



# City of Surrey

## *Social Planning Advisory Committee*

### *Minutes*

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2008**  
Time: 7:10 p.m.  
File: 0540-20

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**Present:**

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve  
L. Alexander  
Stephen Dooley  
G. Gill  
Raj Mehta (alternate)

**Absent:**

Kuldip Ardawa  
Karen Kreis  
Dr. Z. Malik  
H. Parhar  
Councillor Martin

**Staff Present:**

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner  
L. Talbott, Crime Reduction Manager  
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

**Guests:**

Gira Bhat, Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
Roger Tweed, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was

Moved by Raj Mehta

Seconded by Gurtej Gill

That the minutes of the Social Planning  
Advisory Committee meeting held on October 23, 2008, be adopted.

Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

1. Ms. Gira Bhatt and Roger Tweed, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, were in attendance to present on their research of at-risk youth in Surrey.

Roger Tweed provided the following comments:

- Submitted an application for funding for a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) grant for a project on “Gang-Related Youth Violence”. Timeline to hear of funding: February 2009.
- Funding dollars are up to \$200,000 annually for 3-5 years.
- Aim of this initiative is to foster partnership between post secondary institutes and communities to work together towards a common goal.
- Our FOCI -
  - Violence, youth, criminal associations (gangs) – even informal and small
- 5 main goals -
  - Identify culturally relevant modifiable protective factors
  - Make recommendations to modify existing programs
  - Share knowledge through workshops and community conversations
  - Empower community for evidence based advocacy

- Improve media images for our community and youth
- Community at large - community agencies and academics
- Our Partnerships -
  - Academic institutes - Kwantlen, SFU, UVic, Langara College
  - 20 Community organizations, including the City of Surrey
- Our Process -
  - Community reflections: meetings, focus groups, interviews
  - Ongoing review of parallel work
  - Region relevant research:
    - a) 3 year study of 900 youth: assess predicting avoidance of violence and violent associations
    - b) Study of people who have escaped violent associations through workshops, website, media events
- Steps taken so far -
  - Community meetings
  - Focus groups
  - [www.actingtogether.ca](http://www.actingtogether.ca)
  - Study of reasons not to commit crimes
  - Funding application
  - Cooperation of academics and social activists has led to bi-directional training
- Our Values -
  - Partnership with community
  - Team approach
  - Added value to partner organizations
  - Win/win opportunities

In response to queries the following information was provided:

- 900 youth in grades 7-10 will be included in the study; the older students will be in grade 12 by end of the 3-year study. 600 youth were chosen randomly from representative schools. 300 youth who were identified as *at risk* were also selected.
- A Committee member suggested that the researchers should consider researching students' transition from high school. After finishing grade 12 some students who do not go on to post-secondary education and don't have jobs may begin to get involved in criminal activities.
- A number of studies have been done to determine how to predict what factors contribute to kids getting in trouble. Many of these factors, such as ADHD, brain damage, etc., can not be modified. The goal of this research is to identify factors that are culturally relevant and modifiable protective factors.
- The study will focus exclusively on males.

The Chair thanked the delegation for the presentation.

## C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATION

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1. Lance Talbot, Crime Reduction Manager, was in attendance and provided a presentation on the **Crime Reduction Strategy Annual Report**. – November 2008.

The following comments were provided:

- Annual report regarding crime strategy came out a couple weeks ago.
- City of Surrey is considered to be a leading municipality in crime reduction. We are part of a group of committees working to support the City and are seen to be the cutting edge with multi-pronged approaches and a willingness to always learn. The strategy needs to be dynamic.
- Crime Reduction Strategy was adopted in Council in February 2007
  - 100+ recommendations
  - 4 themes:
    - Prevent and deter
    - Apprehend and prosecute
    - Rehabilitate and reintegrate
    - Reality and perception
  - 4 primary objectives:
    - Reduce crime & increase community safety
    - Increase public involvement in reducing crime
    - Increase stakeholder integration in reducing crime
    - Improve public awareness around reality and perception
  - Implementation:
    - Crime Reduction Board established - Council members, RCMP, fire and community representatives
    - Implementation guided through thematic committees
- Achievements:
  - Police and Enforcement:
    - Community Safety Officers – 2 in each of 5 districts; they wear a red patch on their sleeve; are sworn peace officers and are subject to police rules. Their role is to prevent crime and provide public reassurance through targeted foot patrols. These officers do not carry firearms and have limited powers of arrest.
    - Crime Analyst – currently 5 analysts in Surrey. To provide evidence to support tactical deployments. Analysis provided by the team forms the nucleus of police deployment in Surrey..
    - Substantive teams – commitment that police officers are up to strength.
    - Prolific/chronic Offender Initiatives –
      - Prolific offender - those 10% that commit 50% of crimes
      - Chronic offender – those that portray antisocial behaviours and who are nuisances; have many contacts with police; low level crime
    - Dedicated Crown Counsel – useful when linked to prolific offender and being able to present best evidence at court to ensure appropriate sentences are passed.

- Achievements – Reported crime:

	2003-07	2007-08
Violent crimes	+16	-7
Property rime	-25	-18
Business break & entry	-8	+19
Resident break & entry	-13	-34
Total break & entry	-13	-22
Theft autos	-45	-24
Total theft	-18	-17

- Community Education:

- ([www.crimereduction.surrey.ca](http://www.crimereduction.surrey.ca))
- Meth watch retail initiative expanded
- Seniors involvement – work with Surrey Crime Prevention Society around Elder Abuse. Aging population – need to understand the impact and correlating the realities and the perception of crime; the real vulnerabilities versus perceived vulnerabilities.
- Crime Reduction Initiatives – business watch initiatives, fire department targeting an evidence-based process at facilities that are at high risk. Officers to get training to identify risk factors for children/elders within that house and to report back. To imbed into normal ways of work within the community. Fraser Valley Real Estate Board also continues to watch and Amber Alert, all play a pivotal role in remedial processes in grow ops.

- Child and Youth Intervention:

- First steps (intensive ECD for refugee kids)
- Literacy support (public library programs to engage refugees)
- Mentoring – Human Resources has hosted the second round of grads through city mentoring programs, augmented by our own staff, to provide marginalized youth with job shadow opportunities.
- iR3 (School Suspension initiative) – a supervised 3 day intervention that focuses on providing youth with protective decision making tools and a broader appreciation of impacts of their negative behaviours.– very successful – just got continued funding from Federal Govt.
- Youth Activity programs – Parks, Recreation & Culture – programs are second to none! Had Surrey Youth Partnership Council involved at SFU – a fantastic day. Our youth are strong in this community. Ray Corrado recently said: “*We need to recognize how many good decisions our children make every day!*” This shows the strength of our youth today.

- Achievements:

- Detection and prosecution initiatives
  - Electrical Fire Safety Initiative program
  - Prolific Offender Management teams:
    - RCMP graffiti unit – prevention, education, proper reporting services, hotline, integrated service
- Rehabilitation and reintegration
  - Pretrial support programs reviewed
  - Housing outreach to police jail cells

- Recovery house accreditation – to meet standards and to support with funding in order to provide meaningful programs to those in need of them.
- Sobering centre confirmed
- Housing availability
- Emerging projects
  - CCTV
  - Enhanced cell block intervention (housing needs for individuals, and other needs and process needed to get the people out of a negative lifestyle.
  - Hydroponics regulation – regulate some of the tools of grow operations. To look at the number of hydroponics retailers in the lower mainland as equipment is too easily available.
  - Integrated approach to graffiti.
  - Justice system changes – legislated changes in justice system to change the 2 for 1 sentencing principle.
  - Extend neighbourhood involvement in solutions (we are a whole collection of sub neighbourhoods and communities. Solutions need to be marketed as a whole).
  - Explore sustainable victimization survey, what the real issues are and see how well we are doing.

In response to queries the following comments were provided:

- The City of Surrey has unique cultures, economics, language, religion and political power. These play a very important role in determining the economic and social structure of the community. This is a dynamic document that needs to be revisited on a regular basis. It was based on a snapshot in time of summer 2006. Future crime reduction strategies over the long term will need to be regularly revisited. In late 2009 into 2010 process will start over again to look at the how, what, when and where and to go deeper to reformulate a revised strategy.
- The success of this strategy is due to the dedication of the leadership, coordination and buy-in by all the departments, the City and the larger community. The community as a whole is united and working in the same direction.

The Chair thanked the Crime Reduction Manager for his presentation and the Committee for listening to see what recommendations have been carried forward in the past and to see how it relates to today.

## **2. Corporate Report R231, Food Security Initiatives in Surrey – Delegation from the Food Action Coalition (FAC)**

File: 6940-02; 0250-20

The following comments were provided:

- The Food Security Initiatives report was prepared by the City in response to the delegation from the Food Action Coalition.
- The Committee to receive future updates.

It was Moved by Lara Alexander  
Seconded by Gurtej S. Gill  
That the Social Planning Advisory  
Committee receive the report as information.  
Carried

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2009 Schedule of Meeting Dates**

January 22  
February 26  
March 26  
April 23  
May 28  
June 25  
July 23  
August – no meeting – recess  
September 24  
October 22  
November 26  
December (TBD)

It was Moved by Lara Alexander  
Seconded by Gurtej S. Gill  
That the Social Planning Advisory  
Committee adopt the 2009 Schedule of Meeting Dates as proposed.  
Carried

**2. Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Partnership Group**

The following comments were provided:

- Over the next few months, the City of Surrey and the Surrey Foundation will co-lead a process to bring representatives of all sectors of the community together to form a Partnership Group that will develop an Action Plan for building a welcoming and inclusive community for newcomers.
- The first meeting of the Partnership Group will likely happen in January 2009.
- A representative from this committee is invited to participate on the Partnership Group.

It was Moved by Lara Alexander  
Seconded by Gurtej S. Gill  
That the Social Planning Advisory  
Committee appoint Stephen Dooley as the committee representative.  
Carried

**3. Corporate Report R230, Grant Application in Support of an Age-friendly Community – Accessibility**

File: 5080-01

The following comments were provided:

- This project will be undertaken by Surrey's new seniors' Planning Tables; the two Planning Tables are funded by United Way. This project is to engage seniors in a dialogue on transportation issues. The City has partnered with the seniors' planning tables and Fraser Health and applied for a UBCM grant to enable this project to proceed.
- This went to Council requesting resolution.

It was

Moved by Lara Alexander

Seconded by Gurtej S. Gill

That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee receive this report as information.

Carried

**F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**G. UPDATES**

**1. Measuring Up**

Gurtej Gill provided the following update:

- Surrey's Measuring Up process took place from March-October 2008. Measuring Up is a provincial initiative on accessibility and inclusion.
- Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture – was responsible for Surrey's Measuring Up process.
- SPARC BC was retained for the project.
- Held 6-7 monthly meetings between March and October 2008. Two community sessions –
  - First was *Dialogue on Accessibility and Inclusiveness* – held on May 21, 2008. 100-150 participated in the discussion group.
  - Second dialogue – June 25, 2008 – *From Vision to Action*. 100 participated.
  - After these two sessions the committee submitted the final report October 31, 2008. It includes 13 recommended strategies.
- Final report to be submitted to Council December 15, 2008.
- Bill Reid was Chair of the advisory committee. 17 members on the committee; a very diverse group from different organizations and with varied experience. Lively discussions were held.
- A wonderful report and will prove to be a milestone for the City and community.

The Chair thanked Gurtej Gill for representing this committee and for providing this report. A similar process regarding anti racism was very successful done in the past. It launched into the Diversity Business Awards. With the current focus on crime reduction, elder abuse and people who can't fend for themselves, this is a very timely program. A copy of the Measuring Up report will be provided to committee members once it is available.

**2. Church and Affordable Housing Conference - October 17-18, 2008**  
Karen Kreis

(DEFERRED to January 22, 2009)

**3. Youth Speak Up!**

Forum held on November 21, 2008

Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner, provided the following comments:

- This was the second annual youth forum held in Whalley.
- A great day, facilitated and planned by a very diverse youth council.

**H. CORRESPONDENCE**

**I. INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Chair thanked all the committee members for their participation in this committee over the past year.

**J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**K. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2009.



**L. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Lara Alexander  
Seconded by Gurtej S. Gill  
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve  
Social Planning Advisory Committee