



# City of Surrey

## *Social Planning Advisory Committee*

### *Minutes*

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009**  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
File: 0540-20

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#### **Present:**

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve  
L. Alexander  
Kuldip Ardawa  
Stephen Dooley  
Karen Kreis  
Dr. Z. Malik  
Raj Mehta (alternate)  
M. Chatwin  
D. Chattha  
L. Coyle

#### **Absent:**

G. Gill  
Councillor B. Rasode

#### **Staff Present:**

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner  
D. Sadler, Youth Engagement Coordinator  
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

#### **Visitor:**

Bob Dhaliwal/Derwinder Singh

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### **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

Committee members are requested to elect a Deputy Chair for the 2009 calendar year.

It was

Chair for the 2009 calendar year.

Moved by Lara Alexander

Seconded by Kuldip Ardawa

That Steven Dooley be appointed as Deputy

Carried

### **A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was

Advisory Committee meeting held on January 22, 1009, be adopted.

Moved by Kuldip Ardawa

Seconded by L. Coyle

That the minutes of the Social Planning

Carried

### **Agenda Altered**

### **Round Table Introductions**

**G. UPDATES****1. Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) grant**  
File No. 1850-20

Stephen Dooley provided the following comments:

- This update follows-up on the presentation made by Steven Dooley, Roger Tweed and Gira Bhatt at the the November 27 Social Planning Advisory Committee.
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University applied to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for a 5–year, \$1.1 Million grant to study the needs of at risk youth and gang violence.
- The proposal was competitive and the application looks positive. Announcement will be made in May.
- Attended a forum on gang violence at Bell Centre; attended by 60 people including key people from the community.

**2. Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Forum held on March 24**  
File No. 0390-20

Stephen Dooley and Councillor Villeneuve provided the following comments:

- Vision-
  - Surrey is a City which is inclusive, accessible, and safe, where people respect, embrace and celebrate differences and commonalities.
  - Everyone has the opportunity to achieve their potential and thrive, and their economic lives are stable and sustainable.
  - Everyone feels a sense of belonging, is actively involved in the community, and their contributions are recognized and respected.
- Issues/Gaps-
  - Housing for refugee households.
  - Need for more political advocacy and the education of political representatives.
  - The ability to meet the complex needs of traumatized women and children through services delivered at one discrete location.
  - More services for multiple barriered and challenged immigrant and refugee youth.
  - Deeper and more meaningful collaboration is needed between service agencies and business.
  - Language training for children & youth and workplace language training for professionals and trades people.

Committee comments:

- City of Surrey and Surrey Foundation are co-leading the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Initiative. The goal of the forum was to develop a community partnership group that could support in principle a shared vision and action plan.

**B. DELEGATIONS****1. Creating a Child and Youth Friendly City**

File No. 0250-20

David Sadler, Youth Engagement Coordinator, and members of the Surrey Leadership Youth Council (Amy, Sapreet and Michelle) were in attendance to present on the results of the November 2008 Youth Speak Up! Forum; and the development of a Surrey Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy.

- The Surrey Leadership Youth Council (SLYC) have been in effect since 2007. SLYC describe itself as “Whalley youth helping Whalley youth speak up and have their voices heard.”
- SLYC held their second annual youth forum on November 21, 2008. 60 youth were in attendance along with key community members, including representatives from the City, school district, and MCFD.
- The following is a snapshot of what youth had to say at the Forum:  
Workshop 1- Recreation in Jeopardy! (a recreation-themed trivia game) –
  - Advertising and how information reaches youth needs to be improved. Many youth in Whalley don't know what is going on or even that there are youth services available.
  - Money was identified in many contexts as a barrier: events need to be free, transportation is a factor, and the lack of money prevents youth from trying out new things (lots of activities require an investment).
  - Whalley's youth centre is in a bad location. Youth need a safe place to "hang out".
  - Racism is a very real issue for youth in Whalley, and affects opportunities for recreation because it spurs violence and resentment, and stops young people from taking part in events or groups.

Workshop 2- The Physical Environment (a photo and art based workshop to look at the built environment in Whalley) –

- For this workshop SLYC took photos of various locations in Whalley (streets, the bus loop, Holland Park) and enlarged them to poster size. At the workshop, participants put transparency paper over the photos, and drew what they would like to see in the area.
- SLYC identified common elements from many of the pieces of art and the discussions that took place:
  - Community pride: signs welcoming people to Whalley, inspirational quotes and art.
  - Beautification: replacing grey concrete with grass, plants and foliage and community-based art projects, more colour everywhere, specifically art on the concrete Skytrain pillars, and a giant clock.
  - Security: A combination of better lighting, on-foot police officers, cameras and lots of changes to "get out the negative energy".

- Helping the Vulnerable: Homeless shelters, job opportunities, low-income housing, and drug treatment options.
- Being Greener: More plans and environmentally friendly buildings.
- Facilities: Benches, public washrooms, garbage and recycling bins and phone booths.

Workshop 3- Stereotypes and Whalley (an art-based discussion on stereotypes) –

- Youth are tired of the negative stereotypes of being from Whalley. SLYC wanted to explore why they exist and what could be done to spread the truth. In this workshop youth had discussions and created pieces of artwork. SLYC found:
  - Whalley stereotypes are bad because they are frustrating and make people ashamed of themselves and their community.
  - Participants said that youth are at a vulnerable age and hearing these stereotypes can affect how they grow, and can influence who they become.
  - Ideas for what youth can do:
    - Promote Whalley and the truth – It's becoming cleaner! Things are changing! Development is happening!
    - Use the media to tell true stories about youth
    - Continue to help the drug addicts and vulnerable people in the community.
    - Start talking, meet people, interact with others, lead by example.
    - Don't REACT when you hear stereotypes, RESPOND intelligently.

Committee comments:

- Contact the local newspapers to provide the results of the Surrey Leadership Youth Council forum comments.
- SLYC should partner on gang violence initiatives. SLYC is the voice of youth and are networked.
- This youth engagement project started as a pilot project funded through a UBCM grant. The idea is to develop a model that can be applied elsewhere in the City.
- SLYC is mentoring younger youth (13-15 year olds) to follow on with the work.

David Sadler provided a presentation on the development of Surrey's Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy that is currently getting underway. Following his presentation, he asked Committee members for their feedback on: What makes Surrey a child and youth friendly city?; and what could be done to make Surrey more child and youth friendly? Committee members provided the following comments.

- What Makes Surrey Child and Youth Friendly?
  - Parks – the numbers of parks, the diversity within them (skate parks, Bear Creek, Surrey Lake, Green Timbers) and the easy access. Children and youth can get a real “sense of nature” in the City.
  - Surrey Parks Recreation and Culture continually growing the activities they offer -
    - Recreation centres and the activities – children and youth take advantage of the programming
    - Nature walkways and bikeways
    - Leisure Access Program that eliminates financial barriers and enables access for all.
- SLYC is great.
- Issues and Priorities to make Surrey youth friendly -
  - Childcare – school district needs to provide space for before and after school care.
  - Tweens/early teens need more opportunities to be constructive and busy (i.e. dances) – more after school activities for grade 7 students
  - Leadership – youth need leadership roles
  - Media connections – more positive media coverage about youth, including in the ethnic media
  - Youth centres for dance and other competitions – after school activities
  - Programs, places and activities where children and youth from all cultural backgrounds can interact – to combat racism
  - Patrols in the parks – to prevent youth from hanging out in parks and smoking and fighting
  - Promote age appropriate independence for children within their immediate neighbourhoods
  - Natural play spaces for children in their immediate neighbourhood (eg. closing down streets at 3pm for street hockey games)
  - Provide spaces that allow unstructured/creative play. Under utilization of school facilities and grounds – open up schools during off-school hours (community schools are starting to address this).

## C DELEGATION REQUEST

1. Aileen Murphy provided an update regarding the Immigrant Services Society report: “*At Home in Surrey? The Housing Experiences of Refugees in Surrey, BC*”.
  - Research has been completed and the report is being finalized. The Chair directed Aileen to invite the researchers to present the results at the April Committee meeting.

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES****E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Good Citizen Award 2009 – seeking nominations.

**F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****G. UPDATES**

1. Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) Grant – Stephen Dooley  
File No. 1850-20  
- dealt with earlier in the meeting.
2. Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Forum held on March 24 –  
Stephen Dooley and Councillor Villeneuve.  
File No. 0390-20  
- dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**3. Other Committee members' updates**

- (a) **Food Action Coalition**  
File No. 4900-01

Merlin Chatwin:

- Breakfast meeting to be held third week in April. *A Personal Approach to Food Security*. A two part series to be held in South Surrey.
- Working with the Diabetes Association on a project that will train older adults to go into schools and work with students on projects related to eating and cooking with whole foods.

- (b) **Surrey Delta Intercultural – Initiative**  
File No. 0250-20

Devinder Chattha:

- Hosting an event on April 25, 2009 that will have resources and workshops for immigrants who are parents of school-aged children. Expecting that 200-300 parents will attend.

- (c) Councillor Villeneuve invited the members to a **Food Bank fund-raising breakfast** to be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, 7:00-8:00 am, at the Bollywood Banquet Hall. RSVP to Aileen Murphy by April 7, 2009.

**4. Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities**

File No. 0250-20

Karen Kreis provided an update on the Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities' (ASC) Newton project.

- The Association has a United Way grant for "*Renewing Newton Neighbourhoods*".
- Hosting a series of forums to engage Newton residents in discussions about their neighbourhoods and ideas for revitalization: Forum dates:
  - Wednesday, April 1, 2009 – Henry Bose School
  - Wednesday, April 15, 2009 – Frank Hurt School
  - Tuesday, April 21, 2009 – Surrey/Delta Indo-Canadian Seniors Centre
  - Thursday, April 30, 2009 – Sullivan Community Hall
  - Format of each forum
    - Open House – 6:30-7:00 pm
    - Discussion – 7:00-9:00 pm
- Surrey ASC will be available to assist groups in following up on ideas generated at the forums.

Committee comments:

- Caution against creating unrealistic expectations by the community. The City has limited resources.

**H. CORRESPONDENCE****I. INFORMATION ITEMS****1. Timber Grove Apartments – Proposed supportive housing project.**

File No. 7909-0022

- This proposed housing project will provide 52 supportive housing units for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in Surrey.
- Rezoning process is currently underway.

**J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS****K. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2009.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Kuldip Ardawa  
Seconded by Linda Coyle  
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Jane Sowik, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve  
Social Planning Advisory Committee