

# *Social Planning Advisory Committee Minutes*

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2011**  
Time: 7:14 pm  
File: 0540-20

---

**Present:**

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve  
K. Ardawa  
S. Dooley  
L. Coyle  
Dr. Z. Malik  
G. Dean (alternate)

**Absent:**

Councillor Rasode  
D. Chattha  
M. Chatwin  
G. Gill  
K. Kreis  
R. Mehta

**Staff Present:**

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

---

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was

Moved by L. Coyle

Seconded by K. Ardawa

That that the Social Planning Advisory

Committee minutes of October 4, 2011, be adopted.

Carried

Round table introductions were made.

**B. DELEGATIONS**

1. **Paul Cuane, Director, Civil Rights Now!** to appear as a delegation to provide a presentation on getting laws passed that give BC voters with disabilities equal access to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

File No. 5080-01

**DEFERRED to 2012**

2. Sireen El-Nashar and David Dalley appeared as a delegation to provide a presentation on: **Honouring Diverse Beliefs in our Communities: A Conversational Toolkit, through the Surrey Neighbouring Faiths Program that supports the growth of welcoming and inclusive communities** by providing a resource for individuals, organizations and institutions to explore the significance of diverse belief systems in our society.

File No. 5080-01

The content of the toolkit outlines a multi-format workshop designed to engage participants in active learning and dialogue. It supports workshop facilitators with a video documentary, a practical framework for dialogue, and list of additional resources to promote further learning.

The following comments were provided:

- When children are exposed to all religions, the fear factor disappears and they become more accepting and understanding.
- Surrey Neighbouring Faiths Program empowers families to raise knowledgeable and caring kids in our multicultural and multi faith community. The families visit different religious building in Surrey. They have fun, memorable experiences with people from different faith communities in Surrey.
- PICS has received an Embrace BC grant to establish a Surrey Interfaith Council. and organize a series of 4 dialogues. The Council would welcome having a representative from SPAC on the Council.
- The Honouring Diverse Beliefs in our Communities Toolkit is geared to be used to guide conversations in workplaces. Embrace BC funded the development of the toolkit.
- The documentary "Honouring Diverse Beliefs in our Community", by Himar Productions, is part of the toolkit and can be viewed on line at: <http://vimeo.com/22148547> A 5 minute clip from the video was viewed.
- David Dalley referenced an article in *Policy Horizons Canada* research publication, March 2009: *Dialogue Among the Religions in Canada*, by David Seljak, Professor, St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo [http://www.horizons.gc.ca/page.asp?pagenm=2009-0008\\_01](http://www.horizons.gc.ca/page.asp?pagenm=2009-0008_01)
- The Neighbouring Faiths program is being presented today in the effort to get it introduced into work places.
- Sireen and David are very proud of the Neighbouring Faiths Program which is Surrey based. The toolkit is free. (They had a small grant and are now running out of hardcopies.)

Committee comments -

- A lot of discrimination comes due to the lack of understanding of why others look, eat and dress differently.
- This program should be provided at the hospitals for the nurses and doctors to know of these cultures. It should also be provided to schools and for teachers to learn during professional development days.
- Conversations around culture are a bit easier than religious conversations—religious conversations are deeper and more difficult.
- It was suggested that the delegation contact the Surrey Board of Trade They have done a publication on the changing workforce. The Surrey Board of Trade has a social policy committee.
- It was also suggested that they contact the School Board. Teachers are always looking for resources like this. The toolkit could also be given to the PACS.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked David Dalley and Sireen El-Nashar and congratulated them on the project and the work of the Neighbouring Faiths Program.

## C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

### 1. Updates

- (a) **Civic Awards Program Debrief**  
File No. 0350-01

The following comments were provided:

- Linda and Kuldip provided the following suggestions for future selection of award recipients.
  - Have more clarification on the two categories by splitting into two categories: projects and individuals.
    - Have a separate category for people who have contributed to the community over many years – honour long-standing community service. This should not be limited to volunteer efforts; individuals who have worked in the community for many years and gone above-and-beyond should be considered.
- The venue was superb, caterer was really good and wine was good.
- Committee members liked the ribbons identifying who the finalists were. They suggested that the different awards should have colour coordinated ribbons.
- The attendees at the event were so impressed and could be heard talking about the event in such a positive way.
- In future years, Social Planning Advisory Committee should be identifiable with committee badges.
- The program agenda seemed to focus on the design awards and not so much on the social and environmental projects.
- It was suggested that a couple of additional categories of social planning awards be added. The Chair of every committee should present the awards along with the Mayor. To make it a bit more interesting, the Chair should name the committee members as well.
- Staff are recommending that the awards event be held every two years. The Social Planning Advisory Committee agrees.
- The certificates should be awarded at the front of the venue, and the awarding of the certificates should be done in a more formal and organized way. The winners of the Heart in the City Award should be invited to come and present to the SPAC. Councillor Villeneuve thanked everyone and expressed appreciation for all their work.

**(b) Doors Open Subcommittee Update**

File No. 8000-01

The subcommittee met today. The following update was provided:

- Date - May 27, 2012 - 11:00 am -4:00 pm (*Note: The date has been changed to Saturday, June 23.*)
- It was felt that it would be better to concentrate on two or three areas (City Centre and Newton), see how the day works out and then consider adding another area the following year.
- It was suggested that SFU students be invited to participate (eg. 'art in the park').
- A letter could go out to small businesses in Surrey City Centre to see if they would like to participate (eg. by offering a discount to people attending Doors Open).
- Bring buskers and musicians in to make it festive and encourage people to walk between venues. Will need to look into providing buses to transport people between City Centre and Newton.

- Next subcommittee meeting will be January 26, 2012.

(c) **Update on October 6, 2011 meeting with Residential Tenancy Branch Executive Director**

The following comments were provided:

- Stephen Dooley, Aileen Murphy, Kuldip Ardawa and Councillor Villeneuve met with the Executive Director of the Residential Tenancy Branch.
- The Residential Tenancy Branch does not seem to have an interest in working in partnership with the City to develop approaches for addressing tenant concerns with the RTB process.

John Anderson and other representatives from ACORN Canada will be coming to the January 26, 2012 SPAC meeting.

(d) **Poverty Project ("*this*" is how we end poverty in Surrey) Update (*this* / Transportation / Housing/ Income / Support)**

File No. 5080-01

The following comments were provided:

- A stakeholder meeting was held November 8, 2011. Notes are included in agenda package.
- Fact sheets are being prepared by SPARC BC. A Community Forum will be held in February 2012 to discuss the information on the Fact Sheets and develop strategies for reducing poverty in Surrey.

Committee comments:

- Geoff Dean asked if post secondary education institutions were involved. He suggested that there should be an "E" for education. The process for this initiative was: Vibrant Surrey approached the City of Surrey to be a project partner, along with the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force, and Fraser Health (Aboriginal Health). The Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society provided \$10,000; the City is providing in-kind support. The project has been awarded a United Way grant for the community forum and development of strategies for action.
- MLAs and MPs should be invited to the Community Forum.

(e) **Transitions into Post-Secondary Education**

File No. 1850-20

Geoff Dean provided the following update:

- Geoff thanked everyone for their support. With the encouragement from this committee he presented to Surrey Council. He then presented to Richmond, White Rock, Langley City and Langley Township Councils and was favourably received by all.
- White Rock passed a motion to get together with the other City Councils to push the issue of post-secondary funding in the south of Fraser area.
- Langley Township moved to check it out with Kwantlen Board members.

Committee comments:

- Councillor Villeneuve applauded Geoff Dean's initiative in getting out and raising awareness of the inequity in educational funding. She suggested that he might consider presenting to the Surrey Board of Trade's Social Policy Committee.

**(f) Committee Member Updates**

The following comments were provided:

- Zambka Malik is working on Muslim Youth Initiative – Youth Conference - April 26, 2012 – assessing their needs and problems they are facing.
- To be held at the Kwantlen conference centre
- Planning is in the early stages. Three meetings have been held and being coordinated through Stephen Dooley's work on youth gangs.

Funding is needed for the event. Suggestion was made to approach Coast Capital, Envision, and VanCity, as well as the provincial and federal governments' multicultural funding programs.

**2. SPAC 2012 "Fun Work Schedule"**

File No. 5080-01

Councillor Villeneuve congratulated and thanked the Committee for its work in 2011. The Committee did a great job in meeting its goals and working productively on several important projects and issues.

- Proposed Items for January 26, 2012 Agenda -
  - John Anderson, ACORN Canada – Standards of Maintenance
- February Agenda will be a Committee planning session - focusing on specific areas last year and deciding on issues was very helpful. We heard some really powerful delegations. The planning session could include a discussion on the name of the Committee.
- 2012 Agenda ideas -
  - "Freaky Farmer" – recipient of a Heart in the City Award
  - Paul Cuane - Civil Rights Now! – Spring 2012

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Schedule of 2012 Meeting Dates**

It was Moved by S. Dooley  
Seconded by K. Ardawa  
That that the Social Planning Advisory  
Committee proposed 2012 schedule of meeting dates, be approved.  
Carried

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Letter to Minister Abbott regarding the **CommunityLINK Funding for Vulnerable Students.**  
File No. 4750-01

**H. OTHER BUSINESS**

**I. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is scheduled for January 26, 2012.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was Moved by L. Coyle  
Seconded by K. Ardawa  
That the Social Planning Advisory Committee  
meeting do now adjourn.  
Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:50 pm.

---

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

---

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve  
Social Planning Advisory Committee