

Present:

Acting Chair:
S. Jahan-Chaudhary

M. Cross
D. Darrell
Dr. B. Lalli
J. Li
S. Match
S. McIntosh
K. Noonan
J. Schmalz
L. Smart
A. Rutherglen
K. Weber

Absent:

Chair – Councillor Steele
Councillor Rasode
K. Bakshi
L. Lange
P. Petrala
A. Sharma

Guests:

Joanne Henderson, Legion,
Veteran Affairs
Kuldip Gill, BC Responsible &
Problem Gambling Program

Staff Present:

J. Tyler, Senior Services Rep, Community &
Recreation Services Manager
Community Services Coordinator
M. Drozda, RCMP Dist. 2, Crime Prevention
Programs Coordinator
P. Leblanc, RCMP Dist. 5, Crime Prevention
Programs Coordinator
S. Caley, RCMP Dist. 5, CSO
A. Gill, RCMP Dist. 5, CSO
S. Tosedevine-Tataryn, CSC 2, Preschool,
Children & Seniors
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by S. McIntosh

Seconded by K. Noonan

That the minutes of the Seniors Advisory &

Accessibility Committee meeting of April 12, 2012, be adopted as amended.

Carried

B. DELEGATION**1. Vets Transition program – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**

Joanne Henderson, Legion, Veterans Affairs attended provided a presentation on the Vets Transition program. This program involves seniors, youth, returning service men and women from Afghanistan to help deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)—formerly known as shell shock. This program runs independent of everything else. There is a 98% success rate in the program. Veterans Affairs (VAC) introduced *Operation Stress Clinic* across the country three years ago. The cost of running a single course is \$86,000, with there being no cost to veterans.

PTSD has long had a stigma attached and has been known to have significant effects on families. Through poppy drive donations the four Royal Canadian Legion Branches receive \$150,000 for the different projects, on top of the programs they run. There are 6-8 people in each PTSD session; participants are secluded with facilitators and doctors while taking the program. Sessions are run where the need is.

Due to federal cutbacks, the VAC is having to cut back on staff, especially in the West. The Penticton office is closed, resulting in the Kootenay and Okanagan regions being greatly affected. The seniors section has over 5,000 seniors housing units in British Columbia.

2. **Official Community Plan (OCP) 2012 Draft Document Review**

File No. 6440-01

Don Luymes and Carla Stewart provided information on the draft Official Community Plan (OCP) for the City and are seeking feedback from the committee.

The OCP covers the following areas and associated demographic changes: housing, civic facilities required, growth management, land use plan (parks, agriculture, suburban, commercial, town centres), densities and policies.

With the projected population growth there is a plan to create a new downtown (City Centre) and to develop each of the other town centres as unique social development hubs. Transit oriented development that is not reliant on automobiles is a key focus. The OCP incorporates neighbourhoods being connected with greenways, pathways, parks and efficient and adaptable infrastructure (CPTED – eyes on street with safe, clear sight lines).

The draft OCP further incorporates the following:

- i. Protecting natural areas;
- ii. Creating affordable, energy efficient and climate resilient communities; and
- iii. Achieving a "zero waste future".

In addition, affordable housing and seniors housing/care facilities are important components. The Plan will also address seniors related policy areas in housing options for singles and families who have downsized.

The Plan will also focus on having safe public spaces and transit systems, public gathering places in parks, town centre and neighbourhood centres with walking routes. Health campuses near Surrey Memorial Hospital and Peace Arch Hospital as part of the Semiahmoo town centre plan with community services clustered in accessible locations are also part of the plan.

3. Susan Match, Community Engagement & Prevention Specialist and **Kuldip Gill**, the new **South Asian Prevention Specialist** for **B.C. Responsible and Problem Gambling Program** provided a presentation.

In light of an increase in seniors gambling, Kuldip Gill has been contracted to help people with a gambling problem through counseling and education, and showing individuals how to protect themselves should they chose to gamble. There is a focus on the South Asian and Asian Communities (there is a Cantonese speaking woman available to assist). People tend to talk about winnings but rarely about losing which creates an unrealistic impression of success in gambling.

Slot machine game advisors and slot machine tutorials are available at any casino which will provide education about what it means to play safely and to reduce risks for those who chose to gamble.

Statistics show that:

- 50% of those 55 years or older gamble weekly; those over 60 gamble more frequently as they have more time.
- Choices of gambling are vast: Scratch & Win, Lotto 649 is most popular, 50/50, bingo, pull tabs, horse racing. Profits from all gaming in BC were \$2.3 billion last year.
- Older people are switching from Bingo to casinos.
- Baby boomers are gambling more than their parents did.

Reasons for gambling/not gambling were explored.

Risks of gambling for seniors were outlined as follows:

- Not participating in social or leisure activities leads to loneliness, isolation.
- Seniors can be stranded at casinos awaiting a ride.
- Buying lottery tickets rather than making RRSP contribution.
- Those on fixed incomes may need help to budget for entertainment.
- Seniors have a limited ability to improve their financial situation.

Signs of a gambling problem were noted as follows:

- Going to casino, bingo, card games more and more frequently; not taking breaks when gambling;
- Poor health, complaining of back pain, headaches, stomach;
- Depression, suicidal thoughts;
- Neglecting personal needs;
- Borrowing money;
- Isolation of self from family and friends and choosing gambling over family activities; and
- Confusion and feeling a loss of control.

We cannot legislate much of this but we can educate how gambling impacts lives negatively and work to reduce the problems. The only guarantee in gambling is that you will lose. Susan Match with B.C. Responsible and Problem Gambling Program works with the banks to contact families when suspect and unusual fund withdrawals occur.

The delegation noted that they will work directly with the seniors (with DIVERSEcity) undertaking a drama project for seniors in order to get the message out about gambling and its impacts.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Updates

English Focus on Seniors Forum – April 26, 2012 at Newton Seniors Centre

- Comments and results of the last forum were shared.
- Suggestion was made for more visual aids hand outs.
- Look at doing more for the visual and hearing impaired.

2. Upcoming Focus on Seniors Forums –

To investigate the parking issues for the recreation centres and facilities.

Proposed schedule 2012 -

- Punjabi Forum – Saturday, September 15, 2012 – Newton Rec Centre gym (TBC)
- Urdu Forum – Sunday, October 13, 2012 – Chuck Bailey gym (*confirmed*)
- Korean Forum – October 19, 2012 – Korean church (TBC)
 - Marlene to request the same two RCMP officers to present at this forum.
- Mandarin Forum – November 17, 2012 – Guildford/Fraser Heights Rec Centre (*confirmed*), gym 3 - holds 150

Topics:

 - Gambling - Phyllis Chen
 - Abuse
 - Impact of someone else's gambling
- English Forum – December 1, 2012 – South Surrey Rec Centre (TBC)

Proposed schedule 2013 –

- Spanish – January, 2013 – TBD
- English – February 23, 2013 – Cloverdale Rec Centre (*confirmed*)
- Mandarin/Cantonese (TBC) – Saturday, March 16, 2013 – Fleetwood Community Centre (*confirmed*)
- Aboriginal Forum – April, 2013 - TBD
- Muslim Forum – TBD
- Caregivers, Family & Younger Generation Forum – TBD
- CNIB & Institute for the Deaf – TBD

3. Committee member updates

- Lori Smart - 2-1-1 Magnets – provided by Rotary; 2,600 magnets distributed within communities.
- Denise Darrell – Seniors Planning Table – "*Getting it Right for Seniors*" – May 16, 2012, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at Peace Portal Alliance Church. Free; but pre-registration required: 604-542-4357
- Kay Noonan - Service Canada Pensions program – Whalley Library – 10:00 am - 12:30 pm. Good response regarding Planning Table Committee regarding pensions. Open to public.
- June – Seniors Fraud Awareness Month - Worldwide – for seniors
- Sahra-Lea Tosedevine-Tataryn – UBC Grant funding received.
 - Seniors Week Conference – June 8, 2012, at Fleetwood.
 - Brochures currently being printed; to be advertised in the Leader and Now newspapers.
 - E-Comm brochures for the conference and stuff for the bags.
 - Presentations and supplies for set up.
 - Registration forms for a booth—please advise Sahra-Lea.
 - Participation in Conference is free to Surrey residents—they will get first priority; others will be wait-listed.

- Susan Match – *Addictions & Alcohol* – May 22, 2012, at Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Showing of the movie “Bad Medicine” or “Kharaab Daru” will be held between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. The movie, by Sources, discusses alcohol’s role within the South Asian Culture and a panel of experts will be on hand to answer questions.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEM

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2012.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by S. Match
Seconded by D. Darrell
That the Seniors Advisory & Accessibility
Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor Steele
Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee