

Present:

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

Absent:

K. Thiara
D. Chattha

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
M. McCargar, Planning Technician
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

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

Committee minutes of May 8, 2013, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Lisa White, Jim Tyler and Sahra-Lea Tosdevine, Community
Recreation Services**

Lisa White, Jim Tyler and Sahra-Lea Tosdevine provided a Power-Point presentation titled – **Age Friendly City Strategy Consultation Process**.

The following information was highlighted:

- The development of the Age Friendly City Strategy was initiated by the Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee (SAAC).
- The City of Surrey is engaged in various initiatives for seniors including:
 - the Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee which has four functions: Coordination, Advocacy, Research and Education
 - 20 community forums (150-200 people in attendance) focused on seniors have occurred since 2008 that addressed topics such as fraud prevention and safety and elder abuse prevention. Some of the forums were offered in different languages.
 - SAAC hosted the 2nd Aging in Place Conference on May 31, 2013.
 - A workshop titled, “A Roof over My Head” was provided in April and May, 2013. The workshop addresses questions and concerns regarding housing.
 - A Mobile Outreach Project is being undertaken to increase awareness of the services and resources available to prevent the isolation and abuse of seniors.

- A few examples of statistics provided in the presentation were as follows:
 - Surrey's senior population represents 12% of Surrey's population
 - 45.4% of seniors in Surrey live in single, detached houses without secondary suites
 - there are 23,565 seniors with activity limitations in Surrey
- The engagement process for the Age Friendly City Strategy is as follows:
 - Outreach work done during seniors week from June 2 to 7
 - Conducted survey through the City of Surrey website, libraries and the Aging in Place conference (May 31, 2013)
 - Staff knowledge transfer – individual interviews with each department such as Planning/Engineering, RCMP, Fire, etc.
 - Meeting with the Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee, Diversity Advisory Committee, Healthy Communities Committee, Social Policy Advisory Committee and Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee

The delegation requested any additional comments or feedback on the Age Friendly Strategy be forwarded to Jim Tyler or Aileen Murphy.

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Committee noted that accessible transportation is an important concern for seniors and questioned how the City can help achieve that. Seniors require public transportation that is convenient and affordable. People who lose their licenses due to their age may then be required to rely on public transit and should have accessible transportation including buses and suitable bus shelters to rest while waiting for transportation. Staff noted that the proper channel to addressing transportation service concerns is through TransLink.
- Ageism is another issue for seniors. Multi-purpose centres such as Chuck Bailey have worked well integrating seniors and youth.
- United Way has a planner on staff that focuses on seniors' issues. The United Way recently did a workshop on Dementia Friendly Initiatives. At the workshop, the City of Vancouver presented on training for staff to be able to recognize seniors who are suffering from dementia.
- Supportive alternative housing needs to be identified for seniors and a support group to help seniors not to feel isolated was suggested.
 - It was questioned how engaged BC Housing is with seniors. It was suggested that a foster care model could be considered for seniors.
 - Seniors can lose the desire to live after the death of a spouse and often experience feeling a big gap in their life. People need opportunities to be needed and to give.

The Chair thanked the delegation for the presentation.

The agenda was varied.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Doors Open Update

Councillor Villeneuve provided the following update re: the Doors Open event on June 22, 2013:

- There were 28 different venues open in Whalley and Newton. Doors Open was held in conjunction with the Newton Festival.
- The Planning Committee was very pleased with the turnout of people and the enthusiasm of participation from the venues that were involved. There were over double the participants than the previous year (over 7,000 people).
- The two trolley buses that ran between sites at the event were extremely popular.
- The advertising for the event improved this year. Information was available on the Surrey website and throughout other forms of social media. Radio stations were appraised of the event and provided useful information.
- A few suggestions identified for next year's event were:
 - Coordinate the Chuck Bailey Centre's Intercultural Fusion Day with the Doors Open event next year
 - Include more artistic endeavors and food carts
 - Another venue was suggested – the Buddhist meditation garden near Tynehead Park

2. Poverty Reduction Plan Update

Marlis McCargar provided the following update on the Poverty Reduction Plan:

- **“Low Cost & Free” Library project** – The free brochures that are to be distributed at the local libraries are complete. Engineering will work with Social Planning to develop an interactive website with the same information.
- **Somali Women's Group** – Three workshops were held that profiled cooperatives that were developed by immigrant women – a catering co-op in Victoria and an Afghan women's sewing co-op in Burnaby. Although these Somali women face so many barriers they are keen to be engaged and have a great sense of hope. The group expressed a strong interest in continuing to meet and working together toward developing some sort of social enterprise. Staff will meet with VanCity Community Foundation in July to discuss funding opportunities.
- **Poverty Reduction Forum – The Community Forum will be held during the first week in November.**

3. SPAC Subcommittee Updates**SPAC Branding/Promotions**

The Committee made the following comments:

- The first draft of the SPAC Bookmark was provided to the Committee for feedback on the proposed wording. It was noted that most people require basic information and so it is best to keep it simple.
- Marketing has advised that the Surrey logo cannot be altered. Marketing also strongly discouraged the development of a separate Committee logo.
- The standard City of Surrey nametags are available for Committee members. It was suggested that the nametags be made to look less like staff nametags and indicate that they are
- Volunteers or “Committee Members”.
- The Committee discussed business cards vs. name tags and concluded that name tags and the bookmarks would meet the Committee’s needs.

Alliance with Service Clubs

Linda Coyle provided the following update to the Committee:

- Linda has been in touch with Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions clubs. The service clubs seem to be keen on communicating with SPAC to discuss how the groups can work together.
- Councillor Villeneuve suggested that on the evening of the October SPAC meeting (October 2), the Committee could host a meeting with representatives of the service clubs. The SPAC could support an alliance of service clubs to be involved in a project or initiative that is identified at the Community Poverty Reduction Forum in November.
- At the September SPAC meeting, the Committee can confirm a location and discuss the agenda for the meeting with the service clubs. Linda agreed to put together a list of service club contacts.

D. NEW BUSINESS**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Canada’s Aging Population, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
2. Surrey Welcoming Communities Project – list of projects and activities that will be undertaken from now until April 2014.

On April 1, 2014, responsibility for all immigrant/refugee settlement services will transfer from the Province to the federal Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). CIC's Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPS) Program provides funding to support partnership committees such as the Surrey Welcoming Communities Committee. The City of Surrey will be submitting an application for the LIPS funding (due July 8).

3. Global Voices: New Perspectives on Refugees in Surrey – This newsletter is the first of four newsletters that will be prepared as part of the Welcoming Communities “Refugee Myth Busting Campaign”.

Aileen Murphy commented that Chris Friesen of Immigrant Services Society of BC is currently a participant at a UNHCR meeting in Geneva. Chris provided a presentation on Surrey's Refugee Myth Busting Campaign as an example of an initiative that is creating a welcoming community for refugees. The presentation was very well received.

Councillor Villeneuve commented that advocacy efforts on the refugee transportation loan program should be re-ignited as part of the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Plan. She suggested that information on the issue be provided in the next SPAC Agenda Package.

4. June 20 World Refugee Day – Surrey Libraries Poster

The libraries poster shows various books that relate to refugees.

5. “Building a New Life”, Surrey Leader, June 20, 2013
6. Community Leader Awards, Surrey Leader, June 25, 2013

The Chair recognized Stephen Dooley and Karanvir Thiara, two members of SPAC who were acknowledged in the Surrey Leader. The Chair congratulated the members.

It was

Moved by L. Coyle

Seconded by S. Dooley

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

received the information items.

Carried

The agenda was varied.

B. DELEGATIONS

2. **Re-Imagining Whalley Social Media Project, Sandra Vigil Fonesca**

Sandra Vigil Fonesca provided a presentation on the Re-Imagining Whalley social media project. Sandra did an intern placement with Social Planning as part of her

MA program at the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning. Re-Imagining Whalley was her final MA project.

The purpose of the project was to support a sense of belonging in the Whalley area. Whalley was chosen because it is a community going through a rapid transformation and because it is a historical place in Surrey.

The project involved arts and storytelling. 15 participants (Whalley residents) were recruited and provided disposal cameras and asked to go into their neighbourhood and capture photographs of three places that were significant to them. Those photographs and stories were incorporated into short videos that are presented on a website.

There were some technical difficulties with the website. Staff noted that the website will be presented to the SPAC when it is fully operational. The Chair thanked the delegation for the presentation and congratulated the delegation on a successful project and for receiving her Master's Degree.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2013 SPAC "Fun Schedule"

The Committee reviewed agenda items for the September SPAC meeting.

- Planning for the October 2 meeting with the service clubs.
- Update on poverty forum
- Update on Branding/Promotions
- Follow-up with Heart of the City Award (date etc.)
- No November SPAC meeting due to the Poverty Forum

Councillor Villeneuve provided the SPAC with an update on the winter shelter. It was agreed that the SPAC would send a letter of congratulations to Keys for the program being run so well. Over the course of the winter, 66 of the winter shelter residents were transitioned into more permanent housing.

It was	Moved by S. Dooley Seconded by M. Shaw
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee	
send a letter congratulating Keys on the effective operation of the winter shelter program.	

Carried

2. Committee Member Updates

Stephen Dooley:

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) is coming to the Lower Mainland the week of September 16, 2013. Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) will be hosting public events the week of September 16th-20th as an extension of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to increase public awareness of residential schools. The events will take

place at all 4 KPU campuses and the finale will be a Pow Wow at the Surrey Campus.

- Steve is working on a homelessness research project. Residents from the Phoenix Centre were hired to conduct the survey research. Once the project is completed, Steve will provide a report to the Committee.
- The gang violence project AT-CURA will be hosting a major conference next summer from July 24-27 at the Sheraton Guildford. The combined academic and community based project will study how to build strengths in kids to prevent them becoming involved with gangs.
- Kwantlen is hosting a Fair Trade conference in November.

Jeff Calbick:

- Provided the Committee with “211” pamphlets for information.
- Reported that the United Way is funding a new 5-year initiative in Guildford called “My Neighbourhood My Future” that will focus on vulnerable children.

Linda Coyle:

- Is a Board Member of the Canadian Club of Vancouver and assisted with the organization of the Maple Leaf Youth Awards. Grade 11 and 12 students submit a 500 word essay on the topic - “Canada is known as a multicultural nation and what has Canada done to embrace multiculturalism?”

Lynne Rhead:

- The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition is a community organization that looks at the underlining causes of poverty and how to address them. Each province has a plan for poverty reduction except BC and Saskatchewan.
- Staff will include information in package for the next meeting.

Dale Toor:

- The Lion’s Club will be having a zone meeting in October.
- Lion’s also have three Leo’s clubs whose members are under 18 years old.

Michelle Shaw:

- Aileen Murphy is the City of Surrey representative on the Regional Steering Committee for Homelessness’ new Constituency Table. Michelle Shaw is the representative for the Youth on the Table.
- There is a newly created Vulnerable Women’s Task Force. Michelle is co-chairing the group. Cities Fit for Children Conference is happening on November 21-22 in Surrey. Received a request from a community member who is interested in putting some funding behind a service to help battered women.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by D. Toor

Seconded by L. Coyle

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee