

Social Planning Advisory Committee – Minutes

Present:

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

Absent:

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

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services
Kelsey Swanson, Manager of Comm. Dev. Serv.
Jenny Buday, Volunteer Coordinator

Also Present:

Edith Kambere
Mr. Lewis Olanduntoya, Yoruba

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Committee Minutes of October 28, 2010, be adopted.

Moved by K. Ardawa
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the minutes of the Social Planning

Carried

B. DELEGATION REQUEST

1. Allyson Rowe, Director, Policy and Programs, BC Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, has confirmed that she will provide a presentation on the **Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy** at the January 20, 2011 SPAC meeting.
File No. 0440-01

It was

Allyson Rowe at the January 20, 2011 meeting.

Moved by K. Ardawa
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the Social Planning Advisory Committee hear

Carried

2. Don Luymes, Community Planning Manager, requesting to provide a presentation on the **Official Community Plan Review** at the January 20, 2011 SPAC meeting.
File No. 6440-01

It was

Don Luymes at a future meeting.

Moved by K. Ardawa
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the Social Planning Advisory Committee hear

Carried

3. Mary Miller from the Surrey Foundation requesting to provide a presentation on the **Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Project** at the January 20, 2011 SPAC meeting.
File No. 0390-20

It was

Moved by K. Ardawa

Seconded by S. Dooley

That The Social Planning Advisory Committee
hear Mary Miller at the January 20, 2011 meeting.

Carried

Round table introductions were made.

C. DELEGATIONS

1. **UMOJA Operation Compassion Society**
File No. 5080-01

Mr. Amos Kambere, President, provided a presentation on UMOJA Operation Compassion Society.

The following comments were provided:

- Presented a video showing the classroom where ladies learn to sew. The sewing classes provide an opportunity for women to develop skills and provides therapeutic benefits through the sharing of their stories and experiences in their war torn countries. A second video was observed of a class field trip to an exercise gym, where the ladies had never experienced such a thing before.
- Umoja provides adult literacy classes - "back to basics".
- The "First Steps" refugee pre-school program for children aged 0-6 years old takes place at Umoja and has staff from Options and DIVERSEcity.
- UMOJA also has developed a program for the youth aged 12+ years. Funding has just been received to target those who are behind in school or are not at a grade level that matches their age.
- In the past six years, UMOJA has seen 177 families from 27 countries. Umoja started out as an African organization, and now is providing services to immigrants from all countries.
- As a small and young organization, UMOJA has been hit hard by funding cuts. Last year they lost their Gaming Grant.
- United Way and Vancouver Foundation are continuing to help. The Provincial Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Program (through the Surrey Foundation) has funded health workshops for newcomers this year.
- Umoja has no core funding and cannot hire an Executive Director or Program Director. The Society is dependent on volunteer workers. All funds received are for specific programs.

Committee comments:

- Citizen and Immigration Canada (CIC) offers grants. (www.cic.gc.ca/english/index.asp)
UMOJA should also apply to the Vancouver Foundation grant which can fund up to \$40,000 for people with disabilities.
- The Committee can assist by providing letters of support for grant applications, if required.
- SPAC member, D. Chatha, works with Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS). When PICS started in 1997 they were a tiny organization, very much like UMOJA. PICS may be able to provide helpful advice on how to grow as an organization.
- Alice Sundberg of the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force recently put on a workshop regarding grant application writing.

The Chair commended Amos and the work of Umoja. Their efforts, commitment and involvement is much appreciated.

2. **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)**
Single Parent Support Project
 File No. 5080-01

Mr. Leon Mvukiyeh, Community Liaison, and Mr. Ron Van Wyk, Program Director, provided a presentation on the **Single Parent Support Project** that is run by MCC.

The following comments were provided:

- The Single Parent Support Project is run in partnership with World Vision Canada and VanCity. The program operates in Abbotsford, Vancouver and Surrey.
- The Program's goal is to achieve improved self-sufficiency among single parents that are affected by HIV/AIDS and thereby reduce child poverty.
- Funding was secured for 5 years from World Vision. After this time, MCC will support the continuation of the program.
- The main feature of the Program is the individual matched savings fund. Parents are asked to save up to \$50 per month that is then matched 3:1 (\$50 contribution becomes \$200 in savings). The purpose is for parents to use and invest into something with long lasting impact that will alleviate child poverty.
- Project components include:
 - Financial literacy training workshops
 - Linking participants with existing community resources
 - Individual counselling
- Many participants are newcomers to Canada. The training can help to orient them to the system in Canada such as how credit works, fast cash outlets, financing vehicle insurance, estate planning, etc.
- There are eligibility criteria for the program. They must be a single parent, must have full or shared custody of children, and must have been affected by HIV/AIDS in some way. There must be some degree of stability and they are required to answer questions about their substance use (smoking, drugs, etc.). People abusing substances are not eligible. To date 15 families have qualified.

- MCC has capacity for 10 families per 6 month cycle.
- Participants can still continue in the program beyond 6 months, but their savings are no longer matched.
- The program currently has three staff. MCC is working on getting additional funding to increase the staffing.
- The City's Leisure Access Pass program may be of interest/use to the MCC program participants.
- The individual development accounts (match savings fund) idea comes out of the United States; the program was started in Abbotsford 8-10 years ago. The program teaches low income earners how to break out of the cycle of poverty. Some participants have been able to put a down payment on a small house in Abbotsford, others went for further education and others started a business.
- Further information is available from the Khalsa Credit Union with two branches in Abbotsford (604-507-6400).

Councillor Villeneuve commented that dealing with issues of poverty and poverty reduction in Surrey is a priority. This is a very worthwhile project.

3. **City of Surrey Volunteer Programs**

File No. 5080-01

Kelsey Swanson, Manager of Community Development Services, and Jenny Buday, Volunteer Coordinator, to provide an overview of the City's Volunteer Program, and on community-based volunteer referral centres in Surrey.

DEFERRED TO JANUARY 20, 2011

4. **Quilt Project by Kwantlen Sociology Students**

File No. 0510-20

This item was discussed as part of Community Committee updates (Item F.4).

D. **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

E. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **SPAC Work Plan 2011**

File No. 5080-01

Stephen Dooley facilitated a discussion on the SPAC Work Plan, including planning delegations for the coming year and forming subcommittees for the Social Planning Awards and Open Doors projects.

The following comments were provided:

- There are three main projects – Doors Open Event (spring 2011), Social Planning Awards (fall 2011), and Poverty Reduction Initiative.
- Delegations will continue to be a significant part of each meeting.

- Doors Open Surrey Event –
 - The event will likely be in May 2011.
 - The idea is to welcome people of all different cultural groups into civic facilities.
 - SPAC will partner with the Multicultural Advisory Committee on this project.
 - Subcommittee members are: Zambka Malik, Gurtej Gill, Steve Dooley, Karen Kreis and Councillor Villeneuve.

- Social Planning Awards -
 - Will likely be one component of a civic awards program with an awards event happening in the fall of 2011.
 - Subcommittee members are: Linda Coyle, Merlin Chatwin and Kuldip Ardawa.

Staff support is Kelsey Swanson for the Doors Open Surrey event, and Aileen Murphy for the Social Planning Awards. Subcommittees need to meet before the February 24, 2011 SPAC meeting to prepare a list of activities and a preliminary plan. Staff will contact committee members to set up the subcommittees and meetings.

- Poverty Reduction Initiative –
 - The City of Surrey is working in partnership with Vibrant Surrey, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force, and SPARC BC.
 - Step 1 is to create a set of fact sheets on poverty in Surrey. These will be ready in the spring (April or May 2011).
 - Step 2 is to facilitate workshops to review the fact sheets and discuss actions to address the issues (July).
 - SPAC could have a role in reviewing the fact sheets and in helping with the planning of the workshops.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked Steven Dooley for his work on the work plan.

It was

Moved by L. Coyle

Seconded by M. Chatwin

That the Social Planning Advisory Committee

adopt the Social Planning 2011 Work Plan as presented by Steve Dooley, which includes the:

- Doors Open Surrey project;
- Social Planning Awards project;
- Poverty Reduction Initiative;
- Hearing delegations on community issues and services; and
- Committee members' participation representing the SPAC on community-based Committees.

Carried

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**1. Measuring Up!**

File No. 5080-01

Gurtej Gill provided the following update:

- Measuring Up! was adopted by the City of Surrey on January 19, 2010. Some Committee members chose to work on the Implementation Committee.
- Purpose of document is to assist people with developmental disabilities to integrate into the community and employment.
- The project will finish in two to three meetings.
- Next meeting of the Measuring Up! Committee is scheduled for December 8, 2010. Updates will be provided at future SPAC meetings.

2. Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy

File No. 5180-01

Aileen Murphy provided the following update:

- Launched November 15, 2010.
- Document is posted on the Surrey website.
- The SPAC contributed to identifying the goals and recommendations outlined in the Strategy.

3. Food Action Coalition –

File No. 5900-01

Merlin Chatwin provided the following update:

- Surrey PRC is mapping existing community gardens and planning for the future, in terms of additional community gardens.
- Harvest Box - United Way funding for this program has been renewed. It would be worthwhile to have a presentation on the Harvest Box at the March SPAC meeting.

4. Community Schools Partnership –

File No. 4750-01

Merlin Chatwin provided the following update:

- It would be worthwhile to have a delegation of the community schools come to the SPAC as the program works with children in poverty.
- Schedule a delegation come on the same night as the Harvest Box in March 2011. Pat Horstead from the school district, and one of the other CSP coordinators, and a food security delegation should be included.

5. **Quilt Project –**
File No. 0510-20

Steve Dooley provided the following update:

- 4th year Sociology Class created a quilt as a medium of collective expression to share their community volunteer experiences.
- Each student has to volunteer over 100 hours over the course of the term.
- Quilt presentation, unveiling and discussion event is scheduled for December 8, 2010 @ 7:00 pm at Kwantlen. Committee members were invited to attend.

6. **Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) Grant - Youth Violence –**
File No. 1850-20

Steve Dooley provided the following update:

- 40 interviews with service providers, parents etc. were conducted and 400 questionnaires were completed by grade 8 students, with the data now being analyzed.
- Acting Together, Youth Violence project may be presented to this committee in April 2011.

7. **Welcoming and Inclusive Communities –**
File No. 0390-20

Zanbka Malik provided the following update:

- Having a community forum early next year (April 2011).
- Keynote speaker will present on "what Canada has achieved" and "what more we can do".

8. Linda Coyle is working with the **Rotary Club** to develop the curriculum for training new club presidents. She is responsible for training 700 presidents from nine different Rotary Districts, including from Russia. The training will happen in Seattle in February 2011.

9. **Transportation Loan Program for Government Assisted Refugees**
File No. 5080-01

Councillor Villeneuve provided the following update:

- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) sent a letter dated Sept. 23, 2010 to the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism requesting the termination of the transportation loan program for government assisted refugees. The President of the FCM received a response letter dated November 2, 2010 from Federal Minister Jason Kenney stating that the Government of Canada is not prepared to terminate this program.
- Councillor Villeneuve has now sent a letter and information package to all members of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration.

G. CORRESPONDENCE**H. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Letter, dated November 2, 2010, from Minister Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism to the President of the FCM on the termination of the loan program for refugees.
File No. 5080-01

It was
Moved by G. Gill
Seconded by M. Chatwin
That the Social Planning Advisory Committee
receive the letter from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism as information.

Carried

2. Corporate Report R241 and Executive Summary of the City of Surrey's Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy. (Note: The complete Strategy document is available for download at www.surrey.ca/plans-strategies/3191.aspx.)
File No. 0250-20

It was
Moved by G. Gill
Seconded by M. Chatwin
That the Social Planning Advisory Committee
receive the Corporate Report R241 and Executive Summary of the City of Surrey's Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy as information.

Carried

I. OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Villeneuve thanked all the committee members for their great work and wished all a great holiday season.

J. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Allyson Rowe, Director, Policy and Programs, BC Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians - Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy.
2. Mary Miller, Surrey Foundation - Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Project.
3. Kelsey Swanson, Manager of Community Development Services, and Jenny Buday, Volunteer Coordinator - Overview of the City's Volunteer Program.
4. Doors Open Surrey Event
5. Social Planning Awards

6. Social Issue – Poverty Reduction Initiative
7. Community Committee Updates
8. March delegation - Harvest Box and Food Security

K. NEXT MEETING

The meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is scheduled for the **third** Thursday in January - January 20, 2011.

L. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee