

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
J. Calbick
L. Coyle
L. Rhead
M. Shaw
K. Thiara
D. Toor
D. Chattha

Absent:

S. Dooley
D. Lawrance

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
M. McCargar, Planning Technician
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services
J. Danyk, Community & Leisure Services

Also Present:

Shelly Thorne, Executive Director, Fraser Region
Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by L. Coyle
Seconded by D. Toor
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee minutes of April 3, 2013, be adopted.

Carried

The Committee did a round table of introductions.

B. DELEGATION**1. Jessica Danyk, Community and Leisure Services**

In attendance to provide an update on the plans for "Doors Open" - June 22, 2013.

The following information was provided:

- This initiative came out of the Social Planning Advisory Committee in 2011. The inaugural Doors Open event took place in June 2012. The idea for the event was to "open doors" to different places in Surrey to enable people to feel more connected to the City.
- Doors Open is a free family event that provides a unique opportunity for Surrey residents to be a tourist in their city.
- Different sites throughout City Centre and Newton will offer a behind the scenes look at Surrey's culture, history, art and architecture.
- This year Doors Open will coincide with the Newton Community Festival.
- The event consists of free activities, guided tours, food and lots of giveaways. Open houses will be located in the Surrey City Centre, Bear Creek and Newton area.

- Free “hop-on/hop-off” trolleys will be available throughout the day to encourage people to visit the different sites.
- The opening ceremony will take place at the Newton Community Festival at the main stage. The ceremony will start with an opening prayer and will include opening remarks, heritage re-enactments and different skits.
- The schedule of the event is available online at www.surrey.ca/doorsopen
A guide with a map and information on all of the venues will also be available for participants.

Devinder Chattha arrived at the meeting at 5:00 pm

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Cwenengital Aboriginal Society tour of the spiritual home was highly recommended to visit and experience the Aboriginal culture.
- An inquiry was made about fundraising at the event. Staff noted that people are welcome to set-up tables at the Newton Community Festival and provide information only.

2. Shelly Thorne, Executive Director, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

In attendance to provide an update on the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA).

The FRAFCA, formerly called Kla-how-eya (Surrey Aboriginal Cultural Society – SACS) has changed its function and operates as a Friendship Centre. The service provider organization re-located to 6878 King George Boulevard and has established a new Board of Directors. This movement was a coordinated approach to better secure funding and provide services to Aboriginal people living South of the Fraser.

FRAFCA’s mission is to support the activities that promote the health and well-being of Aboriginal People and to promote the resurgence of resident Aboriginal culture, language and teachings, particularly those of local residency.

FRAFCA offers a variety of services such as Infant Development (age 0-6), Aboriginal Early Childhood Development, Prenatal and Post natal care, Family Development and programs for homeless outreach, women and youth.

The following comments were made:

- One significant piece of work that FRAFCA is actively involved with is the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan (ORAAP). The aim of ORAAP is to improve the lives of Aboriginal people who choose to live in urban/off-reserve areas. It is being implemented through an initial partnership between the provincial Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, local governments, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and Métis Nation British Columbia

- Five cities in BC were selected to participate in the pilot project including; Kamloops, Prince George, Vancouver, Surrey and Duncan.
- Local Friendship Centres coordinated the planning for the Surrey, Duncan, Kamloops and Prince George regions.
- FRAFCA, along with the Metis Association of BC, completed a review focused on the challenges and strengths of the Aboriginal community in Surrey. A series of surveys were done by agencies that provide services to Aboriginal people in the Surrey region. In total, 126 individuals were surveyed and a series of community meetings were organized with youth and elders.
- Some of key issues identified by the survey were: systemic barriers, education, the legal system and homelessness.
- Surrey has very few organizations that provide services to Aboriginal people and as a result, Aboriginal people are significantly under served.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was questioned how many Aboriginal people live in Surrey. It was noted that there are 10,460 Aboriginals living in Surrey including Metis. This does not include Delta.
- It was questioned how many bands are in Surrey. It was noted that there are two bands; Kwantlen and Semiahmoo and there are some surrounding bands that overlap territories.
- It was questioned how many Aboriginals are living below the poverty line. It was noted that 37% live below the poverty line within the Lower Mainland.
- The high school completion rate of Aboriginal students in Surrey has increased and improved from 10 years ago.
- It was questioned if the Aboriginal workers in the Surrey schools have been engaged. FRAFCA has had success engaging the Delta School District, but have found it challenging engaging the Surrey School District. It was recommended that FRAFCA bring forward their challenges to the School Trustees.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Surrey Community Summit Update – Saturday, April 6, 2013

The following comments were provided:

- The Community Summit was a follow-up to the six town hall meetings held in Surrey to enable residents to express how they feel about different issues.
- An on-line survey was used to develop the agenda for the Summit. The City received nearly 400 people's thoughts on possible discussion topics for the Summit.
- Over 200 community members attended the Summit.
- The Community Summit was about bringing community members out to discuss ideas and become part of engagement in Surrey.

Some Committee members attended the forum and noted that the keynote speakers (Gordon Hume and Matt Hern) were good, the breakout sessions were well planned and the forum was well attended. It was a very successful event.

K. Thiara exited the meeting at 6:00 pm.

2. Poverty Reduction Plan Implementation Update – Aileen Murphy

• Low Cost and Free Brochures

- One of the issues raised at a previous SPAC meeting was low income people not being aware of the services that are available. The Committee discussed the importance of creating a resource list or guide.
- Surrey Public Library staff created a series of “Low Cost and Free” information brochures that will be available at each library branch in Surrey.
- The Committee was asked to provide any comments or feedback on the draft information brochures to staff within a week.
- Library and Planning Staff also met with Engineering to discuss the possibility of providing the same information on a website.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was questioned if the proposed website would be a duplication of the BC 211 service and whether the website should be Surrey specific or linked to BC 211. (BC 211 is a province wide service funded by United Way).
- Engineering staff are able to have the information on the web within a two week period. Library staff would be responsible for updating the information and sending it to Planning to upload to the website.
- It was noted that technology is ideal for people who can access to it, but printed material is important in community centres and libraries. Seniors, new immigrants, refugees or those living in poverty can have limited access or knowledge of computers and are more likely to go to the library for the information in hardcopy.
- A Surrey specific site with a link to BC 211 was suggested.
- Staff was encouraged to work with BC 211 and discuss options of how the two websites might complement each other
- It was questioned about people who do not read English. Staff will talk to Engineering about potential opportunities to have the information translated into different languages. It was also suggested that settlement agencies may be able to translate the information for their clients.

The Chair thanked the library staff for the incredible work done on this project.

RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by M. Shaw
Seconded by D. Chattha
That the Social Planning Advisory
Committee recommends that Council direct the Engineering and Planning
Department staff to move forward with transferring the “Low Cost and Free” Guide
information on to a Surrey specific website.
Carried

Jeff Calbick exited the meeting at 6:30 pm.

- **Somali Women’s Workshops – “Surrey Women United”**

- As a follow-up to the SPAC presentation, staff partnered with Melanie Conn of Common Threads and the School District to organize a series of workshops for the Somali refugee women to learn more about co-ops that have been set up to provide employment opportunities for immigrant women.
- The Workshops allowed the women to learn about the co-op model and different types of co-op businesses.
- The women were so appreciative of what the City has done for the ladies.

3. **SPAC Subcommittee Updates**

Doors Open

- Update was provided by Jessica Danyk at the beginning of the meeting.

Alliance with Service Clubs

- This update was deferred to the next SPAC meeting.

D. **NEW BUSINESS**

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

The purpose of the plan is to provide strategic direction for the City’s actions relative to social issues in Surrey. The plan was developed by SPARC BC and adopted in 2005 – 2006. The Surrey Planning Advisory Committee was re-instated in 2006 after the adoption of the plan.

Aileen Murphy provided the following information:

- The Social Plan guides social planning in the City of Surrey
- A biennial report is compiled to update on the implementation of the Social Plan

- Since the adoption of the plan in 2006 there has been a number of related strategies that build on the plan :
 - Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy
 - Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan
 - Learning for Life Strategy
 - Crime Reduction Strategy
 - Master Plan for Housing the Homeless

- The plan highlights five priorities;
 - Children and Youth
 - Community Development and Inclusion
 - Crime and Public Safety
 - Housing and Homelessness
 - Substance Use and Addictions

- The Plan and all reports are available online at:
<http://www.surrey.ca/community/3194.aspx>

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

It was Moved by D. Chattha
Seconded by L. Coyle
That the Social Planning Advisory
Committee receives the following information items:

1. Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study: Background and Summary of Main Findings, Environics Institute, 2010
2. Corporate Report Ro65, Welcoming Communities Action Plan
3. Save the Date – Surrey Community Service Providers Networking Event on June 11
4. Seniors in the Lower Mainland: A snapshot of Facts and Trends, United Way of Lower Mainland, March 2013
5. Information Sheet for Interim Federal Program Beneficiaries, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Carried

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **2013 SPAC “Fun Schedule”** – Review agenda items for the July meeting
 - Community Recreation Services to provide a presentation on the development of the Seniors Strategy to the Committee
 - Branding Committee update (Subcommittee update)

2. **Committee Member Updates**
 - "Better at Home" is a program funded by United Way that is being offered by different organizations throughout BC. The program assists seniors with non-medical services such as grocery shopping and snow shoveling to support seniors living independently at home.
 - The David Suzuki Nature Challenge 30 x 30 challenges Canadians to spend 30 minutes each day for 30 days outside. Information and registration is available online at <http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org>

I. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee