

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
J. Calbick
L. Coyle
S. Dooley
E. Milavic
D. Purvey
L. Rhead
M. Shaw
J. Sturge
K. Thiara
D. Toor

Absent:

D. Chattha

Guest:

There were no guests.

Staff Present:

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

A. Introductions and Nomination of Vice-Chair

1. Councillor Villeneuve introduced the new Committee Members, E. Milavic, J. Sturge and D. Purvey, to the Committee. S.Dooley was also welcomed back to the Committee as a long standing member and now the representative for SFU.

A round table of introductions was held.

2. Councillor Villeneuve called for nominations to appoint as Vice-Chair to the Committee for 2014. Michelle Shaw volunteered to sit as Vice-Chair

It was

Moved by L. Coyle

Seconded by D. Toor

That Michelle Shaw be appointed as

Vice-Chair to the Social Planning Advisory Committee for 2014.

Carried

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by D. Toor

Seconded by M. Shaw

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

minutes of November 27, 2014 be adopted once the noted amendment on page 4 is made.

Carried

C. DELEGATION

The Senior Social Planner presented a request from Surrey Interfaith Community Inquiry Project to appear before the Social Policy Advisory Committee.

The following comments were made:

- The Surrey Interfaith Community Inquiry Project is funded through a grant from Embrace BC. Committee Member D. Chattha and the Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS) are involved in the Project. Linda Coyle had volunteered to represent the SPAC on this initiative.
- The SPAC agenda for February 2014 is full. It was agreed that the Surrey Interfaith Community Inquiry Project be invited to present at the March meeting.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation on Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents and Social Policy Priorities

The Social Planner presented the above noted topic to the Committee. The following comments were made:

The Plan for the **Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents** provides strategic direction for the City's actions relative to social issues in Surrey. The Plan was developed by the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC). It was adopted by Council in 2005-2006, with the Social Planning Advisory Committee being reinstated as a Committee of Council in 2006. One of the responsibilities of the SPAC is to oversee the implementation of the Plan.

The Plan has 5 major priorities which include children and youth, community development and inclusion, crime and public safety, housing and homelessness and substance use and additions. The Plan is divided into 2 stages as follows:

- **Stage 1** has 5 issues for which the City has primary responsibility with 28 recommendations having been made for Stage 1:
 - create a child and youth friendly city;
 - programs and recreation for children and youth
 - initiatives to encourage citizen engagement with social issues and social planning activity;
 - City clean-up programs and civic pride initiatives; and
 - ethno and culturally appropriate services, opportunities and programming.
- **Stage 2** has 25 issues for which the City has limited or no responsibility with 37 recommendations having been made for Stage 2. The City can facilitate solutions to these issues by understanding, advocating and supporting.

- **Highlights**
 - Children and Youth:**
 - New Library and Recreation Programs
 - Special Events for children and youth.
 - Youth Engagement
 - City-School District Youth Mentor Program.
 - Advocacy of child care and family policies.
 - Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy
 - **Community Development and Inclusion**
 - New Culturally-Sensitive Library and Recreation Programs
 - Diversity Committee
 - Cultural Celebrations at City Hall
 - Beautification Program
 - Projects supporting the settlement of refugees and immigrants
 - Welcoming Communities Action Plan and activities
 - THIS Is How We End Poverty in Surrey: Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan
 - **Homelessness and Housing:**
 - Establishment of Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society.
 - MOU with BC Housing on 3 supportive housing projects.
 - Advocacy and Planning Support – 470 new units/beds in Surrey 2006-2013.
 - Master Plan for Housing the Homeless in Surrey.
 - **Related Plans and Strategies**
 - Crime Reduction Strategy (2007)
 - Sustainability Charter (2008)
 - Learning for Life Strategy (2008)
 - Transportation Strategic Plan (2008)
 - Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy (2010)
 - Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan (2014)
 - Master Plan for Housing the Homeless in Surrey (2013)
 - Senior Strategic Plan (in progress)
- 2. **Social Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) – Overview of past accomplishments and focus areas**

The Committee accomplishments for 2013 were reviewed and the following comments were made:

- **Branding** - SPAC is basically a policy development committee. Originally named the Social Planning Advisory Committee the Committee was renamed in 2013 to the Social Policy Advisory Committee to accurately reflect the committee's major focus. The Branding Sub-Committee also created bookmarks and name tags for SPAC members.
- **Supporting refugees** – The SPAC continued to assume leadership in advocating for refugees. Two projects that are currently in the works are:

- A petition for the abolishment of the requirement that Government Assisted Refugees pay back the cost of their transportation to Canada.
- The Somali Women's Employment Engagement Project was developed after the SPAC heard from a delegation of Somali women from the School District's Welcome Centre in early 2013. The City followed up by funding three workshops in which the women learned about cooperative businesses being run by refugee/immigrant women in Victoria (a catering company) and Burnaby (a sewing group). A grant application was submitted to VanCity last fall and the project has been awarded 15,000. This is a pilot project that may identify new approaches for supporting vulnerable refugees to access paid work.
- **Homelessness & Housing:**
 - SPAC was consulted on the Master Plan for Housing the Homeless in Surrey. The Plan was adopted in the summer of 2013.
- **Doors Open Program**
 - The second annual Doors Open was held in June 2013. SPAC members participated on the planning committee and as volunteers on the day of the event.
 - K. Thiara reported that improvements were made in 2013, but that there was no programming for older youth. This is an area that will be considered in planning the 2014 Doors Open.
 - Michelle Shaw elaborated that the Doors Open continues to evolve each year. The feedback has been very positive. In 2014, Cloverdale will be involved, in addition to Whalley and Newton. Volunteers and organizations are being sought to get involved in the 2014 Doors Open happening on June 21, 2014.
 - Public institutions, places of worship and other venues open their doors during this one-day event so people can see them, inform themselves and feel that they are part of the community.
- The **Poverty Reduction** Community Forum "Let's Make THIS Happen" was held on November 7, 2013.
 - The event was held at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. In the morning there were 9 petcha kutcha **presentations** on Surrey-based projects. The presentations were excellent.
 - L. Coyle noted that James Hughes was the keynote speaker and spoke of New Brunswick's experience in developing and implementing a provincial poverty reduction plan.
 - The Library (Guildford) has produced a series of brochures listing "Low Cost and Free" resources. As a result of the SPAC's recommendation, an interactive map has been created and is now available on the City's website. E. Milavic offered to help promote the Low Cost and Free resources through social media.
 - In October, the SPAC invited service clubs to a meeting to discuss their interest in creating an alliance of Surrey-based service clubs that would work with the SPAC on a poverty reduction initiative.

3. 2014 SPAC Work Plan

The Social Planner presented the 2014 SPAC Work Plan topic to the Committee. A discussion on potential delegations, activities and projects for 2014 ensued.

(a) **Delegations** - the following comments were made: - see form

- **Komagata Maru presentation** – February
- **Vancouver Foundation Youth Vital Signs report** – February (M. Shaw to contact the Vancouver Foundation)
- **Interfaith project** - March
- **Somali Women’s employment project** – March – can be shifted
- Update from **Poverty Reduction Coalition in April**.

(b) **Activities** - the following comments were made:

- **Door Open** – June 21 – planning group will report back to the Committee.
- **Heart in the City Awards** is not yet confirmed but may be held next September or October. If it goes ahead, a subcommittee will be formed.
- **Alliance of Service Clubs** – meeting January 29th
- **Advocacy around the Government Assisted Refugee Transportation Loans Program** by keeping the petition alive. A report by staff will be made to the Committee at the next meeting as to how many signatures have been received (to be added to February Agenda). Original signatures are required on the petition for submission
- Don Reddick of Kwantlen Polytechnic University conducted a study of refugees’ transition into post-secondary. It was suggested that he be invited to April 2014 SPAC meeting.

S. Dooley distributed a questionnaire to Committee Members to discover what passions and interests drive each Committee Member and how they could be utilized in the planning process.

The questionnaire asked the following questions:

1. What are your passions around social issues?
2. Are there any particular social issues/community events you would be willing to assume a leadership role on behalf of SPAC?
3. The SPAC routinely has delegations from community stakeholder groups. Can you think of any groups that we should get a delegation from in the next year?
4. In what way(s) can we ensure our monthly meetings are productive?

Responses from the Committee Members included:

- Social inclusion and community development to answer the questions on how is Surrey different and how to make people become part of the community.
- Professionally – health care and health equality – mental health – access to health care (long term care). Homelessness – family homelessness – outcomes for children – preventative measures for children and seniors.
- Homelessness and seniors – mental health

- Poverty seniors, aboriginals
- Mental Health awareness - youth suicide prevention
- Being a survivor of a war in Europe immigration is a very important issue to me and has firsthand knowledge on how hard it is to immigrate and to be a refugee.
- Child poverty is very important as I have felt this issue personally.
- How can an impact be made when there is 19% child poverty in BC that is the highest percentage in Canada.
- How the gap is widening between the rich and poor.
- Immigrants, seniors and children living in poverty. The Federal Government is backing off in supporting seniors and once a senior or anyone starts a downward spiral it continues. More time needs to be spent on poverty reduction and what the City can do to reduce poverty.
- Immigrants, homelessness and youth
- Delegations suggestions – Adopt-a-School program representatives be invited to present to SPAC – it would help to know which schools are being funded so that gaps could be identified.
- Surrey Urban Mission – an organization that provides meals and shelter.
- Children’s Partnership Committee and Seniors Committee – Children’s Partnership is renewing their Strategic Plan so could be invited to present on it.
- United Way Guildford Project
- Surrey Remand Centre and how they deal with homelessness and drug abuse.
- Come up with a project to present to VanCity or Coast Capital Savings to submit an application for grant funding.

The information will be assembled and distributed to the Committee.

4. Service Clubs

The Committee held a discussion around planning for the meeting with the Service Clubs Alliance being held on January 29. The following comments were made:

- A subcommittee is required – L. Coyle and D. Toor agreed to assist in planning the meeting agenda.
- A few project ideas were discussed. More specific projects may emerge after the meeting with the Services Clubs
- Suggestions were left with the sub-committee to review and draft an agenda for the meeting. An invitation was extended to all Committee Members to attend the January 29, meeting.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to receive.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS**Welcoming Communities Conference**

The Senior Social Planner presented an update on the Welcoming Communities Conference being held on February 21, 2014 at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel. This conference is intended for service providers – both “mainstream” providers and settlement services providers.

More information on the event can be found at:

<http://www.wicsurrey.org/news/2013/12/official-invite-surrey-welcoming-communities-conference%E2%80%8F>

or by contacting Lisa Elliott, Conference Coordinator at lelliott@amssa.org .

I. OTHER BUSINESS

The 2014 Committee Orientation Package was distributed and explained to the three new SPAC members.

The completed Council Appointed Volunteer Code of Ethics form and the Council Appointed Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement were collected from new Committee Members by the Secretary and will be submitted to the City Clerk for filing.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Dooley
Seconded by M. Shaw
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

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

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee