

Present:

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

Absent:

J. Calbick
S. Dooley

Guest:

Helena Swinkels, Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health
Olivia Sampson, PGY-4, Public Health Resident, UBC, MHO Office, Central Surrey
Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society
Roger D. Elmes, Vice-President of the Board
Paul Dosanjh, Inderjeet Hundal, Jagtar Dhaliwal, Mohinder Kang, and Charan Gill

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
K. Baglo, Planning Technician
J. Gallinger, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve.

B. DELEGATION**1. What's Health Got To Do With Poverty?**

Dr. Helena Swinkels, Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health Authority and Olivia Sampson, Public Health Resident, UBC, MHO Office Central Surrey;
File No.: 0460-30/0550-20-10

Poverty is a major contributor and determinant of health. Individuals living in poverty have a shorter life-expectancy and are more susceptible to heart disease, diabetes, mental health illnesses, cancer and dental health disease. Children living in low income have more behavioral problems, perform less well in school, are more likely to suffer from obesity, have more dental problems and are more likely to have poorer health in adulthood and suffer from diabetes and heart disease.

Food choices, while living in poverty can be limited as healthy food can be expensive, difficult to store and prepare, and healthy food stores and other services may be far away or hard to get too.

Fraser Health has produced a one page fact sheet entitled "What's Health got to do with Poverty" that will be posted on the City's website along with other information on poverty in Surrey. Fraser Health would like to receive feedback from SPAC regarding how the health authority can assist in implementing Surrey's Poverty Reduction Plan.

Most of the data around poverty, which Fraser Health has compiled into the fact sheet, is public information – the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) being one of

these sources. Currently, a survey called "My Health Community Survey" is being circulated by Fraser Health to collect better data on the health of the population. The Committee made the following comments:

The delegation was asked whether they have had any discussions with the Province on poverty reduction, especially related to child poverty? The delegation responded that very few discussions have been held in regards to poverty and health even though the Province has the highest child poverty rate in Canada.

Dr. Swinkels clarified the role of Medical Health Officers (MHO) is advocacy. MHO's are available to speak about the connection between poverty and health.

It was suggested that, if available, data specifically for youth be added to FHA's fact sheet.

Dr. Swinkels handed out a document detailing Funding for Healthy Communities Capacity Building Grants for Local Governments. The Healthy Communities Capacity Building Grant Program supports local governments to create the conditions that enable the health and well-being of B.C. citizens and communities. Grants of \$5,000 and \$20,000 are available in two funding streams for activities that support partnership development and collaborative action between local governments and health authorities, and other community partners. More information at <http://planh.ca/news/applications-now-open-healthy-communities-capacity-building-grants-round-2>

The Chair commented that the Committee will take a closer look at the grant form and may consider submitting an application for a project focusing on poverty reduction in Surrey.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their attendance stating that the fact that BC does not have a provincial Poverty Reduction Plan is an issue. Any help that Fraser Health can provide in lobbying the provincial government to develop a Poverty Reduction Plan, as well as in lobbying the federal government to eliminate the refugee transportation loan program, would be helpful. The delegation was invited to attend another SPAC meeting during 2014 to provide an update.

2. Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS) – Proposed Development of a Culturally Sensitive Long-Term Care Facility

Roger Elmes, Vice-President of the Board, Mohinder Kang, President, Charan Gill, CEO, Paul Dosanjh, Inderjeet Hundal and Jagtar Dhaliwal

PICS is seeking a land donation from the City of Surrey to provide a culturally sensitive extended care facility. The facility would operate under a Fraser Health Authority contract. The land suggested for the facility is R.A. Nicholson Park located in Newton at 12140 – 75A. PICS is seeking the Committee's support of the concept.

The delegation explained that the need for a culturally sensitive extended care facility in Surrey is great. Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, tension, hypertension are associated and sometimes increased with relocation to a different culture. Culturally sensitive care, especially when provided in a mother tongue, is more effective and enhances the quality of life for seniors in residential care.

The Chair of the Committee stated that while the concept of a culturally-sensitive extended care facility is important, the Committee does not have the mandate to offer Council advice on the use of parkland.

The following suggestions were made:

- Put a business case together pointing out the necessity of an culturally-sensitive extended care facility in Surrey – preferably in the Newton area, asking for any available land and outline the benefits to the community in using R.A. Nicholson Park as the land;
- Contact the General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Laurie Cavan and/or City Manager, Murray Dinwoodie or his replacement, Vincent Lalonde (taking over late January), to determine if the proposal will be entertained by the City.
- Seek out advice and suggestions from MLA Gordon Hogg who is very interested in social innovation projects.
- Contact Mike Wilson, Phoenix House/Society, regarding bringing partners onboard.
- As final suggestion is to approach churches in the City to see if they have land available and whether they might be interested in partnering with PICs to build such a facility. Think out of the box at what sites could work and how to make them work.

The Chair thanked the delegation for the presentation. The delegation was invited to return to the Committee with a status update in 4-6 months.

The Chair acknowledged that Debbie Lawrance is leaving the Committee and thanked her for her great contributions to the Committee's endeavours.

Karanvir Thiara left the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Poverty Reduction Plan Implementation

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

- (a) Debrief the "Let's Make THIS Happen" Community Forum held on November 7, 2014
 - The forum was planned to include 100 participants; 145 attended the event.
 - The agenda included: a keynote address by James Hughes on New Brunswick's poverty reduction plan; 9 Petcha Kuchas about Surrey-based projects; and a Design Jam that engaged the group in discussions on how to put Surrey's e plan into action. Overall the forum was a success!
 - The Design Jam report will be sent by e-mail to the Committee. The Chair stated that the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition's plan is to identify 2-4 key projects that can be undertaken in 2014.

- (b) Petition to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada on the Government Assisted Refugee Transportation Loans- Councillor Villeneuve and social planning staff continue to collect signatures.
- It was suggested that a small speakers bureau be created to go out and talk to community groups about the refugee loan issue and the petition. Efforts to collect signatures for the petition will continue into the new year.
- (c) Update on “Low Cost & Free”
- Kelsey Baglo reported that the Low Cost and Free series of brochures and an interactive map are now available. The website with the interactive maps was posted on the City’s website on November 7, 2013. The web page includes a link to the Surrey Libraries’ brochures. The Low Cost and Free resources will be promoted in the new year. The brochures are very popular. To date, the Newton Library has distributed 1,800 print brochures.
- (d) Update on the Somali Women’s Economic Self-Sufficiency Pilot Project
Somali Women’s Employment Pilot Project: Update – August 2013
- Aileen Murphy reported that last spring, in follow-up to their presentation to this Committee, the City provided a small amount of funding for bus tickets, lunch and 3 workshops for the Somali women who attend a language class together at the School District’s Welcome Centre. . The workshops provided the Somali women with an opportunity to hear about a couple of local cooperatives run by immigrant women. At the conclusion of the workshop series the Somali women expressed a strong interest in continuing to meet and explore how they might as a group work toward securing some type of paid work.
 - The Somali women have been so appreciative of the interest and support of the City and other partners. The women’s strength and sense of hope is inspiring!
 - In addition to the City and School District, project partners include VanCity Community Foundation, Surrey Women’s Centre and two volunteers with extensive experience in working with women’s groups’ community development projects.
 - A grant application has been submitted to the VanCity Community Foundation to support the continuation of this initiative until next June. (Note: In December, the project partners were notified that the application was successful. The project will be awarded a \$15,000 grant.)
 - Linda Coyle stated that people need to know that there are people within the community that want to be self-sufficient and that they require help.
 - Michelle Shaw stated that other funding may available to help this group.
 - The Chair requested that the project be tracked so that learnings can be documented and shared; the project could serve as a model.

2. Service Clubs Alliance

On October 2, 2013 a meeting with Surrey service clubs and planning for next steps was held.

Dale Toor and Linda Coyle stated that the meeting with the service clubs went well and everyone is keen to work together. The Service Clubs Alliance is looking to get direction on next steps. Both Linda and Dales' clubs are involved in food initiatives. Dale's Lions Club supports school breakfast programs. Linda's Rotary Club working with other Rotaries to support the South Surrey Food Bank; the Rotary Clubs in Surrey are also interested in literacy.

The Alliance of Service Clubs topic will be added to SPAC's January Agenda, with a meeting with the service alliance people to be held January 29, 2014.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Terms of Reference (TOR)**

The Social Policy Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference were amended by Council on October 7, 2013 under RES.R13-2211

The Chair explained the changes to the TOR to include representatives from SFU and Kwantlen. Stephen Dooley is interested in staying on the Committee now that he is with SFU, and Diane Purvey of Kwantlen will be joining in January.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**1. Council Motion on the Transit Plan for Homeless -**

as recommended in the September 4, 2013 SPAC Minutes.

It was
Moved by Dole Toor
Seconded by Linda Coyle
That the Committee receive the Transit Plan
for Homeless as recommended in the September 4, 2013 SPAC Minutes.
Carried

F. CORRESPONDENCE**1. First Steps/Hand-in-Hand Refugee Pilot Project – Message**

It was
Moved by Dole Toor
Seconded by Linda Coyle
That the Committee receives the First
Steps/Hand-in-Hand Refugee Pilot Project message as information.
Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Globe and Mail** series on income inequality:
 - (a) "It's time to restore fairness in Canada's tax system", November 8, 2013
 - (b) "Income inequality is hurting social inclusion in Canada", November 15, 2013
2. **Divisions and Disparities: Socio-Spatial Polarization in Greater Vancouver, 1970-2005**
3. **Government Assisted Refugee Bulletin** – October 2013
4. **Global Voices: New Perspectives on Refugees in Surrey**, Fall 2013
5. **FCM National Housing Campaign – "Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch"** - Corporate Report - November 12, 2013
6. **Phoenix Society: Rising Sun Social Innovation Centre and Gallery** - Corporate Report - November 5, 2013
7. **2014 City Awards Program** Corporate Report – October 17, 2013
8. **2014 Surrey Doors Open: Save the Date** Saturday June 21, 2014

It was
 received by the Committee as information.

Moved by Dole Toor
 Seconded by Debbie Lawrance
 That Information Items 1 through 8 be
Carried

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Adoption of proposed 2014 Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting schedule**

It was
 Advisory Committee meeting schedule be adopted as presented.

Moved by Linda Coyle
 Seconded by Michelle Shaw
 That the proposed 2014 Social Policy
Carried

2. **2014 SPAC Fun Schedule**

- January meeting will include new members. The agenda will include a discussion on what the Committee has done in the past and the workplan for the year. The Committee agreed to receive a delegation on the 100th Anniversary of the Komagata Maru incident at the February meeting. The City of Surrey is involved through Surrey Museum, Surrey Public Library, and Surrey Art Gallery. There are other partners as well such as PICS, SFU library, Vancouver Museum, Maritime Museum, Khalsa Diwan Society to name a few.

3. Committee Member Updates

Michelle Shaw reported that many youth in Surrey participated in the Vancouver Foundation's Youth Vital Signs. The Vancouver Foundation would like to make a presentation to SPAC and also to several other municipalities. Michelle Shaw was directed by the Committee to extend the invitation as a second delegation in February.

The Chair thanked the Committee for their hard work over the past year and recognized Aileen Murphy's contribution in supporting the Committee.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Michelle Shaw
Seconded by Debbie Lawrance
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee