

Present:

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve
K. Ardawa
S. Dooley
D. Chatha
M. Chatwin
L. Coyle
G. Gill
Dr. Z. Malik

Absent:

Councillor Rasode
L. Alexander
K. Kreis
R. Mehta (alternate)

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

Also Present:

Rosemary Zelinka, Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities
Lesley Tannen, Literacy Outreach Coordinator, Surrey White Rock Implementation Team
Olawale Lewis Oladuntoye, President of Yoruba Social and Cultural Association of BC

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Z. Malik
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the Social Planning Advisory Committee
Minutes of September 24, 2009 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Newton Community Project**
File No. 5080-01

Rosemary Zelinka, Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities (ASC), provided a presentation regarding the Newton Community Project. A project summary was provided on table.

The following comments were provided:

- In 2008, the Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities (Surrey ASC) received a grant from the United Way to undertake work in Surrey related to developing as an umbrella organization for community associations, carrying out community development and capacity building, and encouraging sustainability.
- 30 associations are located in Surrey, 24 belong to Surrey ASC.
- In May 2008, Surrey ASC held a city wide workshop with an inspirational speaker, Jim Diers, on community capacity building. 90 people attended.
- As part of the workshop, participants were engaged in a discussion toward identifying an area of Surrey which Surrey ASC could focus on and where resources could be most effectively used. Newton was selected.

- Results of the workshop were presented to Council who were requested to consider providing funding to neighbourhood organizations to undertake small projects. In 2008, Council provided \$25,000 funding for a neighbourhood matching grant program.
- The Renewing Newton Neighbourhoods (RNN) project began in August 2008. The goals of RNN were to:
 - inform residents of Newton of the merits of community capacity building; encourage residents to identify community assets and issues; promote the building of neighbourhood identity, involvement and spirit; encourage residents to hold community conversations and form groups to resolve issues; and promote the formation of partnerships in resolving issues.
- A Community Developer, Karen Kreis, was hired. A "Guide to Community Development Opportunities and resources in Newton 2009" was prepared.
- Four community meetings were held in April 2009 with 25-50 people attending each one.
- One of the outcomes of this process was the formation of a new district-wide organization called Newton Community Voice, as well as a couple of neighbourhood level groups.
- RCMP nominated the project for Provincial and City crime prevention awards. The RCMP is using the resource book in Block Watch in Newton.
- Lessons learned –
 - More funding, more time, more volunteers needed.
 - Do not hold meetings during ice hockey playoffs.
 - Allow for longer preparation time before forums are held in order to maximize opportunities to attract residents to attend.
 - Seek further funding to hire staff to carry program into other areas.
- Strong communities provide opportunities for involvement. Most cities have strong community associations. Surrey did not grow in this way and has not had the opportunity to develop a strong system.
- Community schools are strongly praised but this initiative involves only a limited number of schools in Surrey.
- City's community grants do not fund operating costs, only for one time projects. Community associations require operating funding.
- Cost of meeting space and directors' liability insurance are also issues for community associations.

Committee comments:

- The South Asian media could be approached for free advertising in English and Punjabi in their newspapers and radio stations as this will reach more of the population.
- The schools and Kwantlen Polytechnic University could be approached regarding possible space at a nominal fee.

The Chair thanked the delegate for all her and Karen Kreis's work on the project. The committee members value the work done by this project. This committee could provide a letter supporting any future grant applications being submitted by Surrey ASC to funding agencies.

2. Community Literacy Plan

File No. 4750-01

Lesley Tannen, Literacy Outreach Coordinator, Surrey White Rock Implementation Team provided a presentation regarding the Community Literacy Plan.

The following comments were provided:

- Literacy skills are essential for individual and community economic success and quality of life. With a young, growing and increasingly diverse community Surrey's success will be in part tied to the literacy levels of its children, adults and all new Canadians.
- In the spring 2009, funding was received through the 2010 Literacy Now program, which is part of the Olympic Legacies program, for the implementation of the community literacy plan. The plan was put together by a leadership team Beth Barlow, Surrey Public Library and Pat Horstead, Surrey School District.
- The Literacy Implementation Plan referenced the Learning for Life Strategy, the Action Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents and the Sustainability Charter
- Funding is based on School District boundaries and so Surrey and White Rock are partners in this endeavour. There are 70 similar projects throughout BC.
- Half of Surrey's \$50,000 project budget is being used to provide grants to existing service providers and agencies.
- The funding for this project was part of 2010 Legacies program and was never intended to be ongoing. It is hoped that it will be extended to June 2011.
- There is an ongoing need for volunteer adult literacy tutors. There is not funding available for training and coordination. This is a huge challenge. Outside of BC volunteer adult literacy programs are usually done through libraries; the training, location, and matching up of tutors. Toronto has a mega system that is very thorough.

Committee comments:

- Suggestion was made that volunteer adult literacy tutors may be recruited through the Retired Teachers' Association.
- It would be easier if all adult literacy tutors were registered on one data bank versus the current practice of social service agencies each keeping separate lists. The City of Surrey could be a porthole for starting this data bank. It was suggested that Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner, follow-up with Beth Barlow, Chief Librarian and Lisa White, Manager of Community and Leisure Services.
- The Surrey Foundation has received a large multi-year grant from the provincial Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program. It was suggested that the Literacy Outreach Coordinator contact the Surrey Foundation. The Surrey Foundation are having an event tomorrow morning, November 27, 2009 at Coyote Creek.

The Chair thanked the delegate and noted that it is so important to get this information out to the ethnic communities through radio and outreach programs.

3. **Yoruba Social and Cultural Association of British Columbia**
File No. 5080-01

Olawale Lewis Oladuntoye, President of Yoruba Social and Cultural Association of British Columbia, provided a presentation on his community, as recommended by Kuldip Ardawa of the Social Planning Advisory Committee.

The following comments were provided:

- Yoruba are a tribe of people or ethnic group from West Africa (predominantly from Nigeria). 50 million strong worldwide. Most of the lower mainland Nigerians have lived in New Westminster in the past, but many people are now moving to Surrey. Over 40 of the Association's members live in Surrey.
- The Yoruba Social and Cultural Association has 90 registered members. It relies on members' contributions. They can only do so much without the assistance of the community as a whole.
- The Association has a children's dance group. This keeps the kids active and the community together. 30 kids are involved.
- Currently, the Association rents space from Douglas College.
- Are looking for funding to develop a socio-cultural centre in Surrey and are seeking the advice and recommendations of this committee.

Committee comments -

- Would recommend that the Yoruba become connected with the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) and get involved with events such as the Fusion Festival, that bring all ethnic and cultural groups together.
- The City is working on a new arts space in the Newton area: the old fire hall #10. Someone from the Yoruba Association might consider joining the Surrey Arts Council to help connect with the community resources.
- It was suggested that the group partner/coordinate with Umoja.
- Realistically, Surrey does not have free land or free space. There are many organizations asking; people would like dedicated space where they can hold meetings and not pay rent. The School Board offers community groups meeting space for a nominal fee.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation and recommended that The Yoruba/Nigeria community connect and partner with other groups for cultural sharing and to become inclusive.

C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATION

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**1. Transportation Loan Program for Government Assisted Refugees**
File No. 5080-01

Councillor Villeneuve provided an update on the City's advocacy efforts in calling on the federal government to terminate the Transportation Loan Program for Government Assisted Refugees (GARs).

Vancouver Sun newspaper article: UBCM –*Municipal politicians want feds to change refugee policies.*

The following comments were provided:

- Were successful in getting the City of Surrey's Resolution, calling for the Federal government to eliminate the transportation loan program, passed through the Union of BC Municipalities.
- Councillor Villeneuve met with Alice Wong, MP and Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism to discuss the issue.
- The meeting was followed-up with a letter that was copied to Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism. Councillor Villeneuve plans to meet with local MP's Nina Grewal and Donna Cadman.

2. Early Childhood Development
"The Future Lives Here...Investing in Surrey's Children"
File No. 5080-01

Aileen Murphy provided an update on "*The Future Lives Here...Investing in Surrey's Children*" event of November 3, 2009.

The following comments were provided:

- Executive Summary – A Demographic Profile of Children and Families in Surrey & White Rock, provided in agenda package (item D3, pg 23). Susan Papadionissou, Office of Early Childhood Development, Learning & Care, Surrey presented to this committee on September 24, 2009 and showed recent results of assessments of school-readiness among kindergarden students in Surrey. This UBC research formed the basis for the discussions at the November 3, 2009 Community Leaders Breakfast and Workshop.

Merlin Chatwin informed the group of a pilot project being undertaken by the Office of Early Childhood Development, Learning & Care that is responding to the research results by developing strategies to promote early childhood development at the neighbourhood level.

The Chair thanked the members for their information and look forward to receiving future updates.

3. **Homelessness**
Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society's annual grants
File No. 5080-01

- (a) Councillor Villeneuve provided an update on the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society's annual grants.

The following comments were provided:

- The grant recipients of the Surrey Homelessness Society and Housing Fund Annual Grants for 2009:
 - Kla-how-eya received \$40,000 to the ANYS Youth transition worker project.
 - Newton Advocacy Group Society received \$60,000 to the Surrey Rent Bank.
 - Pacific Community Resources Society received \$30,000 to the Surrey Homelessness Youth Housing Program.
 - Surrey Urban Mission received \$50,000 to the Building Bridges for LIFE.
 - Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force received \$5,000 for the Surrey Connect Days 2009-2010 as part of the Homelessness Action Week 2009.
 - YWCA received \$60,000 to the YWCA Alder Gardens that will provide 28 units of low income housing for single mothers at risk of homelessness and 8 units of second stage transitional housing for women and children who have fled abusive relationships.
- Grants were announced at a media event.
- Launched the Surrey Homelessness and Housing's new logo and website.

- (b) ***Pathways' Housing First: Ending Homelessness and Transforming Lives*** event at SFU

Aileen Murphy provided an update on the "*Pathways' Housing First: Ending homelessness and transforming lives*" event at SFU.

The following comments were provided:

- Dr. Sam Tsemberis, the founder of New York's *Pathways to Housing* gave a lecture at SFU and met with people who provide services to the homeless. Pathways uses a 'Housing First' model which has proven to be very successful in addressing homelessness in New York.
- The standard approach has been to offer homeless people services and housing together, with the housing being contingent with abstaining from substance use. If offered, most people will choose housing first. Pathways rents private apartments in the community and supports people with a regular visits by a health professionals.

The Chair noted that Peterson Place (the old Howard Johnston Hotel located on King George Hwy near 109 Avenue) will be opening soon. Fraser Side Community Services Society is operating the housing. Fraser Health Authority will be providing health supports to residents in one of the buildings.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Sustainable Development Check list
(Sustainability Planning Initiatives)
File No. 6950-30

Aileen Murphy provided a brief presentation regarding the **Sustainable Development Checklist**. The following comments were provided:

- Memo and draft provided in agenda package (pg. 27). The checklist is a recommendation that came out of the Sustainability Charter. For each new development, applicants will have to complete the checklist to show how their proposal fits with the goals and objectives of the Sustainability Charter. A summary of this information will be included in reports going to Council.
- Need two representatives from this committee to attend a workshop to discuss the draft sustainability checklist. The workshop will be held at the City Hall on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 6:00-8:00 pm.
- **Volunteers:**
 - **Merlin Chatwin**
 - **Kuldip Ardawa**

2. SPAC 2010 Schedule of Meetings

Recommendation was made to cancel the January 2010 meeting and accept the rest of the schedule of 2010 dates as is. The next meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is February 25, 2010.

It was

Moved by K. Ardawa

Seconded by S. Dooley

That the Social Planning Advisory Committee
adopt the 2010 Schedule of Meetings, as amended.

Carried

3. 2010 SPAC Committee Membership Nominations

A reminder was provided to those committee members whose terms are expiring the end of 2009, to provide, in writing by November 30, 2009, their desire for their name be put forward for consideration for reappointment to a two year term as a committee member to Social Planning Advisory Committee.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS**1. UPDATES**

- (a) **Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) grant
CURA Acting Together Project and Warriier Boyz event**
File No. 1850-20

Stephen Dooley provided the following comments:

- Funding was received for 5 years for \$1 Million to research factors that protect youth from entering a gang related violent lifestyle. Have an active steering committee that includes City of Surrey staff, are involved.
- There is lots of research on why kids get involved with gangs, but not much research on why they don't. This project is focusing on the positive.
- A focus group for service providers will be held on December 8, 2009 at 11:00 am-2:00 pm.
- Warriier Boyz – is a documentary about young men who were about to be involved, were involved in or trying to get out of gang activity. Another man, who was well out of gangs and in his last year of law school, was at the event talking about the challenges faced to get out of gangs. In Surrey, often gangs are associated as being a part of the S. Asian community. Such is not the case. Warriier Boyz sends that message as well.

The Chair thanked Steve for his presentation and commented that this is a very important project.

- (b) **Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program**
File No. 0390-20

Aileen Murphy provided the following comments:

- Surrey Foundation recently received word that applications for funding were successful. Approximately \$500,000 for projects around developing community capacity to make Surrey a more welcoming and inclusive community. Will be rolling out these projects fairly quickly. The Surrey Foundation has invited representatives from the City's Social Planning Advisory Committee and Multicultural Advisory Committee to be on the project's advisory committee.
- **Volunteer: Zambka Malik**

- (c) **Committee members' updates**

- Merlin Chatwin – Food Action and Harvest Box –
 - Met with Board of Trade to see if there is alignment with their objectives.
 - Met with Mark Allison, Senior Policy Planner. Looking at creating a food sustainability policy within the city.

- Successful in receiving funds for an all local Harvest Box. Are tracking down a supplier for fresh and organic foods for throughout the winter.
 - Harvest Boxes in Surrey serve approximate 400 regularly and up to 600. Are looking at adding the *local box* – serving about 200-300 in Surrey. Not as much a value box but will serve as a source of revenue.
- Kuldip Ardawa - Newton Advocacy Group - *Rent Bank* - thanked the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society for the funding.
2. **Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy: Results of Consultations with Children, Youth and Families Report, September 2009.**
File No. 5080-01

It was

Moved by M. Chatwin
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the Social Planning Advisory Committee receive Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy: Results of Consultations with Children, Youth and Families Report as information.
Carried

H. CORRESPONDENCE

I. OTHER BUSINESS

J. NEXT MEETING

The January 2010 meeting has been cancelled. Next meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 25, 2010.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by K. Ardawa
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the Social Planning Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.
Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee