



City of Surrey

Social Planning Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008
Time: 7:04 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve
L. Alexander
Stephen Dooley
Karen Kreis
Raj Mehta (alternate)

Absent:

Kuldip Ardawa
Robin Campbell
G. Gill
Dr. Z. Malik
Councillor Martin
H. Parhar

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
N. Dyrbye, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by L. Alexander

Seconded by R. Mehta

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

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

C. BUSINESS ARISING

D. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Aileen Murphy was in attendance to provide a presentation and update on the Annual Report on the Action Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents. A copy of the Annual Report was distributed to all members.

- The preparation of an Annual Report is the last recommendation in the Social Plan. The Annual Report demonstrates the City's commitment to implementing the recommendations of the Social Plan and promoting the social sustainability of the community.
- The Social Plan was adopted as a five-year plan, providing strategic direction for the City's actions on social issues. This report represents the second Annual Report on the implementation of the Plan.
- The Social Plan was adopted in February of 2006 and focuses on five themes or priority social issue areas:
 - Children and Youth;
 - Community Development and Diversity;
 - Housing and Homelessness;
 - Crime and Public Safety; and
 - Substance Abuse and Addictions.
- Under the five focus themes, 30 priority elements and 65 recommendations were identified. The priority elements were categorized into those for which

the City has primary responsibility (5 elements) and those that are primarily Provincial and Federal responsibilities (25 elements).

- The Steering Committee of senior managers that oversees the implementation of the Plan convenes once per year. When they met to discuss this year's annual report it was noted that over the past couple of years there has been a shift in how the City is responding to social issues. They feel that the City has become more proactive with problem solving complex social issues.
- There is a five-year budget that has gone along with the Plan, which has increased to close to \$1 million in 2008. These funds have been focused on making recreation and library services and programs more accessible to different cultural groups, for vulnerable children and youth, as well as for low income families.
- There has been considerable effort over the past year to address the issues of crime and homelessness. The City has pulled together community stakeholders to problem solve. Mayor and Council have been actively advocating to senior levels of government. The City has contributed resources to leverage investment from other levels of government.
- One of the highlights of the past year has been the Community Schools Partnership Initiative. Community school hubs have been created in "inner city" schools in Whalley, Guildford and Newton.
- The City is creating opportunities for youth to be engaged in civic issues. There is a pilot project underway that is involving youth in community and social planning initiatives, with a specific focus in Whalley. The Parks & Recreation Department have established a "Surrey Youth Council" that entails youth giving feedback concerning recreational programs. The "Nature Matters" program provides opportunities for youth to be involved in environmental issues.
- The Multicultural Advisory Committee was established in 2007 with the main focus being to enhance multicultural harmony and intercultural cooperation in the City. Over the last year, the Committee's focus has been towards The Fusion Festival which was a three day festival held in July in Holland Park which included music, food, costumes and dance of over 40 of Surrey's distinct cultural groups.
- The Mayor's Task Force on Literacy and Early Childhood Development was also established early in 2007 and has been instrumental in identifying the key concerns related to literacy in Surrey. The task force will be releasing a report later this fall.
- The issues concerning refugee settlement in Surrey wasn't identified as a priority in the Social Plan but has emerged as a concern. The City is taking a leadership role in this area.
- The Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund was officially launched in April, 2008. The City committed over \$9 million to kick start the Fund. The Fund will enable Surrey to leverage both public and private investment in projects addressing homelessness in Surrey.
- In March 2008, the City of Surrey signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BC Housing toward the establishment of supportive housing units in Surrey. The MOU applies to two housing projects to be developed on City-owned land in 2008 being the YWCA project – a 36-unit supportive housing project for single women with dependent children who are living in

- Surrey and are at-risk of homelessness; and the Provincial Partnership Project for the development of a new addictions treatment facility which will be on a City-owned site adjacent to Surrey Memorial Hospital, the Phoenix Centre and the new Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre (detox facility).
- A revised Interim Bonus Density Policy was approved by Council in February. It applies to new developments in the City Centre and Guildford areas. The Policy enables developers to apply for an increase in the permitted density of their sites in exchange for providing the City with either amenities (such as affordable housing units) or cash-in-lieu.
 - The City released its Crime Reduction Strategy (CRS) in February 2007. It is a comprehensive strategy that addresses the root causes of crime through actions in each of the following four strands:
 - Prevent and Deter Crime;
 - Apprehend and Prosecute Offenders;
 - Rehabilitate and Reintegrate Offenders; and
 - Reality and Perceptions of Crime.
 - Two CRS projects that also relate to recommendations in the Social Plan are the addictions centre and seniors forums on elder abuse. The addictions centre will include a sobering centre where people who are high will be brought instead of to police cells or the hospital. Also, as part of this centre there will be an addictions clinic. Fraser Health has recruited five specialty physicians in addictions and mental health for the clinic. The upper floors will have 32 recovery beds as well as 44 transitional housing units for both men and women.
 - A Focus on Seniors Committee was set up to deal with addressing the issue of elder abuse. The Committee has organized two community-based forums, one in Fleetwood and one in Newton, to increase understanding and awareness of the issue.
 - On the work plan for the coming year is the preparation of a Housing Action Plan. Metro Vancouver has been developing population growth estimates as part of the Livable Region Strategic Plan. Using these growth estimates, Metro Vancouver has estimated the need for new ownership and market and non-market rental housing units over the next 10 years. Each Metro Vancouver municipality will be preparing a housing action plan over the next few years to identify ways that they can work towards meeting the affordable housing needs.
 - Also on the next year's work plan is the development of a child and youth friendly city strategy. The overall concept is supported at a global level by UNICEF and is being implemented in different cities around the world in different ways. The City has had its youth participation coordinator doing background research on Child and Youth Friendly Cities and it is expected that a report will be going to Council this fall outlining the process for developing a strategy for Surrey.

The Committee made the following comments:

- Staff has been doing a really good job on this – people are starting to notice that the City is making more decisions from a social planning perspective. It is good to see that the efforts are being recognized.

- It still seems though that the crime rate is high. Something somewhere is wrong because there are still issues. This needs to be looked at more closely.
- Kwantlen College is working on a major grant application for a project concerning youth and crime; they are working with the School District to try to develop new strategies. They are looking at developing a risk assessment tool that can identify problems at an early stage, and use the 'wrap around' approach to have an individual identified, and then connected with the services to help.

It was

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by R. Mehta

That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee approve and receive the staff report concerning the Annual Report on the Action Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents.

Carried

2. Updates on:

a. Community Service Business Licenses in the City

- A report went to Council on July 28, 2008 concerning this matter. There has been a lot of consideration given to balancing the needs and concerns of the business community and the non-profit societies. Council has approved amending the bylaw to remove the Community Impact Statement as a requirement for a community service business license application, and instead requiring that non-profit societies sign a Good Neighbour Agreement. If there are complaints about a specific agency, then the parties must meet with the City and resolve the issues, or the business license can be withheld.

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Community seems to be very happy with this Agreement and feel that this is a progressive way to deal with the issues.

It was

Moved by H. Parhar

Seconded by L. Alexander

That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee approves and receives the verbal update from staff concerning the Community Service Business Licenses in the City.

Carried

b. Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society

- The Society is governed by a Board of Directors from the Community. The Fund is housed in the VanCity Community Foundation.

- The Society moved forward with a call for proposals in April. Several Letters of Intent were received, and four groups were invited to submit a full application. A Committee was set up to review the grant applications. As well the Board heard presentations from the four groups. The plan is to announce the award recipient in October, 2008.
- For the first year, the Society decided to offer a large amount of money - \$1 Million. They want to give a substantial grant to an organization that can make a difference in the community.
- The final date for the announcement has yet to be determined but once it is know, this will be passed on to the Committee.

c. Sustainability Charter

- The Sustainability Charter is now at a point where it is ready to go to Council on September 29, 2008 if all continues to go as planned. The next stage of the process is to identify and select indicators to measure progress. This Committee will be involved in providing advice and feedback concerning the social sustainability indicators.
- As well, the City is recruiting a Sustainability Manager that will oversee the implementation of the Charter.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It is impressive to see how much the Mayor has been involved concerning these issues. She seems very prepared and involved with this program.

d. BC Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Program

- The Province views the settlement of new Canadians as a two way process. Newcomers need to adapt to life in Canada and British Columbia communities need to adapt to the newcomers and be welcoming and inclusive of them. The new BC Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program is intended to build the capacity of communities.
- The Program has four community-level program elements:
 - Community Partnership Development (up to \$15,000 in funding available);
 - Knowledge Development and Exchange (up to \$50,000 in funding available);
 - Public Education (up to \$50,000 in funding available); and
 - Demonstration Projects (up to \$250,000 in funding available).
- The Surrey Foundation has partnered with the City and applied for the Community Partnership Development funding.

e. Surrey Refugee Housing Study

- The City has been awarded a grant from BC Housing for \$25,000 to conduct a study on the housing experience of refugees in Surrey.

- The City has sub-contracted Immigrant Services Society to conduct the research which will take approximately six months to complete. A report will be received by next April and will provide information to help guide future program and policy development.

f. Mayor's Task Force on Literacy

- A report will be coming out this fall with the City's perspective on literacy issues and what the City sees as gaps that need to be addressed.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Homelessness Action Week - Connect Days

- Homelessness Action Week is October 12-19. "Connect Days" will be happening in many different municipalities including Surrey. These are modeled after a San Francisco program where on one day each month all sorts of services are provided for the homeless in one location. It is an opportunity for people to come to one spot in the City and get help of all kinds. This event has been tentatively set for October 16, 2008 and will take place in Surrey City Centre with full details on times and location to come.

2. Newton Advocacy

- Another event being held is the Newton Advocacy fundraising dinner on September 26, 2008. This is to help support Project Comeback - a program that assists the homeless get off the street and find jobs in the construction industry. This will be the third year the fundraising dinner has been held.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. UPDATES

H. CORRESPONDENCE

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

K. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by R. Mehta
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee