

**Present:**

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve  
L. Alexander  
S. Dooley  
D. Chattha  
M. Chatwin  
K. Kreis  
Dr. Z. Malik  
R. Mehta (alternate)

**Absent:**

Councillor Rasode  
L. Coyle  
G. Gill  
K. Ardawa

**Staff Present:**

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

**Also Present:****Guest:**

Virginia Gillespie, Surrey  
Foundation

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**ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

Committee members were requested to elect a Deputy Chair for the 2010 calendar year.

It was

Moved by L. Alexander  
Seconded by Z. Malik  
That Steven Dooley be appointed as the

Deputy Chair to the Social Planning Advisory Committee for the 2010 calendar year.

Carried

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was

Moved by Z. Malik  
Seconded by S. Dooley  
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee minutes of November 26, 2009 be adopted.

Carried

**ROUND TABLE INTRODUCTIONS****B. DELEGATIONS**

1. **Adrienne Montani**, Provincial Coordinator of First Call, provided a presentation on the **Living Wage for Families Campaign**.  
File No. 5080-01

The following comments were provided:

- The delegation works with First Call Child, which is the host for the Living Wage campaign.
- A living wage and how it is calculated is different from minimum wage.
- It is not minimum wage and is not legislated. Based on actual expenses and government benefits/taxes for a family of four.
- The Living Wage Campaign is to persuade employers (primarily large public and private sector) of the benefit of this and to commit to a Living Wage for their staff and contractors.

- BC has the highest child poverty rate in Canada. 56% of poor children in BC live in families where the adults work the equivalent of a full time/full year job or more. Since 1976, the real value of BC's minimum wage has dropped nearly 19%, the largest drop of all provinces. Of 27 factors identified as having an impact on child development, up to 80% were seen to improve as family income increased.
- Principles -
  - Enables working families to have an adequate but not affluent income
  - Promotes social inclusion
  - Supports healthy child development principles
  - Promotes gender equality
  - Ensures that families are not under severe financial stress
  - Is a conservative, reasonable estimate
  - Engenders significant and wide ranging community support
  - Is a vehicle for promoting the benefits of social programs such as child care.
    - Child care is the second largest part of the calculation and the hope is to engage employers in conversation on what the social safety net should look like. Does it all come through the wages from employers or can some come from the social network? Spending time with family is so very important rather than working more than one job.
- The Living Wage has been calculated for a family of four (two working parents and children aged 4 and 7). Calculating in the family expenses of food, clothing, shelter, childcare, transportation, medical expenses, parent education, contingency amount and other expenses it was calculated that a family of four needs to earn \$60,933 before taxes and transfers. This does not allow for a family to own a house, save for retirement, save for children's education or service debts. This amounts to a Living Wage of \$16.74 per hour using 2007 data - \$18+ is the 2010 Living Wage.
- Canada had the worst record of low wage jobs in the developed world as of 2004--close to 25%, compared to Denmark and Finland rates of 7%.
- The Living Wage for Families Campaign in Metro Vancouver -
  - Fall 2008 Launch of Calculation Report and Formation of Advisory Committee
  - June 2009 - Recruitment of Living Wage organizer
  - Development of Living Wage Employer Recognition process
  - Listening campaign with low wage workers
  - Outreach to local community and unions.
- 2012 Olympics in London will be the first Living Wage Olympics. Canadian cities considering the living wage approach include Ottawa, Waterloo, New Westminster and Calgary. (*Note: On April 26, 2010, New Westminster City Council voted unanimously in favour of a living wage bylaw, the first of its kind in Canada.*)
- Impact of living wage in other countries -
  - Contract costs only increased by 0.1%
  - Competitiveness - costs often offset by productivity gains
  - Economic stimulus - reduction in government subsidies by 50.4%, growth in spending, home ownership and small business markets for areas of the city where affected workers are concentrated.
- Where are we to date?
  - Five organizations have accepted so far

- Partnership with SAP software
- Public launch of Employer Recognition Campaign in the fall 2010
- Living Wage Awards Ceremonies.
- What you can do – publicly endorse the campaign, spread the message, become a living wage employer, use calculation in contract negotiations, start a local campaign.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the delegation for bringing this issue to the Committee. BC has the highest child poverty rate; Surrey has the largest population of children and has an obligation to these families. Since this is our initial foray into the topic this information is valuable and we will continue to follow up on this.

2. **Kim Angel and Mary Miller** provided a presentation on Surrey's **Welcoming and Inclusive Communities (WIC)** project. The purpose of WIC is to contribute to increased capacity related to: newcomer integration, intercultural understanding, and creation of a welcoming and inclusive community.

File No. 5080-01

The following comments were provided:

- Mary Miller and Kim Angel are leading the Surrey Foundation's Welcoming and Inclusive Communities (WIC) project. Social Planning Advisory Committee members Zambka Malik (representing the Social Planning Advisory Committee) and Steven Dooley (representing Kwantlen) are involved on the project's Advisory Committee.
- Welcome BC is the funder. The provincial government is funding the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program due to the significant numbers of newcomers coming to BC.
- There are other Welcoming and Inclusive Communities projects underway in Surrey and excellent agencies in Surrey who do work with settlement (i.e. SUCCESS, PICS, Options, DiverseCity, etc.). This program is not about settlement services, but rather, it is about the capacity of the community to welcome and include newcomers.
- The project has four components - research, public education, child and youth engagement, and demonstration projects.
- The whole project will wrap up with a community Forum to be held April/May 2011.
  - Community involvement -
    - Project Advisory Committee
    - Knowledge Development and Exchange Leadership Team
    - Documentary Film Website Advisory Committee
    - Children After School Program Advisory Committee
    - Community partners identified at a community partnership development phase
  - Research -
    - Literature review
    - Meetings with 40 newcomer families in Surrey spread across key ethnicities, both from a community and social and economic point of view. One key component is that Canada demands highly skilled people to come to Canada. 60% of new immigrants come as economic

- immigrants - skilled workers and entrepreneurs. The majority of these immigrants have a degree (at least one), and then they can't use it since Canada doesn't recognize their degrees and their work experience is outside of Canada work experience.
- Best Practice reflections – Interviews with organizations such as the RCMP, Surrey Public Library etc. to talk about strategies they are using to include newcomers and suggestions for next steps.
  - Surrey School District (if approved) - Interviews with parents of newcomers in elementary school.
  - Public Education -
    - A heart touching documentary is being made that includes stories of four newcomers. Will be ready for release on DVD in June 2010 and on the website after that.
    - A website will be developed that will include all information and resources that we have: statistics, best practices, stories and photos.
    - Newcomers Guide for Surrey.
  - Children and Youth Program -
    - After-school workshops for middle years children will be developed that will be led by youth.
  - Kids Diversity Forum 2011.
  - Four Demonstration Projects -
    - An RFP will be issued for organizations interested in undertaking a demonstration project.

Councillor Villeneuve noted that the Multicultural Advisory Committee had recommended that a Newcomers Guide be created for Surrey.

- The City's concerns about the needs of Government Assisted Refugees and efforts to eliminate the transportation loan for these refugees relates to this project. Kim Angel will see that there are elements about refugees in the documentary.
- The Surrey Arts Council has an active youth committee. Councillor Villeneuve suggested that the delegation talk to them.

Kim Angel invited everyone to:

- An Information Forum on the Demonstration Project Funding on June 17, 2010.
- A private screening of the documentary film will be held in June (date to be determined).

Councillor Villeneuve complemented the project team for putting a focus on the middle years kids. Part of the concern of Council and the Crime Reduction Strategy is the importance of engaging the middle aged kids during the after-school hours.

## C. NEW BUSINESS

**D. OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **David Sadler**, Child and Youth Engagement Coordinator provided a presentation on the Draft **City of Surrey Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy**.  
File No. 5180-01

The following comments were provided:

- Staff has been working on the strategy since late 2008 and is now getting to the final draft. There are still opportunities for feedback.
- Develop process –
  - A literature and policy review was conducted to learn about what we mean by a child and youth friendly city and what other cities have done. An overview document was produced and is available on the social planning webpages ([www.surrey.ca/social-planning](http://www.surrey.ca/social-planning)).
  - Community consultations were extensive. Started by talking to children and youth. Age appropriate techniques were used to obtain feedback on two different questions: *What makes Surrey a child friendly community?* and *What we can do to improve?* A report providing highlights from these consultations is also available on the social planning web-pages.
  - Consultations with City staff from various City Departments and Community Stakeholders were conducted. These groups have also reviewed the Draft Strategy.
- Framework –
  - Three areas of city responsibility –
    - Engagement
    - Physical environment
    - Civic services
  - Three age groups –
    - Early childhood (0-5 years)
    - Middle years (6-12 years)
    - Youth (13+ years)
  - Two spheres of influence
- Engagement – Vision – A community where children and youth are valued community members and actively contribute their time, ideas and perspectives to civic life.
- Physical Environment – Vision – A community that promotes social connectedness, where children and youth feel safe, have freedom of movement, green space and opportunities for play and imagination.
- Civic Services – Vision – Early years aged children, middle years aged children and youth are able to access enriching and engaging programs that promote their healthy development regardless of their family's income or background.

The final Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy will likely go to Council in June 2010. Implementation of the recommended actions will be implemented by various City departments. Relevant policies will be incorporated into the OCP Update. Once the Strategy is adopted, staff will report back to the Committee on its implementation.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the delegate for his presentation and commented that in order to make cities more livable they need to be built for the children.

**E. CORRESPONDENCE****F. INFORMATION ITEMS****1. 2010 Committee Orientation Package Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement**

2010 Committee Orientation information package is being provided to all committee member volunteers with the request that pages 21/22 (extra copy provided) be signed and returned to the City Clerk Legislative Services office.

**2. Corporate Report R077 - Grant Application – UBCM Age Friendly Community Planning & Project Program**  
File No. 1850-10

The grant application was successful and the City has been approved for a grant in the amount of \$20,000 under the UBCM **Age Friendly Community Planning & Project Program** for the purpose of planning and developing a Senior's Resource and Referrals hub in Fleetwood Community Centre that would provide services to seniors and older adults across the City.

**3. Committee members' updates**

Steven Dooley -

- CURA project, a study of youth gang issues in Surrey is going well. Plan to conduct a Youth Conference in the fall that is planned and led by youth. Steve hopes to involve David Sadler and the City of Surrey in this conference.
- Attended a Gang Summit Conference in Toronto.  
A highlight of the conference was a presentation by Gregory Boyle who runs an anti-gang strategy program that focuses on training and jobs. Steven Dooley is looking to coordinate something similar in Surrey.
- Kwantlen's Sociology Department is developing a 4 year degree program. A meeting is being held on May 11, 2010 to tell the community about the degree and looking for people to sign up to be on the advisory committee.

Zanbka Malik -

- Canadian Muslim Alliance hosted an Islamic Conference in March 2010.
- A Peace Walk will be held on May 2, 2010, Sullivan Park, 1:30 – 3:00 pm.

Merlin Chatwin -

- Community Schools Conference – October 21 – 22, 2010. Steven Lewis will be speaking on the impact of education on a community and how a community can support students in education. Dr. Ruby Ping is an educator who works with students who live in poverty. In addition to these keynote speakers, workshops will be held in the afternoons looking at community and education.

Devinder Chattha -

- PICS is involved in a Welcome Fair that has been happening today (April 22, 2010). The event provides information to newcomers and advice on resources and organizations available to them.

- First Call – Devinder has attended meetings of the First Call coalition which are held at the Vancouver School Board office.
- Welcome BC has extended the contracts for settlement services for another year. It is anticipated that there will be changes in these contracts in 2011.
- PICS 6th Annual Mega Job Fair – July 8, 2010. The 2010 Mega Job Fair will have about 100 exhibitors from various fields and sectors to talk to job seekers about available job opportunities in their organizations.

Karen Kreis –

- Involved with the Newton Advocacy Group's working committee on the development of the new Rent Bank. It is going well.
- Councillor Villeneuve requested an update be provided at the June meeting.

**G. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of Social Planning Advisory committee is scheduled for June 24, 2010. (May 27, 2010 meeting cancelled due to the FCM.)

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by S. Dooley  
Seconded by Z. Malik  
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve  
Social Planning Advisory Committee