

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
S. Dooley
J. Parmar
J. Sturge
K. Thiara
D. Chattha
M. Shaw
D. Toor
L. Rhead
J. Liu (YR)
K. Dhesa (YR)

Absent:

J. Calbick
E. Milavic
L. Coyle

Staff Present:

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

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes of October 1, 2014 to be approved.

It was

Moved by K. Thiara

Seconded by L. Rhead

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee
minutes of October 1, 2014 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Christine Shepherd, Roots of Empathy, BC**, appeared before the Committee and presented on the Roots of Empathy program.

The following comments were made:

- The Roots of Empathy program was founded in 1996 by Mary Gordon and has been in British Columbia since 2000. The program partners families (that have a baby) with elementary school classrooms to address the social side of learning. Children develop emotional literacy through observation of baby's emotions, reflecting and identifying their own emotions and understanding the emotions of others.
- The mission of the program is to build caring, peaceful and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults.
- The Roots of Empathy program has been shown to reduce aggression and increase prosocial behavior in students. Students are better prepared for life and are taught how to be responsible citizens.
- The program consists of visits to a classroom by a parent and baby nine times over the course of a school year. A trained, certified instructor coaches the students to observe the baby's development and to label the baby's feelings. The instructor also visits the classroom the week before

and after each family visit to reinforce teachings. There are 27 classroom visits in total over the course of the program.

- Research on Roots of Empathy was done at the University of British Columbia. It revealed that children who participated in the program demonstrated significant improvement in social and emotional knowledge and increased prosocial behaviours with peers.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was questioned how long the training is for instructors and what the cost is. The delegation replied that the instructors participate in a 4 day training session. Instructors receive on-going assistance throughout the program and follow a manual that has been recommended by Curriculum Services Canada. There is no cost for the training as the program is government funded.
- Surrey currently has 14 instructors providing 22 programs in 19 schools. The challenge the program faces in Surrey is not being able to accommodate all the elementary schools who want the program. This is due to a lack of instructors and families. Surrey has over 100 elementary schools. The Committee recommended that the delegation connect with the Surrey School District and the Surrey Teachers Association for contacts on the substitution teacher list. It could be an opportunity for substitute teachers to be trained and help gain experience in the classroom.
- The Committee further noted that the City could assist the organization by putting posters up about the program in recreation centres and libraries.
- It was questioned how the schools are chosen. The delegation responded that the schools typically reach out to the program and express an interest. If the school has someone that can be trained, then they are guaranteed to get the program at the school. Full time school room teachers are not trained simply because they are too busy. Community volunteers and parents from PAC are some of the participants recruited as instructors when possible.

It was recommended that the delegation make a presentation to the new Surrey School Trustees.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the delegation for their presentation and their work on important program.

2. Delegation Requests

- a) Erin Anne Beirne, SurreyCares and Anita Huberman, Surrey Board of Trade requested to appear before the Committee to present on Surrey's Vital Signs 2014.
- b) Lara Ahmad, President, Enactus SFU and Sean McKenna, Beedie School of Business requested to appear before the Committee to present on the Enactus Program.
- c) Carol Madsen and Nima Bolow requested to appear before the Committee to provide an update on the Somali Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Pilot Project.

- d) Lali Pawa from Justice Education Society requested to appear before the Committee to seek support for people involved with the court system that do not speak English.

The Committee approved the above delegation requests for the following meetings:

January, 2015

Vital Signs 2014 presentation and the Somali Women's Project

February, 2015

Enactus Program and the Justice Education Society

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Poverty Reduction Plan Initiatives

Alliance of Service Clubs

Discussion on the Website and Next Steps

- A letter will be sent out to Surrey's service clubs in the new year welcoming feedback on the web page that was created on the City of Surrey website. The letter will also invite other clubs to submit information about their club. There are currently 5 service clubs with information posted on the web page.
- The Committee commented that the Seeing is Believing tour held in October 2014 was powerful and noted that a second tour will be organized for February or March 2015. The first tour was offered to service clubs and it was suggested that the February/March event be broadened to include other groups such as the Surrey Board of Trade, BIAs and financial institutions. It was suggested that the invitation for the next tour be more formal.

M. Shaw left the meeting.

Refugee Transportation Loan Petition

- Staff advised the Committee that the Power Point presentation that was distributed at the October SPAC meeting has been updated to include the two additional points that were suggested by the Committee.
- There are 400 signatures still needed for the petition.
- Staff to follow-up with Esmir Milavic for the January meeting re: creating a video of the presentation that could be posted on Youtube.

Poverty Reduction Forum – February 16, 2015

- The Surrey Poverty Coalition is planning another forum at Kwantlen University in February 2015. The theme is Collective Impact - how to use a collective impact approach to reduce poverty in Surrey. The forum will be by invitation and the target audience is senior managers and decision-makers.
- The plan is to bring someone from the Tamarack Institute to facilitate the training/discussions at the forum. Another potential group is Innoweave.

2. Debrief of the 2014 City Awards Program

- Kelsey Baglo was the staff lead on the Heart of the City awards. A SPAC sub-Committee was involved in redesigning the nomination process and reviewing the nominations. The Civic Awards event was held on October 22 in the new City Hall with a few SPAC members in attendance.

Councillor Villeneuve noted that it was a nice to be able to honour people who really contribute to the community. All short-listed nominees were awarded glass trophies.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Doors Open 2015**

The planning has begun for the June 27, 2015 event.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

There were no items referred by Council.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence this meeting.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS**3. Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)**

- The first LIP newsletter and fact sheet have been developed. Three projects are being initiated: development of a LIP website; creation of an inventory of services for immigrants and refugees and analysis of gaps in service; and research and consultations related to Surrey as a welcoming and inclusive community.
- The LIP project is intended to make the community more inclusive of new immigrants and refugees who are settling in Surrey.

H. OTHER BUSINESS**1. 2014 SPAC Fun Schedule**

- Two delegations have been confirmed for January, 2015.

2. Committee Member Updates**Michelle Shaw**

- Wisdom 2 Action is a national initiative focused on youth mental health. Workshops were held across the country to see if research is making its way into the delivery of services. There were 60 attendees at the Surrey Wisdom 2 Action workshop held at SFU Surrey on July 22 2014.
- The Housing Matters Media Project put together a living art piece called the 19th Birthday Party. The 19th Birthday Party is a public art piece set up like a birthday party with a small dining room table with four chairs, confetti, hats and under each placemat at the table, there is a video story of a youth. Over each chair are headphones and you are able to listen to the story. The purpose of the project is to create awareness of the issues surrounding youth transitioning out of government care at age 19. Michelle agreed to acquire more information about the art project and update the Committee about possibly showcasing the project in the City Hall foyer.

Jodi Sturge

- Jodi informed the Committee that she has a new position with the Lookout Society working out of their head office in the Downtown Eastside. She expressed an interest to remain on the Committee as she is still a Surrey resident.
- There were a number of people camping in tents on private property near 108 Avenue and King George for the past few months. Most of the people have mental health and/or addiction issues. The police and fire department needed to vacate the area due to the health hazards. On December 3, the property owner gave the campers notice to evacuate. Lookout Society's outreach team and Fraser Health's ACT team were on site to assist. Lookout served the people coffee and muffins and discussed housing and service options that were available for them. Everyone was re-located off the property by the end of the day.
- Elizabeth Fry, Options, Lookout and Sources have been awarded a federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy grant to collaborate on a Housing First initiative. This is very unique to have all the major providers of homelessness services in a community working together on a program. The chair suggested that this collaborative group be invited to provide this Committee with a presentation.

Councillor Villeneuve informed the Committee of the sudden death of Darrell Ferner, Deputy Director of Options. Darrell was involved in the development and provision of homelessness and housing services in Surrey for many years. Most recently, Darrell was leading the work on the redevelopment of Options'

Cloverdale Shelter. Darrell's passing represents a significant loss for the community.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 7, 2015.**

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by J. Sturge

Seconded by K. Thiara

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee