



City of Surrey

Social Planning Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2007
Time: 7:12 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chairperson – Councillor J. Villeneuve
L. Alexander
Z. Malik
H. Parhar
G. S. Gill

Absent:

Councillor T. Gill
K. Ardawa
R. Campbell

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Social Planner, Long Range Planning & Policy Development
P. Heer, Social Planner
D. Sadler, Youth Participation Coordinator
M. Allison, Senior Planner
B. Ciunyk, Recording Secretary, Legislative Services

Guest:

E. Szücs, SPARC BC
L. Western, Assistant Director, Agency and Community Services, United Way

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by L. Alexander

Seconded by Z. Mailk

That the minutes of the Social Planning

Committee meeting held on May 24, 2007, be adopted with the amendment on Page 8, whereby the Motion should be Moved by L. “Alexander”.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Ms. Emese Szücs, Manager Accessibility Programs, Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC).

1. Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)

File: 0250-20; 0550-20-10

Ms. Emese Szücs, Manager Accessibility Programs, Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) was in attendance to make a presentation on making communities accessible for all of its citizens.

Ms. Szücs explained that SPARC BC has done quite a bit of work for the City of Surrey and noted that her expertise is in the area of accessibility and exclusion.

Her comments were as follows:

- SPARC BC is about 40 years old and their work focuses on community development, income security and community accessibility.
- SPARC is well known for their parking accessibility program.
- Some municipalities, such as Coquitlam, Port Moody, New Westminster, Burnaby, and North Vancouver, have an Advisory Accessibility Committee..
- A disability can be visible or invisible.
- One in 8 Canadians, or about 3.6 millions of us, have a disability.

- Components of an Accessible Community:
 - Housing and Support
 - Education and Employment
 - Moving Around
 - Civic Involvement
 - Recreation and Arts
- Goals:
 - Freedom of movement
 - Sense of inclusion
 - Equal participation
 - Equity in opportunities
- Need to consider barriers to:
 - Mobility
 - Sight
 - Hearing
 - Learning, mental health, etc. (invisible)
- Creating Your Access & Inclusion Plan:
 1. Understand the issues
 2. Building recognition of the need for change
 3. Make an organization commitment
 4. Develop a plan that includes achievable results
 5. Assessment & evaluation
 6. Celebrate success!
- SPARC BC's work in BC communities includes:
 - City of Langley Access & Inclusion Study
 - They have established a Steering Committee and are meeting with the stakeholders group re what their perception of accessibility is. They will be looking at sidewalks, parks, etc.
- What is Visitable Housing
 - Accessible Housing
 - Adaptable Housing
 - Enhanced Visitability
 - Visitability
- TransLink and BC Transit are "Partners" with SPARC BC in accessibility

Note: The City can apply for funds through Legacies Now for accessible tourism.

Note: The City of Winnipeg has accepted bylaws of what is accessibility in their buildings.

Mark Allison, Senior Planner attended the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

The Chair mentioned that the City has recognized the importance of accessibility, as does our Planning Department.

In response to questions the delegation stated:

Regarding the 3 different levels (i.e. 1, 2 & 3) of Accessible Housing Guidelines, the guidelines tend to be adopted at the lower end (i.e. Level 1) but not at the high end (Level 3).

G.S. Gill attended the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. As per the minutes of May 24, 2007 meeting, the Committee is requested to make a selection of a Social Planning Committee representative for the Sustainability Charter Steering Committee.

H. Parhar put his name forward that he would be interested in representing the Committee and does have a relevant background.

2. As per the minutes of May 24, 2007 meeting, the Committee requested Mark Allison, Senior Planner, to provide more information about the role and responsibilities of the Steering Committee.

M. Allison reported that Council has directed the Environmental Advisory Committee to be the organizing committee for the Sustainability Charter Steering Committee.

There will be two workshops and 2–3 meetings over the next 6–8 months.

3. As requested at the May 24, 2007 meeting, attached to the Agenda is Corporate Report R131 on Establishment of a Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund within the VanCity Community Foundation and Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society.
4. As requested at the May 24, 2007 meeting attached to the Agenda are tables regarding Distribution of Subsidized Housing.

The Chair mentioned the announcement by the federal Department of Canadian Heritage on June 25, 2007 awarding the City of Surrey a 2008 Cultural Capitals of Canada Award.

An article from the West Coast Homes section of the June 23 Vancouver Sun entitled “An industry “*Hi-I’m-Bob*” session with our homeless” was distributed for information purposes.

It was

Moved by L. Alexander

Seconded by H. Parhar

To accept receipt of Items C.1 – C.4 for

information purposes.

Carried

D. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Social Planning Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the Executive Boardroom.

L. Alexander advised that she is unable to attend the July 19th meeting. The Chair recommended that members of the committee be contacted to ensure that they will be able to attend the next meeting on July 19, 2007.

The Chair advised the Committee that there is no meeting in August.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by L. Alexander
Seconded by H. Parhar
That the Social Planning Committee

Carried

The Social Planning Committee adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The Committee meeting was followed by a workshop on Surrey's Sustainability Charter.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Committee