knowledgeable staff to assist parents in choosing appropriate materials;
- Collections for adult learners;

- Collections for English as a second language learners;
- Computer-based Language Laboratory at the Strawberry Hill Library, primarily for ESL (working with immigrant service agencies) but to be expanded to include learning other languages in the future;
- Collections in languages other than English for children and adults;
- Computers in children's areas at Guildford, Whalley and Semiahmoo with reading and math skills CD-ROMs.

Access to Technology Training and Electronic Resources:

- Free internet workstations at all branches;
- Free word processing workstations at eight branches;
- Introductory classes on computers, using the internet, getting an e-mail account at the Electronic Classrooms at Strawberry Hill, Semiahmoo, and Guildford (latter two begin in 2004), with reasonable fees;
- Classes on internet searching for research on topics such as genealogy or travel – reasonable fees;
- Classes on basic skills in *Word* and *Excel* at the Electronic Classrooms – reasonable fees;
- Free job-finding classes, with a focus on using the internet and also resume' preparation.
- Free access to internet databases of full text magazine articles, business information, good reads, and jobs which not available except through libraries (advertised locally);
- Community Connections web page;
- Popular websites selected by staff for quick access to some of the best information on the internet.

Support for Customers with Special Needs:

- Home delivery service for people who cannot visit a library in person, provided by volunteers;
- Special format materials for people with print disabilities, audio books and large print.

The Cloverdale Senior's Centre is also providing services in conjunction with the library system. The Canadian New Stand is a database which provides current events / news for the public at large. Ms. Houlden reported that the Cloverdale Library branch has one of the best genealogy information centers in western Canada. Leisure and recreational readers are also offered services to assist in finding similar reading material, or materials by specific authors.

The audio book program (Interlink) was discontinued when Provincial funding was discontinued, however through fund raising, the Surrey Public Library has committed to acquiring fifty books for the calendar year. The Canadian Institute for the Blind (CNIB) will be partnering with the library system for the acquisition of books for persons with visual impairments.

There followed a general discussion relative to the services provided by libraries in Surrey at which time the committee reviewed measures to protect children who have access to the libraries' internet system. Parents who do not want their children using the library computers, may arrange to have restricted access through their children's library card.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Social Planning Awards 2003

Councillor Villeneuve thanked members for attending the awards ceremony and stated that the event was very successful.

It was	Moved by R. Day Seconded by J. Grafton That the Social Planning Committee forward a letter of thanks to the American Sign Language interpreter for her much appreciated assistance at the Social Planning Awards.
	<u>Carried</u>

2. Draft Homelessness Plan for Surrey

The Social Planner informed the committee that the aspects of addressing homelessness are encompassed within the City's draft Homelessness Plan. The Plan identifies what Surrey has available for transition homes, affordable housing and what gaps in services need to be filled. The Social Planner stated that the plan is available for distribution, and that an implementation strategy will be developed in 2004.

In response to a query from a member, the Social Planner explained Surrey's policy on affordable housing. Councillor Villeneuve explained that in the future, the committee may wish to consider a role in raising public awareness and promoting other programs.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule of Meetings – 2004

The committee was requested to pass a motion adopting the proposed meeting schedule for 2004.

It was	Moved by J. Grafton Seconded by S. DeRapp That the Social Planning Committee adopt the proposed meeting schedule for 2004.
	<u>Carried</u>

2. Committee/Commission/Board Appointments

The committee reviewed the memorandum of November 7, 2003 from the City Clerk. Councillor Villeneuve explained that Council's review of the committee structure may include disbanding some committees, and that each committee will be invited to submit a work plan for the coming year.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

The committee reviewed the following items:

1. "Out of Sight Out of Mind, the Plight of Seniors and Homelessness"
2. Press Release, VanCity Award Winner Announced: Downtown Eastside drop-in center for sex trade workers gets \$1 million from VanCity Credit Union.

It was

Moved by R. Day
Seconded by J. Grafton
That the information items be received.
Carried

E. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**1. Social Assistance Cuts**

The committee discussed the pending funding cuts for social assistance starting on April 1, 2004. There followed a general discussion relative to the risk of increasing homelessness in the City of Surrey, and options for people on assistance. This item will be forwarded to the January 2004 agenda.

2. Block Watch in Newton

L. Vincent informed the committee that businesses are looking for volunteers and a fan out phone system for assistance in watching the neighbourhood.

F. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Social Planning Committee is scheduled for January 29, 2004.

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by J. Grafton
Seconded by S. DeRapp
That the Social Planning Committee

Carried

The Social Planning Committee adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Chairperson