

Social Planning Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve
K. Ardawa
S. Dooley
D. Chattha
M. Chatwin
L. Coyle
G. Gill
K. Kreis
Dr. Z. Malik
G. Dean (alternate)

Absent:

Councillor Rasode
R. Mehta

Staff Present:

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

Also Present:

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by S. Dooley
Seconded by G. Gill
That Social Planning Committee Minutes of

February 24, 2011 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION REQUEST

1. **Positive Haven, South Fraser Community Services** requesting to appear as a delegation to provide a presentation regarding how people are living with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C, the barriers they face and some of the services offered by the Positive Haven program.

It was

Moved by S. Dooley
Seconded by D. Chattha
That the Social Planning Advisory Committee
receive the Positive Haven delegation at a future meeting.

Carried

DELEGATIONS

1. **Food Action Coalition**
File No. 4900-01

Merlin Chatwin of the Harvest Box and Natasha Raey of the Surrey/White Rock Food Action Coalition were in attendance and provided an overview of what the Food Action Coalition is, a background on what they do and how they address poverty.

The following comments were provided:

- Food security is a continuum that addresses the basic need for all people to access safe, nutritious food in a dignified manner.
- The Food Action Coalition's vision is to decrease hunger, increase food system sustainability and support purchasing locally, as well; improve nutritional health (Canadian Cancer Society looks at the health piece of it).
- In 2005, existing food policies were reviewed and community outreach and education was undertaken.
- In 2006, the Food Action Coalition held a community forum on food policy. Approximately 80 participants attended the forum, representing a wide range of community organizations. A toolkit was created. The forum and the toolkit were used to engage the population in food policy and stimulate dialogue about how a food policy can be incorporated into organizations. The toolkit contains: what is a food policy, checklists, healthy vending machines, fundraising, meetings and purchasing locally etc. The toolkit is currently being updated. Also, the Coalition is working with DIVERSEcity to adapt the toolkit for use by diverse cultural groups.
- A major project of the Food Action Coalition this year is mapping community gardens. A lot of community gardens are typically in more affluent neighbourhoods; the Coalition is looking to change this. City of Surrey Parks has been a big advocate for helping organizations interested in community gardening; the plan is to have one in each town centre.
- The Coalition can support community gardens by building networks. Gardens need champions and generational sustainability. Community gardens can teach people skills on how to garden and are good for beautification. Hazelnut Meadows appeals to the government assisted refugees. It provides them a place to garden, builds a sense of community with integration of new Canadians with long standing Canadians. The community building has been an unanticipated positive by-product of community gardens.

The Harvest Box program is a bulk buying club.

- They have depots across the city with recreation centres being used as depots.
- The original *value box* meets the hunger goal and the *local box* supports local food security.
- The Harvest Box is now a Fraser region initiative.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked and commended the delegation and the program for all their work.

2. **Community Schools Partnership**

File No.4750-01

Merlin Chatwin, Community Schools Partnership Coordinator, and Pat Horstead, Assistant Superintendent, School District #36 (Surrey) provided a presentation on the Community Schools Partnership (C-SP).

The C-SP represents one of the school district's responses to addressing poverty.

Pat Horstead noted that her area of responsibility is the north zone in Guildford and Whalley (25 schools). The Community Schools Partnerships is also in her portfolio.

- Whalley has generational poverty and situational poverty with single parent families, new Canadian families who don't have language skills and can't be employed in their area of training, and a refugee population.
- One of schools in the district, Holly Elementary, was highlighted by the Ministry of Education as a lighthouse as to how a school approaches their community, students and families. There are over 600 children in the school and over 50 languages spoken. None live in a single family dwelling. Everyone lives in a multi level dwelling - 3 storey apartments with small square footages.
 - Staff have a commitment to the families and believe it is their job to care for the kids. They also have high expectations of them.
 - The school stands out due to the culture that has developed over time.
- The Ministry of Education uses a weighted formula that includes household incomes and kindergarten students' EDI scores, to categorize schools. Of the 25 schools in the north zone, all but two schools ranked as "in need". Holly Elementary ranked as the number one high needs school.
- There are 30 other schools in Surrey, in addition to the 23 in the north zone, that are targeted for needing help.
- Child poverty and achievement in school is directly correlated. The Surrey School District tries to level the playing field by providing more funds to schools in less affluent areas to cover some of the extra costs.
 - The Province provides CommunityLINK funding for "vulnerable students" - those students who may be at risk in terms of academic achievement and social functioning. These students primarily come from less affluent socio-economic backgrounds.
 - CommunityLINK is based on an old funding formula that needs revision. Surrey gets roughly half of the allocation for Langley, a third of the funding provided to Vancouver and a quarter of the funds given to Greater Victoria.
 - CommunityLink funds are used for meal programs, child care workers, programs for at-risk youth, and extra literacy programs for Kindergarten and Grade 1's.
 - The Community Schools Partnership receives \$600,000 in CommunityLINK funding to pay for staffing. The funds to actually run C-SP programs comes through partnerships and grants (have 45 grants).
Are seeking partners in order to fund the C-SP programs we want (\$3.8 Million).
 - Vancouver's student population is 55,000 and continuing to decline. Surrey's school population is 70,000 and growing. Surrey has over 125 schools; 10 more schools are on the way. When the Ministry of Education's announcement of full day Kindergarten came out, there was no announcement for more schools!
- What is the Ministry of Education's response to the inequity in funding for Surrey?

Mike McKay, Superintendent of Schools in Surrey has been to the Ministry of Education more than 10 times in the past 3 years. No progress was being made. On April 19, 2011 the Surrey School District issued a news release calling on the provincial government to "ante-up for Surrey's vulnerable students" and cover the shortfall of \$2million caused by the province's flawed CommunityLINK funding formula.

The School District receives a lot of support from Surrey Board of Trade, Council and the Mayor.

Councillor Villeneuve commended the School District for what the Community Schools Partnerships does, and advised that the Social Planning Advisory Committee will do what it can to support their endeavours.

It was

Moved by G. Gill

Seconded by S. Dooley

That the Social Planning Advisory Committee recommend that the City of Surrey send a letter to the provincial government, on behalf of Mayor and Council and members of the Social Planning Advisory Committee, urging the Province of BC to address the inequity in CommunityLINK funding provided to the Surrey School District to support the academic achievement and social functioning of vulnerable students.

The letter should note the following (taken from: Surrey School District's April 19, 2011 News Release - "Surrey Board of Education demands provincial government ante-up for vulnerable students"):

- The CommunityLINK funding formula is flawed. As a result, for more than a decade Surrey has not received its fair share.
- On a per student basis, Surrey receives a fraction of the CommunityLINK funding provided many other districts; for example, Surrey gets roughly half the allocation for Langley, a third of the funding provided Vancouver and a quarter of the funds given to Greater Victoria.
- Surrey's shortfall for CommunityLINK-supported initiatives such as the district's Community-Schools Partnership program is approximately \$2 million, including a \$600,000 deficit for the school meal program alone.
- The Surrey School District is asking the provincial government to provide the district with a one-time grant of \$2 million. This one-time grant assumes that the government will act to address the inequity in time for the following school year.

Carried

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Social Planning Awards

File No.0350-01

Subcommittee reported back on their March 24, 2011 subcommittee meeting.

Committee to decide on:

- a) Name of the Award
- b) Award categories and criteria

Committee comments:

- Aileen provided an update on the Civic Awards Program.
- The Program includes six categories, including Social Planning. Awards will be presented at an event in late October 2011 at the new Surrey Central Library.
- The City's website will have web-pages dedicated to the Civic Awards Program. It will include web-pages specific to the SPAC award.

- Page 14 of the agenda has the tentative program timeline -
 - Deadline to submit information on the TOR for each award is tomorrow, April 29, 2011.
 - Report needs to go to City Manager with details of each award. To go to Council May 9, 2011 for approval.
 - Call for submission – May 27 – July 15, 2011 (*note: has been changed to June 20 - September 9, 2011*).
 - September 2, 2011 report on award winners to City Manager (*note: has been changed to September 30, 2011*).
 - September 12, 2011 Corporate Report to Council (*note: has been changed to October 17, 2011*).

It was Moved by S. Dooley
 Seconded by G. Dean
 That the Social Planning Advisory Committee
 recommend the name for the Social Planning Award be "**Heart In the City**".
Carried

Committee comments:

- Two categories for the SPAC awards:
 1. Addressing Poverty and
 2. Strengthening Community.
 Terms of Reference to incorporate this.
- Youth Award would need to be part of the Youth Recognition Awards which happen every May.
- Committee members will need to help promote the award. A flyer that can be sent by e-mail will be prepared.
- The subcommittee will screen the nominations and make recommendations to SPAC. Due diligence to be done in the selection process. Time line will be short.

Councillor thanked and commended the committee members for all their work and commended Aileen Murphy for a job well done.

2. **SPAC 2011 "Fun Work Schedule"**
 File No. 5080-01

The Committee reviewed the schedule and discussed the agenda of the next meeting:

- May –
 - Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) - Grant Acting Together, Youth Violence Project - Steve Dooley
 - GAR Transportation Loan Issues - Peter Yuot is a refugee who has been featured on the cover of Cultures West magazine. He called Judy and thanked her for all the work we are doing on the GAR Transportation Loan issue. Everyone in his community and in Sudan are aware of it. He has agreed to come to SPAC to tell about his experiences.

- Surrey Doors Open -
 - Next subcommittee meeting scheduled for May 26, 2011 at 4:30-6pm (prior to the SPAC meeting).
 - Richmond Doors Open event is May 7-8, 2011. Zankka, Gurtej and Kuldip will be attending.
 - June –
 - Transition into Post-Secondary Education - Geoff Dean
 - Positive Haven, South Fraser Community Services
 - September –
 - Report on Homelessness
 - Homelessness & Housing Society
 - Planning for 2012
3. **Social Planning Advisory Committee name change**
File No. 0540-20(V)

Committee members are requested to think further on ideas and bring forward to next meeting for discussion.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Good Citizen Award**
File No. 0350-01

The Good Citizen Award is given each year to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service for the betterment of our community. A reminder that nominations are requested for submission prior to April 29, 2011 for presentation at the Volunteer Recognition event in May 2011.

Website: <http://www.surrey.ca/city-government/8526.aspx>

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. **Living Wage**
File No. 5080-01

Council referred this issue back to staff to review.

a) **Resolution R11-412**

Councillor Villeneuve attended the April 12 forum on the Living Wage at SFU Surrey. Deborah Littman, from London Citizens, spoke about England's experience with the Living Wage. The Living Wage has broad political support in England.

Jaimie McEvoy, New Westminster City Councillor, could be invited as a delegation at the beginning of the new year to share New Westminster's experiences implementing a Living Wage..

b) **Peace Arch news article**, Friday, March 18, 2011 – *"Minimum Wage to Go Up"*.

F. CORRESPONDENCE
(Information Items)

1. Transportation Loan Program for Government Assisted Refugees
File No. 5080-01; 0220-05

Letter, dated February 3, 2011 received from Robert Oliphant, MP, Official Opposition Critic of Multiculturalism (see February 24, 2011 minutes) and member of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration in response to a letter and package of information that was sent to all Committee members.

It was
Moved by S. Dooley
Seconded by L. Coyle
That Social Planning Advisory Committee
receive the letter from Robert Oliphant, MP, Official Opposition Critic of
Multiculturalism, as information.

Carried

2. Bill C-304 – National Housing Strategy
File No. 0220-05

Letter dated January 17, 2011 received from the Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development in response to correspondence supporting Bill C-304 and the call for a national housing strategy.

It was
Moved by L. Coyle
Seconded by K. Ardawa
That Social Planning Advisory Committee
receive the letter from Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills
Development, as information.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Corporate Report R054– Civic Awards Program
File No. 0350-01

**2. Corporate Report F009 – Neighbourhood Small Grants Program –
A Partnership Project with the Vancouver Foundation.**
File No. 5080-01

3. Regional Food Systems Strategy, February 2011
File No.

Table of contents is attached. The complete Strategy is available at:
www.metrovancouver.org/planning/development/RegionalFoodSystems/Pages/default.aspx

4. A Stake in Your Community Workshop

File No. 0390-20

Saturday, April 30, 2011, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

SFU, Surrey

FREE, lunch provided

Keynote Speaker: Jim Diers

A very engaging speaker from Seattle. He will be speaking on neighbourhood development.

Workshop will be held at SFU Surrey.

Email and register tomorrow. BIA is handling the registration.

It was

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by L. Coyle

That Social Planning Advisory Committee

receive all the information items.

Carried**H. OTHER BUSINESS****1. Committee Member Updates**

G. Gill – The City of Surrey has become a leader in accessibility and inclusion. Gurtej's organization is using the information from the *Measuring Up!* document for its employment programs. Will provide a full report at next meeting.

S. Dooley – **DIVERSEcity Awards** - On April 13, 2011 the City of Surrey received an award at the 16th Annual Cultural DIVERSEcity Awards 2011 in the Public Institutions category. The City was recognized for its commitment and dedication to diversity through City programs, events and community development outreach initiatives. The plaque has been hung on wall outside of the Executive Boardroom.

Councillor Villeneuve commented that it is nice to recognize the hard work that staff in the city does. Thank you all for the good work!

I. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is scheduled for May 26, 2011.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by L. Coyle

That the Social Planning Advisory Committee do

now adjourn.

Carried

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

Claudia Jesson, Deputy City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee