
Present:

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

Absent:

L. Rhead
M. Shaw

Staff Present:

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

The agenda was varied.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Re-Imagining Whalley Website

Geoffrey Daniel, New Media Manager was in attendance to review the Re-Imagining Whalley website with the Committee.

The following comments were made:

- The project is a website that will engage the community by enabling visitors to view the videos already on the site, and to upload their own videos, photos or stories to the site that are about specific locations in Whalley. This will enable people to learn what other people think of their local areas as well as share their stories.
- Visitors to the site are able to share the page with Facebook or Twitter etc.
- The website is still in beta form and will launch within the next few weeks. The Committee will receive an update when the site is launched.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was questioned how the site will be marketed. Staff noted that social media will be used. The City has approximately 5000 Twitter followers and even more Facebook followers.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by S. Dooley
Seconded by L. Coyle
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

minutes of July 3, 2013, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION REQUEST**1. Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS)**

The Committee received a request from PICS to appear as a delegation at the December SPAC meeting to discuss a proposed facility in Surrey for culturally sensitive Extended (or Long Term) Care.

The Committee approved the request for PICS to appear as a delegation at the December SPAC meeting.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**2. SPAC Subcommittee Updates****Alliance with Service Clubs**

Planning for the October 2, 2013 session with Service Clubs was discussed as follows:

- The purpose of the meeting on October 2, 2013 is to encourage the creation of an alliance of service clubs to engage in poverty reduction initiatives in Surrey. The meeting is scheduled for 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers, City Hall.
- Aileen Murphy will draft an invitation letter and circulate it to the Committee for comments prior to it being sent to the service clubs.
- A sub-committee was formed of members Linda Coyle, Devinder Chattha and Dale Toor. The sub-committee will meet September 25 to discuss the October 2 meeting and develop an agenda for the evening.
- Councillor Villeneuve will work with Aileen Murphy to develop a short presentation on SPAC and the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan.
- Linda Coyle noted that a list of the service club contacts has been made, however most service clubs are handled by volunteers and have no permanent space or phone numbers and change on an annual basis. Some have been difficult to determine who the contact person is. It was further noted that service clubs that highlight "community service" as part of their mandate have been included on the list. It was suggested that the Legions be extended an invitation as well.

- The Committee suggested that the organizations in attendance be requested to provide a very short presentation (2 minutes) of what they have been doing in the community. It was also suggested that questions (approximately three) be prepared and sent to the organizations prior to the meeting.
- Depending on the number of attendees, it was suggested that smaller group discussions of the pre-determined questions may enable everyone to be able to speak.
- The Chair noted that the City could profile what service organizations are doing through the City's website.

Stephen Dooley exited the meeting at 5:30 pm.

3. **SPAC Branding/Promotions**

Debbie Lawrance distributed the new SPAC nametags and bookmarks to the Committee.

4. **Poverty Reduction Plan Update**

Aileen Murphy provided the following update on the Poverty Reduction Plan:

- **November 7, 2013 Community Forum** – The forum will be at Kwantlen Conference Centre from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Registration is required for catering purposes; however, the event is free of charge. Last year the forum was about developing a plan and this year it is about moving forward with action. The theme is “Let’s Make THIS Happen”. The keynote speaker, James Hughes, was instrumental in developing a poverty strategy in New Brunswick. A series of Pecha Kucha (fast-paced) presentations will be provided on Surrey-based initiatives. The afternoon will be a “Design Jam” (small group discussions). If SPAC are interested, they could help at the event.
- **Vibrant Communities Canada: Cities Reducing Poverty Charter** – The charter was adopted by Surrey Council on July 22, 2013. Councillor Villeneuve noted that Council endorsed the national movement so that Surrey is part of the network of cities working on reducing poverty and keeping the issue at the forefront for the federal government.
- **Somali Women’s Employment Pilot Project** – A draft report will be ready for the next SPAC meeting. The group had three workshops in the spring and the women want to continue to meet and explore options for the group to become engaged in paid work. There is a meeting scheduled with VanCity Credit Union later in September to discuss potential funding opportunities. A non-profit organization is required to host the project and the Surrey Women’s Centre has expressed an interest in being the host agency as it fits with their interest in supporting and empowering women. A report will be provided at the December SPAC meeting.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Transit Plan for Homeless**

Aileen Murphy provided the following update:

- The Transit Working Group (TWG) is concerned about the impact of the new Compass Card system on homeless people who are living in shelters.
- The TWG met with Ian Jarvis, CEO of TransLink, to discuss a Regional Transit Plan for the Homeless.
- On July 10, the City of Vancouver passed a motion on a Transit Plan for the Homeless. The TWG has asked if the City of Surrey would also consider passing a motion supporting the TWG to develop a Homeless Transit Plan.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was Moved by D. Lawrance
Seconded by D. Chattha
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee
supports the following draft resolution and recommends that Council consider endorsing the resolution:

WHEREAS:

1. Access to transit is vital for homeless people to travel to shelters or to critical appointments;
2. A very limited number of transit tickets, paid for by the Provincial Government, have been available through shelters and service providers;
3. The homeless normally do not have the resources to pay transit fares and by necessity have often been forced to travel without proper fare payment;
4. The implementation of the Compass card system will trigger a new urgency to recognize and manage the current informal arrangements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Surrey call on TransLink to establish a task force with representation of provincial ministries responsible for public transit, health and housing, and the Regional Transit Working Group to develop a Regional Homeless Transit Plan that makes the system accessible to homeless people while minimizing costs to TransLink, including consideration of a reduced fare option for individuals on income assistance along the lines of those now in place for persons with disabilities and low income seniors.

Carried

2. SPAC Representation on the PICS' Interfaith Bridging Project

Devinder Chattha provided the following comments:

- A Request for Proposals through EmbraceBC has been put out for interfaith projects.
- PICS has done this type of project before bringing together faith groups and hosting inter-faith events. Events were hosted at different locations and venues including Sikh and Hindu temples and churches.
- The RFP requires 3 project partners that can attend 3 or 4 meetings for the 7 month duration of the project.
- A member from SPAC is requested to attend the meetings (project planners) on behalf of SPAC.

It was

Moved by D. Toor

Seconded by D. Lawrance

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

appoint Linda Coyle to represent the Social Policy Advisory Committee as a project partner on the Interfaith Bridging Project.

Carried

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information items were provided to the Committee:

1. Letter of Commendation for the Successful Operation of the 2012-2013 Surrey Winter Shelter.
2. Master Plan for Housing the Homeless.
3. Information related to refugees and the transportation loan:
 - Issue Paper on the Transportation Loan Program for Government Assisted Refugees
 - Government Assisted Refugees Transportation and Medical loan: Stories of Hardship & Hope
 - Canada unfairly burdens the refugees it hand-picks to help, Vancouver Sun, August 7, 2013
 - ISS of BC, Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Bulletin – August, 2013

4. The Time is Now: A Poverty Reduction Plan for BC, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

The Committee expressed their gratitude for the information items staff provide each meeting.

It was

Moved by L. Coyle

Seconded by D. Toor

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

receives the information items.

Carried

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2013 SPAC "Fun Schedule"

The Committee reviewed key dates and agenda items for the December SPAC meeting.

- October 2– Service Clubs Alliance Meeting
- November 7 – Poverty Reduction Forum
- December SPAC meeting:
 - PICS care facility project
 - Debrief the meeting with service clubs and plan next steps
 - Debrief the Poverty Reduction Forum
 - Update on Somali Women's Project
- Check SPAC members' terms (Losa Luaifoa to do)
- Heart in the City award 2014 – Staff checked and it is likely to be in the fall of 2014

2. Committee Member Updates

Jeff Calbick:

- Surrey is hosting the "Fit for Children Conference" on November 21 and 22, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel.

Linda Coyle:

- Kwantlen has just released its Third Age Learning brochures.

Debbie Lawrance:

- Books for sale by Pummy Kaur if anyone is interested.

Devinder Chattha:

- The "Better at Home" program is for seniors who require assistance with chores such as grocery shopping and lawn cutting. The program launch is

on September 12, 2013 at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Dale Toor:

- Movie under the stars happened in August. The Lion's cooked hot dogs and hamburgers as a fundraiser for the Food Bank's Tiny Bundles Program.

Karanvir Thiara:

- Will be working on getting the SFU Student Society engaged in the 2014 "Doors Open" event to organize events specifically for youth aged 15-25. Some feedback received was that there weren't a lot of things for youth at this year's event.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by L. Coyle

Seconded by D. Chattha

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee