

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
D. Chattha
L. Coyle
G. Dean
S. Dooley
G. Gill
D. Lawrance
Dr. Z. Malik

Absent:

K. Ardawa
M. Chatwin

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
M. McCargar, Planning Technician
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

Guest:

Victoria Barr, UBC PhD Candidate, School of
Regional Planning

A. RECEIPT OF NOTES / ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Quorum was not attained at the January 19, 2012 meeting.

It was
Moved by L. Coyle
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the notes of Social Planning Advisory
Committee meeting of January 19, 2012, be received.

Carried

2. It was
Moved by G. Dean
Seconded by D. Chattha
That the minutes of the Social Planning
Advisory Committee meeting of November 24, 2011, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION REQUEST

Matthew Johnston has requested to appear as a delegation to present on a counseling project he operates in the Surrey-Central Area for Surrey's most at-risk children and youth. The project is funded by the CKNW Orphans' Fund.

It was
Moved by G. Dean
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the Social Planning Advisory
Committee receive Matthew Johnson as a delegation at the next meeting.

Carried

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**1. Poverty Forum Project ("*this*" is how we end poverty in Surrey)**

File No. 5080-01

Poverty Forum – Friday, March 30, 2012 - 9:30 am – 3:30 pm - Bollywood Banquet Hall. Forum is free. The purpose of the forum is to review the poverty fact sheets and to develop recommendations for reducing poverty in Surrey.

Newspaper article (Surrey North Delta Leader) was provided on table. To clarify, approximately 21% of the entire Metro Vancouver area residents are considered to be living in poverty. 18% (70,500) of Surrey residents are living in poverty.

Councillor Villeneuve commented on two events that were held in Surrey during the past week that focused on the theme of change and the fact that positive change can begin with conversations among small circles of committed people.

The Surrey Foundation hosted a "Surrey Cares" event on March 26. It was facilitated by Margaret Wheatley, an internationally acclaimed speaker, writer and teacher for behavioural and change. One of her books *Perseverance* was written in 2010. (Information provided on table.)

Kwantlen's Centre for Interdisciplinary Research: Community Learning and Engagement (CIR:CLE) and Criminology 3000: Justice/Injustice held a 2-day conference on the theme of Community Change; Councillor Villeneuve spoke at its Gala Dinner event.

2. Doors Open

File No. 8000-01

Marlis McCargar is part of the staff working group planning the *Doors Open* event for June 23, 2012. There will be approximately 30 venues open in Whalley and Newton as part of the event. Deadline for application of venues is April 6, 2012. There is a \$20 registration fee for venues. Venue applications will be reviewed in mid April.

Geo-caching and passports for collecting stamps from the various sites will be used to help generate excitement.

3. Update on Standards of Maintenance Bylaw

Aileen Murphy provided an update on the work related to a Standards of Maintenance Bylaw.

Last week Councillor Villeneuve met with ACORN Canada members who are lobbying for a Standard of Maintenance Bylaw in Surrey. ACORN reported on their research around 'liability' for municipalities; their researcher was unable to locate any cases where a municipality was successfully sued after it introduced a standards of maintenance bylaw.

Stephen Dooley reported that the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research: Community Learning and Engagement (CIR:CLE) at Kwantlen is partnering with ACORN to conduct focus groups with tenants to collect stories about tenant issues in a systematic way. When available, results from this research will be brought to the SPAC.

A March 21, 2012 Vancouver Sun article, included in the agenda package, reported that the provincial government had issued the first administrative penalty under the Residential Tenancy Act - a \$115,000 fine for failure to comply with an order from the RTB. The complainant in the case was Sue Collard, the former resident manager at Kwantlen Park Manor; Sue had attended the January SPAC meeting as part of the ACORN delegation.

Round table introductions were provided. The newest member of the committee, Debbie Lawrance was introduced.

4. Committee Members' Updates

- **Devinder Chattha** reported that PICS opened the **Harmony House** for Abused Women on January 20, 2012. Harmony House provides safe second-stage housing for women fleeing violence.
- Davinder Chattha volunteered to be the SPAC representative on Surrey's new Interfaith Council.

Devinder reported that there has been a major reorganization of employment programs in BC. The new program will be launched at the beginning of April. There will be fewer employment centres than before, with six centres in Surrey. Overall, this reorganization of employment programs is positive.

ACTION: Devinder to provide a presentation at a future SPAC meeting.

- **Linda Coyle** advised that she is involved in doing outreach to try and increase the diversity of people accessing the Third Age Learning Program at Kwantlen (TALK). The program provides courses for those 50+ years.
ACTION: It was suggested that Linda Coyle make a presentation to the DIAC Committee regarding TALK.
- **Zanbka Malik** suggested inviting the recipients of the Heart in the City Awards to provide presentations to the SPAC - Mr. Jas Singh, the potato farmer and Marc and Sanja Pointras from *Clothes on Wheels*.

Zanbka and Steve Dooley are working on a Muslim Youth Conference - Saturday, April 28, 2012

- 10:00am - 3:00 pm - Kwantlen Polytechnic University. The idea of this event is to create a safe space for Muslim youth to talk about addictions and other issues that concern them.

ACTION: Zanbka Malik to email information.

- **Stephen Dooley** – Can provide a presentation on the results of his youth gang research results and on the CIR:CLE research group at a future SPAC meeting.
- **Councillor Villeneuve** noted that she attended a workshop at Metro Vancouver on the Vancouver Foundation's latest research. Their consultations showed that among people in the Metro Vancouver region the top issue is isolation and disconnection.
- **Geoff Dean** noted research that is being done by UBC economist John Helliwell on happiness. He also referenced the book entitled *Bowling Alone* which talks of how people in the USA are not joining clubs or community groups in the way they used to.

Geoff Dean is now a member of the Surrey Board of Trade's Social Issues Committee. The Board of Trade is working on developing a Poverty Reduction Policy.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2012 Committee Planning Workshop

Stephen Dooley facilitated the SPAC members in a discussion about how the SPAC operates and to determine the priorities for the next year. The results will be compiled for the next meeting.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Deputy Minister James Gorman to Mayor Watts regarding CommunityLINK funding for vulnerable students 2012-2013.

It was noted that the provincial government has increased the CommunityLINK funding being provided to the Surrey School District in 2012/2013.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Trouble for Rent** – Broadcast date – January 20, 2012
www.cbc.ca/marketplace/2012/troubleforrent/
2. **Newspaper articles** –
 - February 21, 2012 - *Accessible Legal Advice is Vital for Immigrants*
 - March 15, 2012 – *Healthy Food Costly: Report- Families Forced to Scrap Nutrition*
 - March 21, 2012 – *Province Goes to War on Scofflaw Landlords*
 - March 21, 2012 – *Surrey Landlord Slapped with \$115,000 Penalty*

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Healthy Housing Strategy
File No. 3900-01

Council Resolution *RES.R12-368* was provided to the SPAC for inclusion in the City of Surrey's Social Development Plan and Housing and Homelessness Initiative.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Planning Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2012.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Dooley
Seconded by Z. Malik
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee