

Present:

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve
K. Ardawa
D. Chattha
K. Kreis
Dr. Z. Malik
G. Dean (alternate)

Absent:

Councillor Rasode
S. Dooley
M. Chatwin
L. Coyle
G. Gill
R. Mehta

Staff Present:

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

Also Present:

Around table introductions were made and Geoff Dean was welcomed as the new member to the committee.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by K. Ardawa
Seconded by Z. Malik
That Social Planning Advisory Committee

Minutes of December 7, 2010, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION REQUEST

- Living Streets Project
Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST)**
File No. 5080-01

Anjela Godber, Community Liaison Coordinator and Margaret Mahan from Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) have requested to provide a presentation regarding the **Living Streets project**. The Chair asked Aileen Murphy to contact BEST and ask that their presentation focus on the social aspects of their project, and specifically how it relates to poverty reduction.

It was

Moved by D. Chattha
Seconded by K. Ardawa
That Social Planning Advisory Committee

hear the delegation from Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) regarding the Living Streets Project at a future meeting.

Carried

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy (MVUAS)

File No. 5080-01

Allyson Rowe and Mike Ferguson, BC Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, and Cori Kleisinger from Kla-how-eya provided a presentation on the Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy (MVUAS).

The following comments were provided:

- The Aboriginal population has grown exponentially over the past few decades. They are currently in a baby boom, as opposed to the non-Aboriginal population. The Aboriginal population is a very young population.
- The urban Aboriginal population is larger than the rural Aboriginal population (rural population = 46%; urban population = 54%).
- Surrey's Aboriginals tends to be non-status, self-identified Aboriginal people. Surrey has a large Métis population.
- Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Population -
 - 8% of Aboriginal people have a university degree compared to 25% of non-Aboriginal people.
 - The unemployment rate for the Aboriginal population is 7% compared to 3.6% for non-Aboriginal.
 - 35% of Aboriginal households were at or below low income levels compared to 20% for non-Aboriginals.
 - The median income for Aboriginal households was \$18,203. This was \$6,946 less than the non-Aboriginal population at \$25,149. Poverty is a big issue.
- The Aboriginal population in Surrey is 7,800 which represents 2-3% of Surrey's overall population. Surrey is now about equal to Vancouver for off-reserve Aboriginal populations.
- Surrey City Centre has the largest proportion of Aboriginals at 4% of the general population.
- Aboriginal Service Providers in Surrey -
 - Kla-how-eya is the primary service provider in Surrey. Its programs are in high demand with wait lists.
 - Nova-Métis Heritage Association.
 - Kekinow Native Housing Society - 5 housing complexes, 200 units.
 - Cwenegitel Aboriginal Society - provide housing for Aboriginal men in Surrey City Centre.
- Office of the Federal Interlocutor -
 - Mandate - maintains and strengthens the Government of Canada's relationship with national Aboriginal organizations that represent Métis, Non-Status Indians and urban Aboriginal peoples.
 - Participates in the tripartite processes with off-reserve Aboriginal groups and the provinces.
 - Coordinates the government's Urban Aboriginal Strategy.
- Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) -
 - Developed in 1997 to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people living in key urban centres.
 - UAS is a government - community partnership comprised of all levels of government.

- Focused on increasing economic participation of urban Aboriginal people.
- Priority areas –Improving life skills; promoting job training, skills and entrepreneurship; support Aboriginal women, children and families.
- A National Strategy -
 - UAS operates in 13 designated cities from Ontario to BC. BC has local steering committees in Prince George and Metro Vancouver.
 - Invested \$30.5 million over the last three years while leveraging \$41 million from other partners such as other government departments, Provincial and municipal governments, private and non-profit donors and Aboriginal organizations.
- UAS Municipal Partnerships -
 - Winnipeg Memorandum of Collaboration – formalized action plans on how to align resources.
 - Regina and Saskatoon – Urban Aboriginal Community Grant program. Have a financial budget and collaborate on granting programs.
 - Thunder Bay – Aboriginal Liaison Strategy
- Toronto – Urban Aboriginal Framework – closest city to Metro Vancouver in regards to its makeup. Aboriginal population is only about .5%. The City identified the Aboriginal population as a priority due to its low socio-economic status.
- Metro Vancouver UAS Aboriginal Strategy -
 - Government / Community partnership consists of –
 - 11 Aboriginal community members, four of whom are from Surrey.
 - Federal – BC, OFI
 - Provincial – Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
 - Municipal - City of Vancouver and City of Surrey. Aileen Murphy is Surrey's representative.
- MVUAS Strategic Plan: Urban Aboriginal Learning.
 - Goal is to improve access to transitional learning supports for Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal people that will enhance their ability to achieve their future with skill, confidence and dignity.
 - Objectives:
 - Enhancing life skills
 - Staying in school
 - Pursuing higher education
 - Developing experimental based work skills
 - Transferring traditional knowledge
- 2010-2011 MVUAS Projects in Surrey
 - Métis Nation BC - Skills Enhancement for Aboriginal Learners Program (\$140,747).
 - School District 37 – Tree of Life – Urban Aboriginal Youth Project \$72,000.
- MVUAS is interested in collaborating with the City of Surrey. Ideas/opportunities may include:
 - Aboriginal consultation in City of Surrey Social Planning (ie. MVUAS members from Surrey could provide an Aboriginal perspective in City planning processes/consultations).

- Aboriginal representation on the Social Planning Advisory Committee.
- Collaborative funding partnerships.
- National UAS partners meeting. Winnipeg is hosting a meeting on March 1 and 2 to discuss municipal involvement in Aboriginal issues. The City of Surrey will be invited to attend.

The Chair thanked the delegation and noted the following:

- There is an annual application process to sit on the Social Planning Advisory Committee. The Multicultural Advisory Committee has a member from the Aboriginal community.
- We are planning a *Doors Open* project this year to highlight City and other facilities. The Aboriginal community could get involved.
- The City has a Community Grants Program (not for operating funds).
- The Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society have awarded grants to address Aboriginal homelessness.

Geoff Dean queried whether he can share this information with others at Kwantlen. He teaches in the transitions to post-secondary area. Kwantlen is interested in increasing its Aboriginal services. Geoff noted that it would be beneficial if Kwantlen could provide services in the City Centre area.

The Chair noted that the new Library will open in that area. Beth Barlow, Chief Librarian may be able to provide space for programs.

The Chair thanked the delegation for a very informative presentation. The Social Planning Advisory Committee will be focusing on the issue of poverty in the coming year. We look forward to exploring ways that we can further partner with the Aboriginal community.

2. **Surrey Foundation: Welcoming and Inclusive Communities**

File No. 0390-20

Mary Miller from the Surrey Foundation provided a presentation on the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities (WIC) project.

The following comments were provided:

- *Connections and Bridges* –
 - Five pieces of research have been completed
 - Produced a documentary film
 - After school programs were developed and conducted with middle years children
 - A website was developed - www.Wicsurrey.org/place-for-all
 - Five Demonstration Projects have been funded:
 - Parks Recreation and Culture - Tours of civic facilities for newcomers
 - Food bank – DIVERSEcity - Community kitchen for new immigrants who use the Food Bank on how to utilize the foods provided in a Food Bank hamper
 - Kinsmen Place Lodge - exploration of culture neighbourhoods, and seniors programs in seniors' care facilities. Are doing research to find out the impact of

providing cultural services to seniors in care. Does it make a difference?

- Surrey Public Library Employment Program – will identify immigrants who may be interested in working in a library, and advise them about the kinds of jobs available, qualifications needed etc.
 - Umoja Youth Project – a parent and youth dialogue project.
- Welcoming and Inclusive Communities - need to address all areas of life: law, economics, family, community, education, housing, personal interactions and relationships. They need an effective and efficient assessment of their skills, build upgrade paths of those skills to effectively and efficiently get them into the work place.
 - Personal interaction is absolutely critical. Canadians need to be more proactive towards newcomers. Newcomers need one to one personal connections with mainstream Canadians.
 - Economics is of huge issue in the area of helping people to get jobs in order to have an adequate income. People come with tremendous skills and they cannot use them. We could be more proactive to create transitional job ladders to allow immigrants to use their work skills while they learn the language.
 - Poverty amongst newcomers is a long term issue and some never get out of it.
 - Bridges are how connections are made – *“a bridge is a thing that is recognized as necessary and then built to facilitate connections”*.
 - "One size does not fill all", particularly in the job search area. It would be great to have a program to connect with people in similar industries (e.g.: Film producers need to connect with the film industry). There needs to be more mentors who newcomers can talk to in order to make personal connections in their field.
 - *“...our ability to live well together is much more threatened by income polarization than by the diversity of our backgrounds...”* Phil Ryan, author of Multicultiphobia (2010).
 - **Community Forum – Saturday, April 16, 2011.**
 - Michaëlle Jean - keynote speaker.

The Chair thanked the delegation for her excellent presentation. The Project is very valuable; our committee will have more discussion on this.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Adaptable and Accessible Housing Policies for the City of Surrey

File No. 4815-30

Tom Ainscough, City Architect, presented on proposed adaptable and accessible housing standards for the City of Surrey.

The following comments were provided:

- Demographics – Statistics Canada estimates that the seniors population will double in the next 25 years. In BC, it will increase from 630,000 to 1.75 million. Many will have mobility problems.
- Provincial Policy – In 2009, the Province developed Adaptable Housing Standards. The standards are included in the BC Building Code (BCBC), but adoption is voluntary.
- Prior to the new provincial standards, some municipalities developed their own standards.
 - City of North Vancouver introduced its Accessible Housing Guidelines in 1998. Their "Level 2" standards are very similar to the new BC Building Code standards. 2,000 accessible units have been created since 1998. Extra cost per unit - \$1,960 for a wood structure and \$3,081 for a concrete structure for a one bedroom.
 - North Saanich requires 100% of new units to be adaptable. Their standards similar to North Vancouver.
- Other BC municipalities have already adopted the new BCBC Adaptable Housing standards. Percentage of units that must be adaptable varies.
- Surrey's relevant policy is the Sustainability Charter objectives. Two objectives that are applicable:
 - SC12 – adapting to Demographic Change; and
 - SC13 – create a fully accessible city.
- Sustainable Development Checklist – includes an item on number of adaptable and accessible housing units.
- SPARC-BC
 - Have developed a Model Accessible Communities' By-laws Guide.
 - Draft bylaws and design standards to improve access for public buildings, parks, streets, parking, gas stations, etc.
 - For housing – recommends municipalities adopt the BC Standards.
- Safer Home – Corporate Report of May 2010, recommends Council support for including requirements in Building Code and information for builders.
 - Scope – addresses SFDs and MURBs
 - Similar suite interior requirements as BCBC Adaptable Housing Standards
- Proposed Policy:
 - Adaptable units – 100% of new units to comply with BCBC Adaptable Housing Standard
 - Accessible units - adopt BC Housing's (BCHMC) design standards for accessible housing, defined in the Independent Living BC Design & Construction Standards.
 - Next steps:
 - Costing study – to estimate the incremental cost to comply with Adaptable Housing Standard

- Present to the Development Advisory Committee for their input before presenting to Council.

The Chair thanked Tom for his presentation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by G. Dean
Seconded by K. Kreis
That the Social Planning Advisory
Committee recommend that Council:

- (a) Adopt the BC Building Code Adaptable Housing Standard for all new apartment units designed and built in the City of Surrey (e.g. 100% of units in any given project).
- (b) Adopt the Accessible Standard published by BC Housing as part of the *Independent Living BC Design & Construction Standards*, to be adopted voluntarily by developers seeking to demonstrate community benefit when applying for rezoning or Secondary Plan (e.g. NCP) amendment. To qualify as a community benefit the accessible units would have to be owned by a non-profit housing society.

Carried

2. Proposed Name change for the Social Planning Advisory Committee File No. 0540-20(V)

Discussion on a possible name change for the Social Planning Advisory Committee. This idea was raised during the Committee's Work Plan workshop. DEFERRED to next meeting.

3. ELECTION VICE-CHAIR (done annually, as per Terms of Reference).

Karen Kreis volunteered to be Vice-Chair.

It was Moved by K. Ardawa
Seconded by D. Chattha
That the Social Planning Advisory
Committee appoint Karen Kreis as Vice-Chair of the Social Planning Advisory
Committee for the year 2011.

Carried

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Terms of Reference 2011

2. **2011 Schedule of SPAC meetings**

3. **UMOJA - Conversation Class Report**

File No. 5080-01

Amos Kambere, Umoja Operation Compassion Society provided a presentation at the December 7, 2010 SPAC meeting regarding the programs and classes Umoja provides to new immigrants.

4. **Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC - Cultures West: Fall/Winter 2010 edition on "BC's Resilient Refugees"**

File No. 5080-01

5. **Vancouver Sun series on Refugees (GARs) Transportation Loan**

File No. 5080-01

6. **Federal Poverty Reduction Plan** – Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities. Highlights of Key Recommendations to be implemented in the Short-term.

File No. 5080-01

7. **Sustainability Charter Implementation - Indicators and Targets**

File No. 0512-02

Corporate Report R253, dated December 13, 2010, providing sustainability indicators and targets to measure the City's progress toward the vision and goals of the Surrey Sustainability Charter.

It was

Moved by G. Dean

Seconded by K. Ardawa

That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee receive the information items for information.

Carried

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Community Committee Updates**

No updates were provided.

Report on *Surrey Doors Open* will be provided at Surrey Doors Open subcommittee meeting scheduled for February 24, 2011 at 4:30 pm.

J. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. February 24, 2011 -

- Presentation on the City of Surrey Volunteer Programs (Deferred from December 7, 2010)

- Surrey Doors Open – subcommittee presentation on activities and preliminary plan.
 - Social Planning Awards – subcommittee presentation on activities and preliminary plan.
2. March 24, 2011 -
- Food Action Coalition's Harvest Box Program, Community School Partnership presentation.
3. April 28, 2011 -
- Poverty fact sheets.
 - Geoff Dean – Educational Accessibility.
 - Stephen Dooley – CURA Youth Violence Project.

K. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 24, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

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