



City of Surrey

Social Planning Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008
Time: 7:04 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve
L. Alexander
G. Gill
K. Kreis
Dr. Z. Malik
H. Parhar

Absent:

Councillor Mary Martin
Kuldip Ardawa
Robin Campbell
Stephen Dooley
Raj Metha (alternate)

Staff Present:

Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner
Kelsey Swanson, Community Leisure Services
Stacey Rennie, Community Leisure Services
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

Guests:

Linda Western, United Way

Also Present:

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the April 24, 2008 Social Planning Advisory Committee to be adopted.

It was

Moved by Gurtej Gill

Seconded by Zambka Malik

That the minutes of the Social Planning Advisory Committee meeting held on April 24, 2008, be adopted as amended.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Linda Western, Project Manager, United Way of the Lower Mainland, was in attendance and provided a presentation on neighbourhood revitalization and the Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC) project in Bridgeview. ANC was a federal government learning initiative designed to explore and assess approaches to locally-driven neighbourhood revitalization. The United Way is the coordinator of the ANC across Canada.

Linda Western provided a brief history on how the Action for Neighbourhood Change came to choose the community of Bridgeview :

- ANC was seeking to identify 5 neighbourhoods across Canada that were wanting change. 5 cities were identified: Surrey, Thunder Bay, Regina, Toronto and Halifax. The United Way worked with each city to identify a neighbourhood for the ANC.
- At the first meeting in Surrey, Whalley was named as the potential area to focus on. But Whalley is huge-the same size as Thunder Bay. A neighbourhood within Whalley needed to be selected.
- Invitations were sent to 45 different organizations based in Surrey to participate in the neighbourhood selection process.
- To select the neighbourhood, the process entailed searching through a variety of information including poverty data and the EDI (Early Development

Instrument) results on childrens' readiness for school. School catchment areas were used to define neighbourhoods.

- There was other criteria that looked at *community readiness* as well as who should be contacted for permission to come into their community.
- The Community Residents Associations were approached for such permission. In the end, Bridgeview was selected.
- In the beginning, the community of Bridgeview welcomed the ANC committee as they thought it would mean that funding would immediately come to the neighbourhood. But the ANC process involved spending considerable time engaging the community in discussions about the neighbourhood's strengths and the changes they would like to see.

Linda Western presented a five minute video on *Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC)*, an overview of *neighbourhood revitalization*. The following comments were then provided:

- This video is a positive piece that spoke from a place of strength and what can we build on.
- Surrey is the fastest growing municipality in Canada – Bridgeview is a forgotten community that is wedged along the river flats adjacent to the Pattullo Bridge at the foot of Peterson Hill.
- This community identified that they want their ditches covered up. The ditches historically have been used as dumping grounds.
- Community clean up: The first month 6 people worked to begin the clean up and in the following months more and more volunteers joined the clean up efforts.
- Work groups did work for seniors who can't help themselves. Volunteers built new porches and new roofs. This has spun off to become "All in a Days Work". Workers now get paid and get a day's work experience through community projects.
- The City has provided street signage depicting the names of street clean up volunteers.
 - o The ANC funded the first *Strong Start* - a pre-school program for children and their caregivers.
 - o One other element that came out of the *Strong Start* was a language program for elders. Many of the childrens' caregivers are grandparents. The elders expressed an interest in learning to read and speak English so one community member decided to start an English conversation class so grandparents can learn to read to their grandkids.
 - o Youth Lounge –Pacific Community Resources Society was hired to engage the youth in developing the youth lounge in partnership with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. As a result of this project, the youth now have a sense of belonging to the community.
- Public speaking programs in school teach the young people to be speakers and to become advocates for the community. These youth are also teaching the younger kids.
- Bridgeview Elementary is the only elementary school in the community. It is a community school. The school is used from dawn to dusk, 12 months of the year.
- A Community Library is being created in the school. The community wouldn't have gotten this moving without the ANC.

- Cultural events and celebrations are happening. Each culture is now intermingling and helping on different projects. Confidence and interest in the community grows when community members believe that they can make a difference.
- Bridgeview students previously had to walk through bush to catch the bus and/or Skytrain. Parents worried for their children's safety. The community called in the police, who looked into it and changes were made.
- Lessons Learned:
 - A key piece is community readiness. The community must want to change in order to participate in a neighbourhood revitalization process. ~~and with joint partnership with Parks, Recreation and Culture staff worked to get youth to finally come out to help create the Youth Lounge. Those young kids and being a part of it all. One other element around the Strong Start is the cultural diversity that is there. Caregivers bring their own kids, grandkids, or great-grandkids to school. The elders also want to learn to read and speak English so one community member decided to start an English conversation class so grandparents can learn to read to their grandkids.~~
- ~~Message to Funders—United Way and the Federal Government:~~
 - Community engagement is critical. It takes time to get community engagement. The ANC has been a three year process.
 - Organizations such as Parks, Recreation & Culture, the School District and non-profit agencies need to learn to work differently and to work together.
 - The Community sets the priorities. ANC staff were available to teach, mentor and provide advice.

Discussion ensued and in response to queries the following comments were provided:

- The federal government is no longer funding the ANC, but the United Way is committed to sustaining the Action for Neighbourhood Change and not letting the neighbourhood revitalization project in Bridgeview die.
- United Way is committed to funding place-based work. It is meeting with stakeholders in Surrey to determine how best to support future neighbourhood revitalization efforts in Surrey.
- Jim Diers was brought in as part of the ANC to share the Seattle model. The Department of Neighbourhoods in Seattle developed two programs, Neighbourhood Planning Program and Neighbourhood Matching Fund, to encourage communities to identify and act on their own priorities.
- 3 Handouts were provided on table:
 - i.) Mapping and Mobilizing Community Assets in Surrey and bringing them together
 - ii.) Action for Neighbourhood Change – Theory of Change (draft October 2007)
 - iii.) Action for Neighbourhood Change – Logic Model

Chairperson Councillor Villeneuve noted that the ANC project gave the Bridgeview community the skills to come before Council as delegations. The ANC project has shown how this committee what is required to effectively support neighbourhoods. The

Chairperson thanked the delegate. This committee is appreciative of and thanked United Way for the interest United Way has shown Surrey in recent years.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Early Years Programs & Services in Surrey

Stacey Rennie, South Surrey Community & Leisure Services Manager, and Kelsey Swanson, Community Development Services Manager for the City of Surrey Community Leisure Services, are responsible for **Early Years Programs & Services in Surrey**. They provided a report on the City's current and future involvement in the provision of childcare. Following are the comments:

- Goal:
 - To provide nurturing environments that are inclusive and reflective of the communities in which they serve, that engage the child both intellectually and creatively and to provide the optimum conditions that support children and families to reach their full potential.
- Early Child Partnerships:
 - Our two approaches -
 - i.) Community Schools Partnership – targeting specific inner-city schools to develop early learning and literacy programs in partnership with S.D. 36, City of Surrey, Surrey Public Library, MCFD, Fraser Health, United Way, Surrey CYC, RCMP
 - ii.) ECP – Partnership between S.D. 36, Ministry for Children and Families, United Way of the Lower Mainland, Fraser Health, The City of Surrey and Surrey/White Rock Make Children First Coalition.
 - Community School Partnerships -
 - Vision – A caring, vibrant, sustainable City known for its thriving children and youth, healthy families, community-centred schools, safe neighbourhoods and inter-cultural cohesion.
 - Guiding Principles –
 - Honouring the voice and involvement of children, youth and families.
 - Inclusiveness
 - Respectful relationships
 - Collaboration
 - Responsiveness
 - Strength based
 - Sharing our expertise and resources
 - Local mobilization and decision making within a collaborative framework.
 - Self-help and leadership development
 - Sustainability
 - CSP Schools –

- Inner City Schools located in 3 town centres: Newton, North Surrey (Whalley) Guildford.
- 9 Elementary Schools – approximately 3,750 students
- 3 Secondary Schools – approximately 4,280 students
- There are challenges in using the schools more for community use. The idea is to eventually open the schools from 3:00–10:00 pm weekdays and all day on weekends. This takes time, resources and money.
- Early Childhood Partnership ECP:
 - Vision and Priorities –
 - Research, Policy & Planning
 - Capacity and relationship building
 - Coordination and Project management
 - Resource development
 - Advocacy/External relationships
 - Report/Accountability
- Community Leisure Services Services & Programs:
 - 2007 Statistics –
 - Parent and Tot Preschool – 900 participants
 - Preschool Social Recreation – 2,500 participants
 - Out of School Care – 1,200 participants
- Pre-school programs – Parks, Recreation & Culture is the largest provider of ECD programs in the City. We are able to offer programs at local community centres, community halls and local schools.
 - Quality Indicators:
 - ECD certified educators
 - New Childcare Licensing Regulations
 - i.) Municipal operated preschool of 2 hours or less are exempted
 - ii.) Licensing of 2 hours+ preschool programs within the City.
- After-School Programs – Offered in each town centre, these school based programs promote healthy child development by providing:
 - Stable & nurturing relationships – quality leaders that are High-Five Certified.
 - Safe and welcoming environments
 - Accessible programming designed to reduce barriers to participation
 - Children who are involved in mentoring programs are:
 - 53% less likely to skip school
 - 46% less likely to begin to use illegal drugs
 - 27% less likely to begin to use alcohol
- Making it Happen Through Collaboration –
 - Partnership Initiatives:
 - Grow & Learn – program was initiated before the Ministry of Education started the Strong Start program for preschoolers–now we may not need Grow & Learn
 - First Steps – an intensive early childhood development program for refugee children.

- Strong Start – a preschool program for children and their caregivers that is run out of schools Parent Guide to Choosing Quality Recreation.
- More Initiatives to Come:
 - Implementing Year 2 of the Social Well-Being Plan related to children and youth including after-school and value programs.
 - Enhancing Greenbrooks Drop In/Camp programs to include more guest speakers, alternate ways of food preparation. Increasing commitment of attendance to the camp.
 - Expanding Grow & Learn Model to Lena Shaw Elementary School.
 - Expansion of Strong Start.
- Where do we need to go?
 - What we know:
 - For every public dollar spent on childcare, there is a \$2 return through increased tax revenue and reduced social service cost.
 - It is estimated that as many as 60% of children under 12 years are at home without supervision.
 - In BC, only 12% of children aged 0-12 years have access to regulated child care space and those children who are in regulated childcare—only 22% have free subsidies.
 - What are the Opportunities:
 - The City of Surrey has a great opportunity to increase childcare services to its residents through expanded care programs and continued partnerships with key agencies.
 - Through a collaborative approach to services, we are able to better share and utilize resources and build on community strength and connections. Recreation centres and schools offer a connection for families to community that builds on capacity and is informed by families and their unique child care needs.
 - Our access to space, quality staff and community resources enhances our capacity to provide these needed services and through collaboration ensure greater sustainability for the future.
 - Moving Forward:
 - What role can Community Leisure Services play in ensuring the provision of quality childcare for working families?
 - i.) Pursue the expansion of Our of School Care programming in all town centres in 2008-09 in collaboration with C-SP.
 - ii.) Continue with licensing of preschool social recreation programs.
 - iii.) Support of Strong Start expansion.
 - iv.) Pilot full day child care programs and search for sustainable models and partnership opportunities.
 - v.) Wage Review for ECD Educators – plan to attract and retain quality staff.

Discussion ensued and in response to queries the following comments were provided:

- To set up a portable on school property for before and after school care is not that easy. It cost \$60,000 for one portable plus another \$40,000 to set up and service it.

- Through Community Schools Partnership have found an opportunity for funding for four portables. Where to put these on site is of concern.
- Strategically, Parks, Recreation & Culture needs support in order to pursue the provision of child care. A plan needs to happen. The City's capacity is greater than any non-profit.
- Developing a partnership for childcare provision with the businesses may be necessary. Lobbying has to come from those levels of communities that are suffering because skilled women can't go back into the workforce when childcare space can't be found.
- Public awareness of the problems maybe a way of bringing women together in this city to lobby for their issues.

Chairperson Councillor Villeneuve thanked the presenters.

2. Measuring Up

Gurtej Gill provided an update on the Measuring Up Initiative. Following are the comments provided:

- The Provincial 2010 Legacies Now Program has initiated a series of discussions in many communities across BC to support planning for increased accessibility and inclusiveness for people with disabilities. The committee of business and community leaders are looking to engage members of the public, the social services sector and the business community in creating an inclusive community. Four meetings have been held to date.
- The Measuring Up Committee consists of 16 members.
- 100 participants were involved in the *Dialogue on Accessibility and Inclusiveness* held on May 21, 2008.
- The final document will be presented at SFU Surrey City Centre on June 25, 2008.
- Gurtej Gill will provide a further update on the Measuring Up Initiative at the July meeting.

Chairperson Councillor Villeneuve thanked Gurtej Gill for his time and involvement in the Measuring Up Initiative.

3. With reference to the **Challenges and Opportunities – The Provision of Quality Childcare in Surrey**, Zankka Malik commented that it would wonderful if mothers could stay at home and that the City could be looking to providing more job opportunities for those who want to stay at home.

D. CORRESPONDENCE

E. INFORMATION

1. The Chairperson commented that at tonight's meeting we learnt that the neighbourhood revitalization process takes time. The Committee needs to take baby steps in approaching this issue and look at other possible models.

Jim Diers, former Director of Neighbourhoods in Seattle, and author of book "Neighbor Power" provided a workshop entitled "Building Strong Communities" at the May 10, 2008 Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities seminar. In Seattle, the City supports neighbourhood development by supporting community projects. The City provides a grant if a community could come up with matching resources. The City of Seattle would not provide grants unless they saw that everyone was being included, especially those you don't want to be "in" your community... they have to be invited too. This may be worth looking into for our communities.

2. Committee member Robin Campbell to be sent a card, saying that our committee misses her and is wishing her well.

3. PICS is organizing a Job Fair:
4th Annual PICS Mega Job Fair 2008
July 24, 2008
10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Surrey Convention Centre
7475 136 Street, Surrey, BC (behind Costco)
 To be an exhibitor /a Sponsor or to organize an Information Session please contact: Gurinder Badwal 604-596-7722 (x243)
gurinder.badwal@pics.bc.ca
www.pics.bc.ca

F. NEXT MEETING

1. The next meeting of the Social Planning Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved and Seconded
 That the Social Planning Advisory
 Committee meeting do now adjourn. Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:55 pm

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee