

**Present:**

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve  
J. Calbick  
L. Coyle  
S. Dooley  
D. Lawrance  
K. Thiara  
D. Toor  
M. Shaw

**Absent:**

D. Chattha  
L. Rhead

**Staff Present:**

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner  
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was

Moved by D. Toor  
Seconded by S. Dooley  
That the Social Planning Advisory  
Committee minutes of February 20, 2013, be approved.  
Carried

**B. DELEGATION****1. Vera LeFranc, Manager, Community Projects, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society/Vancity Community Foundation**

In attendance to provide a presentation on addressing homelessness in Surrey.

- A PowerPoint presentation was provided that contained information on homelessness in Surrey including results of the 2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count. Homeless counts are completed every three years. One of the findings of the 2011 count was one family with five children unsheltered in Surrey. More families are homeless due to domestic violence, the cost of living and debt of poverty. Families utilizing the services of transition homes are included in the count as homeless.
- The history of the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society was presented. In 2007, the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness and Housing recommended that Council establish a fund that would be used to address homelessness and housing related issues in Surrey. The City contributed over \$9 million to establish the fund.
- The presentation included details about the projects the Society has funded. An example of one Homeless Prevention project is the Newton Advocacy Group/Sources Community Resource Centres – Surrey Rent Bank. The Surrey Rent Bank provides loans to people who need funds to prevent them from being evicted or having their utilities cut-off. The loans have a 72% repayment rate.

- It was noted that under Support Services funding Keys Health and Housing Solutions' dental clinic was funded. Keys is seeking volunteer dentists to assist with various dental services including restoring the teeth of individuals coming out of addictions.
- The Society has two types of grants - annual and responsive grants. Annual grants are awarded based on an annual Call for Proposals. Responsive grants are available at any time to assist with an emergency or to enable an organization to respond to a significant, time-limited opportunity. An example is the temporary winter shelter that was opened in Surrey last December. The Society provided a grant of \$62k to renovate and rent space for the shelter; the operation of the shelter is funded by BC Housing. The Chair noted that the money used for distribution of grants is interest on the capital of \$9 million dollars that was contributed by the City. The fund had been managed so well that the principal funding has not been used. The Society has awarded \$2 million in grants and still has \$9 million in the fund.
- The Society intends to try and raise another \$10 million dollars. Social Purpose Real Estate information was presented. The City of Surrey partnered with the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society and Vancity Community Foundation to provide a workshop series for Surrey-based non-profits. The goal was to stimulate potential co-location projects.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the delegation for the presentation and noted that Vera LeFranc has done exceptional work as well as the Board of Directors of the Society.

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Committee inquired about the process of making an application for a Society grant. The delegation explained that a Call for Proposals is sent out to the community. Non-profits are invited to submit a Letter of Intent. Letters are reviewed by the Society, and if the project looks promising, the applicant is then invited to submit a full proposal. Society staff will work with the applicant, if needed. The Board makes decisions on the awarding of grants. The grants are for non-profit societies that are registered charities.
- The Committee questioned the status of the winter shelter in Surrey. Staff responded that the Winter Shelter Community Advisory Committee meets monthly. Keys provides the Committee with updates on the shelter's operations and its plans to transition people out of the shelter when it closes at the end of May.

## **C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

### **1. Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan Update**

- Follow-up from Somali women's presentation (February 20, 2013 SPAC meeting)

Staff met with Deqa Mohammed, Meredith Verma and Melanie Conn to discuss how to move forward. One suggestion was to have a workshop series specifically for the mothers. Individuals and groups involved in social enterprises would be invited to present on what they do.

- An Afghanistan women's sewing group from Burnaby and an International Women's Catering Co-op group from Victoria have been invited to meet with the Somali mothers.

The City of Surrey has agreed to provide funding for the workshop series which will cover lunch, travel expenses and honorariums. Depending on the discussions at the workshops, a project may be ready to go forward in the fall.

- Update on Resources List (poverty project)

One issue identified in the Poverty Reduction Plan is low income people being unaware of the type of resources/benefits they may be eligible for. Library staff is in the process of developing lists of resources that are available to low income residents. They plan is to create brochures that will be available in the library. Another idea is creating a website with the information.

An update will be provided to the Committee at a future SPAC meeting.

The following comments were made:

- Dale Toor provided an update on a fundraising initiative of the Lions Club for students of Newton Elementary who may require assistance with meals. The club is hosting meat draws and all funds raised are donated to the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to purchase food for hungry students. It was noted that 8-10 students arrive hungry at school daily. The School Board has been contacted and will be providing the club a list of other schools that may benefit from this service. It was also reported that the Lions Club donates every dollar raised and does not hold back any percentage for overhead or administrative costs. Mr. Toor requested the Committee's support and any ideas that could be offered on how to get support for this fundraiser initiative.

Councillor Villeneuve reported that this information will be included in the Poverty Reduction inventory which records what projects are being done in the community. There are a few churches that provide free meals as well.

Linda Coyle noted that often service clubs are seeking local projects to participate in. In South Surrey and White Rock there isn't much awareness of hunger and homelessness to the degree that it really exists. Three Rotary Clubs currently support the learning centre by hosting a breakfast program for the youth. Breakfast is provided for everyone to ensure no one is singled out. There needs to be a way to work together more efficiently and determine what the other clubs are doing and information about services being offered.

The Rotary Club picks up bread from Cobbs Bakery and brings it to women's centres. There is more bread than there are outlets for and the food bank can only accept sealed food.

## 2. **Surrey Community Summit – Saturday, April 6, 2013**

Debbie Lawrance provided an update on the Surrey Community Summit at Simon Fraser University.

- The subcommittee met last Thursday and as of Thursday, there were 150 participants registered. The subcommittee is hoping for 200 participants. Space is still available to register and the cost is \$12.00 which includes lunch. The community driven event will begin with Mayor Watts addressing the Summit.

Debbie will provide an update of the event at the next meeting.

### 3. **SPAC Subcommittee Updates**

#### **Doors Open**

Karanvir Thiara provided the following update to the Committee:

- Doors Open is taking place on June 22 from 11am to 4pm.
- The subcommittee met today. Most of the venues are secured for this year's event. An emcee is still needed for the opening.
- The subcommittee is seeking individuals who are interested in being a venue ambassador or supervisor. Representatives from the subcommittee will be in attendance acting as administration and making sure everything runs smoothly.
- Lori Bowie and Jessica Danyk are the City staff responsible for organizing the event.

The Chair noted that the partnership with the Newton Community Festival will enhance participation and will build the event's profile this year. Trolley buses will also be available to move people between venues.

#### **SPAC Branding/Promotions**

Debbie Lawrance provided the following update to the Committee:

- The subcommittee met March 23, 2013 and recommended that the committee name be changed to, "***Social Policy Advisory Committee***"
- A new logo design was drafted for brochures, business cards and letterhead. The new logo will be consistent with the City of Surrey's logo and the font will also be a similar size.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- It was noted that when visiting the City of Surrey website SPAC minutes are available, but the website does not state how to get involved, does not list any of the members or ideas that the Committee is putting forward. These issues hinder raising the profile of the Committee. It was suggested that a webpage be created that would be a prominent button and would include a link to the Committee minutes. Staff noted that the Committee's webpage could be part of the Social Planning webpages. The next step would be to meet with the web team to discuss these ideas and issues.
- Concern was expressed with publicizing members' contact information. It was suggested that a general SPAC contact and phone number be provided instead.

- It was suggested that the letter "E" be added at back of SPAC and would stand for "evolution"
- The Committee discussed the options of a folding business card with bulleted information, nametags and pins that identify the Committee members as "Volunteers" and not City staff, and bookmarks instead of brochures. Bookmarks would provide enough space to provide general information about SPAC including who the Committee is and what the Committee does.

Staff will follow-up with the Marketing Department about the new logo design and inquire about pricing for nametags. Staff will also explore the options and prices available for book marks and business cards and if required, invite staff from Marketing to attend a future SPAC meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It was Moved by D. Lawrance  
 Seconded by L. Coyle  
 That the Social Planning Advisory  
 Committee recommends that Council approve the name change of the Social  
 Planning Advisory Committee to, "Social **Policy** Advisory Committee".  
Carried

It was Moved by M. Shaw  
 Seconded by D. Lawrance  
 That the Social Policy Advisory Committee  
 accepts the new design logo in principle.  
Carried

### **Alliance with Service Clubs**

Linda Coyle has been researching the service clubs that exist in Surrey. It was noted that a lot of clubs are not listed in the phone book but do have websites. A hand-out about the SPAC (eg. bookmark) is needed when meeting with service clubs.

S. Dooley left the meeting at 6:25 pm.

## **D. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Master Plan for Housing the Homeless in Surrey**

Aileen Murphy, Senior Planner provided the following update:

- The Master Plan was drafted and presented to Council at the end of January. Staff has been meeting with various stakeholder groups to present the plan for input. The plan should go to Council for final approval in May or June.
- The plan notes the achievements of homeless initiatives from 2006-2012. Since 2006 there have been 470 new supportive housing beds or units opened for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- The plan will ensure that future actions to address homelessness in Surrey will be coordinated and strategic so that resources that are available to apply to issues of homelessness are used in a prioritized manner.
- The Principles and Priorities of the Plan were presented as well as the Housing Procurement Plan. The procurement plan costs out a practical strategy to generate 450 new units of supported housing over a five year period (2013 - 2017). The 450 new units include 340 units that are to be created through new construction or the acquisition of existing housing. 110 units would be rent supplemented in market housing developments with outreach workers providing support to these tenants. A summary of capital and operating costs at year 5 was presented.
- Recommendations were outlined that pertained to Shelters, Support Services and Additional Efforts.

**2. Plan for Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents**

This item was deferred to the May 8 SPAC meeting.

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**H. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. 2013 SPAC "Fun Schedule"**

- Shelly Thorne from the Fraser Region Aboriginal Centre was invited to attend the next SPAC meeting.
- The June SPAC meeting to be cancelled.
- Debbie Lawrance will not be able to attend the next SPAC meeting on May 8, 2013.

**2. Committee Member Updates**

There were no updates provided.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by D. Lawrence  
Seconded by D. Toor  
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve  
Social Planning Advisory Committee