



# City of Surrey

## Social Planning Committee

### Minutes

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2007**  
Time: 7:04 p.m.  
File: 0540-20

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**Present:**

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve  
L. Alexander  
Kuldip Ardawa  
Robin Campbell  
G.. Gill  
Dr. Malik  
H. Parhar

**Absent:**

Councillor Gill

**Staff Present:**

Aileen Murphy, Senior Planner (Social)  
Preet Heer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Social Planner  
  
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

**Also Present:**

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The Chair, Councillor Villeneuve welcomed everyone to the Social Planning Committee and advised that today's meeting would basically be an information session with staff presentations, and an opportunity for everyone to meet.

The Chairperson noted that the Social Planning Committee has been in existence since the early 1990's as advocates for youth, housing, delegations, for presentations to Provincial and Federal Governments, housing forums, and to issue awards to recognize people for their good work (may look at reinstating this). Will review these initiatives to bring forward over time.

Round table introductions were made by all committee members.

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Nil

**B. DELEGATIONS**

**C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATION**

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Review of the Social Planning Committee Terms of Reference**

The Chairperson read through the draft terms of reference and established that there will be one meeting per month, ten meetings per year (possibly excluding July; August is summer recess).

To obtain a Quorum five members of the committee must be present, meaning one half of the membership plus one member. An alternate would also be useful, in case of vacancy or the need for a quorum vote.

It was  
Moved by Kuldip Ardawa  
Seconded by Lara Alexander  
That the Social Planning Committee  
recommend that Council appoint one alternate member to the Social Planning Committee on an annual basis.

Carried

## 2. Overview of Plan for Social Well Being

Social Planning for Well-Being focuses on what the City can do. It was noted that the City is not responsible to take care of social building, but is being called upon more and more to play a partnership role and advocacy role. We are changing with changing times and respect the fact that we don't have the authority to tax and to take up areas for consideration in the City to fund. The Committee has a strong advocacy role to play.

- Handouts provided on table:
  - a. Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents - Priority Social Issues and the role of the City in the following five areas:
    - Children & Youth
    - Community Development & Diversity
    - Crime & Public Safety
    - Housing & Homelessness
    - Substance Abuse & Addictions
  - b. Implementation of the Action Plan for these five areas in 2006-2007 - just finished year one of implementation of the action plan. Plan also includes a package of recommendations under each of the 30 areas (65 plus recommendations in the plan). This is a huge document and it is a huge undertaking to solve all the issues.
    - The primary part is how to organize issues for provincial and federal governments that are responsible
    - Secondary are the social issues of senior levels of government that are responsible.
    - The third level is to advocate to seniors levels of government for support
  - c. Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy is broken down into four categories:
    - Prevent and Deter Crime
    - Apprehend and Prosecute Offenders
    - Rehabilitate and Reintegrate
    - Perception and Reality of Crime
- Highlights of initiatives over the past year include Library and Recreation with \$650,000 going to programs:
  - Youth Participation – involving youth in social planning

- A grant from UBCM to pilot project in Whalley area to undertake a social planning project in that area
- City is formally a partnership with NUMOJA (African) a small grant from UBCM, a youth forum in June, to give opportunity to African refugee youth to speak about what is not working, etc.
- Community Schools Partnership – to open schools to programs in Whalley, Newton, Guildford.
- Early Childhood Development – Child Care is an area where Council is playing a advocacy role in early childhood development.
  
- Community Development & Diversity
  - A working group with senior staff from City, Provincial and Federal Governments to focus on City Centre area.
  - Library – increase accessibility with translated materials, and language.
  - Cultural Opportunity – under social plan by HR – idea to make city more welcoming from diverse cultures
  
- Crime & Public Safety
  - Surrey crime
  - City clean up program – Clean Sweep – engineering department the leader on this. A major initiative to clean up Surrey neighbourhoods launches this Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 10:00 am.
  
- Housing & Homelessness
  - Surrey Homelessness Fund
  - Surrey Extreme Weather Coordinator – temperatures drop to unsafe levels for those sleeping outside (BC Housing) requires a coordinator, particularly to our City. Funding was matched by BC Housing. Kevin Campbell has been hired.
  - Affordable Housing –
    - Working on implementing a bonus density to provide affordable housing.
    - Would like a clear policy to make better use of it.
    - Working on getting out soon.
  
- Substance Abuse
  - Recovery Houses – The Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy includes a recommendation to establish a Recovery House Accreditation Board. The Board will develop programming requirements, housing and care standards and other requirements for a “tiered system” of recovery houses in the City.
  
- The following points of concern were raised:
  - Document was adopted a year ago, and part of the plan on crime reduction is hot off the press.

- A new manager, Lance Talbott, has been hired. Start date is April 23, 2007.
- The City needs to put more emphasis on the issues of development disabilities and homelessness and find ways to partner this.
- Many hours of effort by the community and the province has gone into this document. The foundation of this plan is very good and has sent a concise and clear message to other levels of government that we are well prepared to take new funding because we have a plan and direction.

### 3. Surrey Homelessness Fund Update

Background:

- The City of Surrey went through a process in 1993-1994 when affordable housing was an issue due to population explosions and the gap between rich and poor and development.
- The development industry was asked to support and make voluntary contributions of \$750 per unit to help address the housing issue.
- In 1996, the Council of the day decided to no longer ask for a contribution to the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund. The acquired \$6 million was to be used as a foundation with the interest from the fund providing second mortgages to assist home buyers. Applicants had to qualify up with incomes no higher than \$59,000 and the City lent to \$25,000 for a second mortgage.
- The current Surrey City Council voted to use the Housing Reserve Fund to address the growing homelessness and housing issues in the community.
- The Fund will now be managed through a community board. The \$8.4 million will be transferred to a “special interest fund” within an established Foundation. Policies will be set in place and the City will be in a much stronger position to partner with other levels of government.
- Hopefully in the near future the City will be able to make a strong community announcement that the Board is in place and will be able to get projects and program funding off the ground by next year.

### 4. Crime Reduction Strategy Overview

Aileen Murphy and Preet Heer presented an overview of the Crime Reduction Strategy. On table handouts were provided and the following review and comments were made:

- The strategy has been modeled after other cities to see what could be adopted in Surrey. Over 100 people and 50 organizations were polled for feedback on what other locales are doing to address crime. A booklet was enclosed with the agenda package.
- The strategy has four components with over 100 recommendations related to all of those.
  - i. Overlaps with social in early childhood development and youth development and is reflected in the social plan

- ii. A civil court system
  - Takes prolific offenders, who end up in the criminal justice system, and diverts them into treatment and integrates them back into the community.
- iii. Treatment Services and housing the community
  - Aimed at prolific offenders but also others.
- iv. Perception and Reality
  - To set up a website and working with media. People should be cautious with where they are going. A Manager has been hired to coordinate this. Social Planning, not the City, has the funding. The City has brought the people together and will be a catalyst of change.
- This strategy has been a lot of work, but a 36% reduction in crime in England has resulted through this project. Pilot projects have outreach teams to get people off the streets and to connect them to services when they are ready; the longer they are on the streets the more impact and harder to bring them in.
- New York City has a community court model where repeat long term offenders (as many as 300-400 per day) are being evaluated for treatment required (detoxification, drug rehabilitation, etc.) and linked up with social services where they can be housed and helped and tracked, resulting in an over 80% success rate. A lot of young people have been able to turn their lives around. This model is working well in San Francisco, England and New York.
- It is Council's hope that Surrey will be the second city to set up a model court similar to the New York model. There is hope and encouragement in seeing success in the models seen and it would great to see a paradigm shift in the federal government and the justice system. The Mayor and the Surrey Fire Chief feel there will be a step forward in this area within the next six months.

The Mayor's Task Force on Crime Reduction was a catalyst of this committee and we all have a part to play.

The media in Surrey has been doing a good job of dealing with the issue of homelessness.

## 5. Child Care Background Paper

Aileen Murphy, Senior Planner (Social) presented a outline paper on Child Care that was prepared for Council and senior staff as a result of a resolution that they would lobby the government to reinstate funding for child care. The following review and comments were made:

Why Child Care is an issue in Surrey:

- All research shows how early years of development are so important.
- Surrey is a young city resulting in a higher proportion of youngsters. Vancouver is closing schools, while Cloverdale and Surrey are experiencing baby booms.

- Surrey is already short of childcare space. For under 13-year olds, 8% would have child care space compared to 18% on the north shore and 30% in Vancouver.
- Every child is assessed at the Kindergarten level. 30% are assessed to be developmentally vulnerable due to poverty and ESL. Part of the problem is the quality of childcare.
- Starting April 2007, there will be government cuts to childcare funding. \$100 monthly cheques will be issued each child to parents to pay for this, but there will be no new spaces created. The Federal Government will be initiating incentives for employers to create new childcare spaces, but will provide no new operating funds for new spaces.
- Fees are increasing \$78 per month—a particular problem for low income families. The \$100 federal funding will be “means” tested. Since Surrey has high and low income families this will average out. Surrey is the only city with different cultural fabrics where both parents work and the grandparents care for the children. The situation needs more help.
- Quality childcare is required for each child.
- Before and after school care could be provided through the school districts for working parents.
- The Social Planning Committee will be requested to make recommendations for childcare.

The Chairman thanked Aileen Murphy and Preet Heer for their presentations and for providing the Committee with a mandate for furthering these initiatives and for providing a framework in which to work.

## **6. Opportunity for Committee Members to Bring Issues Forward**

- Committee members would like to see more emphasis on disabilities and what the City is doing.  
(Note: GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture to do a presentation at next the meeting.)
- Child care.
- Seniors.
- Housing Issues –This committee can continue to be a strong advocate toward this area.

## **F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

## **G. UPDATES**

## **H. CORRESPONDENCE**

## **I. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**K. NEXT MEETING**

The next Social Planning Committee meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Executive Boardroom.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

It was  
  
meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by Robin Campbell  
Seconded by Lara Alexander  
That the Social Planning Committee

Carried

The Social Planning Committee adjourned at 8:55 pm.

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Chairperson (Councillor Villeneuve)  
Social Planning Committee