

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
Vice Chair, Councillor LeFranc
S. Dooley
J. Parmar
L. Rhead
K. Dhesa
C. Hong
M. Shaw

Absent:

J. Sturge
E. Milavic
K. Thiara
J. Liu (YR)

Staff Present:

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

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes of February 4, 2015, to be approved.

It was

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by L. Rhead

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee
minutes of February 4, 2015 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **David Beattie and Allan Hunt, HELLO PROJECT**

In attendance as a delegation before the Committee to present on the HELLO Project.

The following comments were made:

- The HELLO project is a new concept that was created to help deal with social isolation by providing people a method to be able to socialize with each other. The idea is for people to wear a lapel button that says “Hello” which indicates that they are approachable and open to conversation with others.
- The delegation has presented the idea of the project to Surrey Councillors, MLA’s, MP’s and organizations such as SFU and TransLink. Overall, the project has been well received.
- The delegation is seeking endorsement of the project from the Social Policy Advisory Committee and from the City of Surrey, to assist with the project.

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Committee questioned how volunteers will be selected. The delegation responded that the project is in the planning stages and that level of detail is yet to be determined.
- The Vice Chair commented that the pilot project is thoughtful and questioned how the delegation plans on getting feedback from people after the project is finished. The delegation responded that a group they are connected to will assist the delegation in preparing a survey that will be used to assess feedback on the project.
- The Youth Representative suggested the delegation consider using the hashtag # symbol when advertising the project in social media to help get people talking about it. The delegation commented that they are open to suggestions.
- The Committee suggested that the project be piloted in an event like Fusion Festival where it is contained to a small venue or at the beginning of a semester at SFU where students welcome other students.
- The Committee noted that the City would be willing to have a representative(s) on a community planning group with other organizations to develop and plan for the project.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation.

RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by S. Dooley
Seconded by J. Parmar
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee
supports the HELLO project in principle and recommends that Council consider
the City of Surrey to participate in the HELLO project's planning.
Carried

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Committee expressed some concerns with the safety and security of those wearing the pin. It was suggested that the delegation consider those issues in future project planning.
- The Committee noted that the presentation was broad and suggested that in future presentations a couple of different versions of the project could be presented.
- The Committee noted that although it is safer to introduce this project during a contained event, the idea is to help eliminate the fear people experience when walking down the streets and make the community more sociable and friendly.

- The Youth Representatives suggested Youth Fest and the SLAC conference to introduce the HELLO project since both environments are comfortable and accepting.
- The Committee noted that the project should be well advertised and lots of education material be provided in advance of the project. This will enable people to fully understand what the project is about and may make people more likely to participate.
- The Committee would like to participate with other community partners to explore the idea further and provide input on the project. The Committee felt this was a great concept with potential and would welcome the opportunity to assist in shaping the project.

2. **Brian Jacobson and Tina McDonald, Fraser Health Mental Health and Substance Use.**

In attendance as a delegation before the Committee to present on the Housing First approach for addressing homelessness and the experience of **Housing First in Surrey.**

The following comments were made:

- The Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program provides intensive support services for individuals with serious mental illness who have very complex needs, and who find it difficult to engage with other mental health services. The ACT Team is multidisciplinary and provides comprehensive assessment, treatment, rehabilitation and support activities. The team consists of: a psychiatrist, nurses, social workers, clinical addictions counsellor, occupational therapist, rehabilitation workers and peer support worker.
- The capacity of the Fraser Health Authority ACT team is between 80-100 clients. Currently, there are 99 clients on Surrey's ACT program.
- ACT client (Robert) provided his story to the Committee:

From 2000 to the summer of 2014, Robert lived on the street and was in and out of jail. Since meeting the ACT team, he has secured stable housing and started to take his medications regularly. Robert reported he no longer does drugs and has been able to stay off the streets. He also noted that nurses and ACT staff are always available if he needs help.
- The Housing First model is a large component of the ACT program. Housing First is an approach to ending homelessness that is based on providing permanent affordable housing with supports to people who are chronically or episodically homeless
- FHA is establishing a new ACT Team for the Surrey area that will support an additional 100 people. As well, Fraser Health will be establishing a new Integrated Case Management (ICM) Outreach Team in partnership with Raincity Housing.

- The ACT Team currently has a housing budget that provides 20 ACT clients with a rent subsidy. The new ACT Team will have 25 rent subsidies funded by Fraser Health and the new ICM Team will have 25 rent subsidies funded by BC Housing.

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Committee questioned what Vancouver's numbers were compared to Surrey's for the program. The delegation responded that the Vancouver ACT program typically has 50-70 clients per Team. Surrey has more clients because of how the teams are run.
- It was questioned what percentage of ACT clients are homeless. The delegation responded that 20% of the participants were absolutely homeless.
- Staff questioned how people who aren't on a rent subsidy are housed. The delegation noted that some clients still live with their families or in rooming houses.
- Staff questioned how they are finding housing for clients on a rent subsidy. The delegation responded that Fraser Health has budgeted money for the MPA Society who are housing brokers that find housing. A holding fee agreement is made with the landlord. The landlord receives ongoing rent whether someone lives there or not. The landlord also gets right of refusal.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the delegation for their presentation and congratulated them for their work with assisting in the re-location of homeless people who have been camping in tents.

Councillor Villeneuve commented that the delegation's presentation goes to Council and both, Councillor LeFranc and Villeneuve will convey to Council how important it is to continue to advocate to the Province for more rent supplements.

RECOMMENDATION

It was

Moved by M. Shaw
Seconded by C. Hong
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee supports the endeavors of the ACT Team and recommends that Council urge other levels of government to provide adequate funding for rent supplements and adequate Income Assistance shelter rates to support accessing and maintaining housing.

Carried

3. Megan Fitzgerald, City of Surrey Transportation

In attendance as a delegation to present to the Committee on the **Transportation and Transit Plebiscite**.

The following comments were made:

- The region is expecting 350,000 additional residents. The Mayor's Regional Transportation and Transit Plan identified improvements that will accommodate the growing demand. The broad package of regional benefits and improvements include a network of Light Rail Transit (LRT), subway expansion along the Broadway corridor in Vancouver, 11 new B-line routes, 25% improvement in bus service and 25% increase in handy dart service. Surrey will benefit significantly with 45% of what is proposed in the 10 year plan being specifically for Surrey and the south of the Fraser River area.
- Specific to Surrey is the proposed LRT which is at street level, similar to streetcars. Instead of one corridor along Fraser Highway, LRT will enable Surrey to build two lines; the L line along King George Highway from Newton to City Centre, then across to Guildford Centre along 104 Avenue and the diagonal line down to Langley City. The Mayor's Plan shows the delivery of the L line in 7 years and 12 years for Langley City. It will take 22 minutes to get to Surrey Centre from Langley City. In a comparison study with the skytrain, it was only 3 or 4 minutes faster than LRT.
- There will be substantial improvements to the local transit service including 3 new B-line routes. One route is along Fraser Highway (until the LRT is implemented), the second route will be along Scott Road connecting the Scott Road skytrain station to Newton and the third is expansion of the 96 B-line to White Rock.
- A significant improvement will be made to busy routes along King George Highway, Fraser Highway and Scott Road. Service will increase with buses running every 15 minutes or better, every day.
- About 12% of people living in Surrey do not have access to a car. This statistic is taken from Surrey's Poverty Reduction Plan and shows how vitally important it is for Surrey to have better transit service in order for people to get around.
- The plan is not only about transit, there is \$36 million allocated annually to upgrade major regional roads and for Surrey, a few of the roads include the southern end of King George, 64 Avenue in Cloverdale and Fraser Highway.
- For those who have interests in walking and cycling, the plan includes 3,000 km of new biking infrastructure, better sidewalks and connections to and from transit.
- The plan includes replacement of the Pattullo Bridge to a new 4 lane bridge that will be expandable to 6 lanes to accommodate future demand.

- In terms of the cost to fund the plan, the average household will pay \$125 per year which equals 35 cents per day.
- Surrey's position is that a "Yes" vote is critical to Surrey. There is broad local support for the plan from the Surrey Board of Trade, SFU, local BIA's and community associations.
- Elections BC are administering the vote and people can call Elections BC or go online elections.bc.ca or call 1-800-661-8682 to register.

Councillor LeFranc thanked staff for being very responsive when asked to do presentations on the plebiscite and commended staff for the excellent job of tailoring content to each particular audience.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Alliance of Service Clubs

Update on response from service clubs:

The Associate Planner sent an email to 10 service clubs in February regarding their interest in establishing an alliance of service clubs in Surrey. Responses were received from the North Surrey Lions and Semiahmoo Rotary. The North Surrey Lions indicated they are not interested in participating and will be focusing on their individual initiatives. The Semiahmoo Rotary will have a new president in July and will respond to the Committee then.

Based on the response, it was agreed that, at this time, the Committee would not continue to work toward the development of an alliance of service clubs.

2. Poverty Reduction

The Senior Social Planner provided the following presentation on Poverty Reduction in Surrey:

- Poverty is one of the priorities for the City of Surrey and over the last five years, the City has worked with other community stakeholders on the issue.
- The Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan, adopted by Council in July 2012, focused on four areas: Transportation, Housing, Income and Support. A key feature in the plan is that it identifies who is responsible for each item.
- A Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition was formed consisting of 20 leaders representing different sectors of the community. Councillor Villeneuve and Stephen Dooley are the Co-Chairs. Michelle Shaw represents the Youth Sector and Connie Hong represents the immigrant sector. Councillor LeFranc is a member of the coalition as well.

- Implementation of the plan is as follows:
 - The coalition has had 3 forums to bring the community together.
 - One project that has been piloted is the Community Leaders Igniting Change (CLIC). CLIC is a free education program for Surrey residents who are interested in making positive changes in their neighbourhoods. The program was funded by SFU, Vancouver Foundation, and VanCity Credit Union.
 - Housing First Landlord Project is a partnership between the Coalition and Landlord BC. The Project is intended to facilitate the connection between private landlords and the health and service agencies that are using a Housing First approach to support people who are homeless.
 - The third project is the Somali Women's Economic Self Sufficiency Project. It is assisting a group of Somali women to build their skills and confidence in order to pursue employment and/or to develop a socially/culturally relevant business together. The project has/is being funded by grants from the Vancity Credit Union. Surrey Libraries provides the space for the weekly sessions at no cost.
 - The impact of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan and work of the SPRC was recently evaluated using a "ripple effect mapping" (REM) methodology. REM is an innovative mind mapping technique used to assess both intended and unintended impacts of a program. A graphic illustration was developed on the ripple effect and displayed for the Committee.

3. Update on the Somali Women's Project

The Associate Planner reported that the application for Vancity funding submitted by the City of Surrey was approved. Phase 2 of the project will continue with the same participants and facilitators and will start again in early May.

4. Refugee Loan Petition

As an update from a deliverable of the February Committee meeting, the Associate Planner provided the Committee with a draft letter addressed to the MP's for the Committee's feedback. The Committee endorsed the draft letter with a few suggestions for change.

Councillor LeFranc suggested that the petition be advertised on Sushma Datt's radio show.

5. Doors Open

Councillor Villeneuve noted that the Doors Open event is scheduled for June 27 in the 4 town centres with over 40 participating groups. Some of the groups include

the RCMP, Fire Services and churches. Trolley buses will transport people between the designated locations. Planning for the event is in process.

D. NEW BUSINESS

Update on New Initiatives

1. Vulnerable Women and Girl's Project

The Senior Social Planner provided the following update:

This project started after the brutal death of a woman on 135A Street in Surrey. Councillor Rasode and Councillor Villeneuve pulled together the service providers who work with street-engaged women. As a result, a group was formed called the Vulnerable Women and Girl's Working Group. The group's first project was a small research project to determine who vulnerable women and girls are and what their needs are. This task was completed over the winter and a draft report was prepared; the report is now in the process of being vetted by the group of women who participated in the research. A grant was received from the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society to complete the research piece.

The Committee suggested that Michelle Ninow, the research consultant, be invited to provide a presentation to the SPAC at the June meeting.

2. Application for Urban Partnerships funding to develop an Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy

The Senior Social Planner provided the following update:

A funding opportunity came up through the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and staff put together an application for funding to convene the Aboriginal agencies in Surrey to develop a strategic plan. Staff approached the Aboriginal agencies in Surrey and received immediate responses of interest. Staff will find out in April whether the application was successful or not.

Councillor Villeneuve and Councillor LeFranc thanked staff for their quick work on the application proposals submitted.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

There were no items referred by Council.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Surrey Local Immigration Partnership Newsletter, Engaged & Inclusive, Issue No. 2 December 2014.

It was
receive the information items provided.

Moved by Councillor LeFranc
Seconded by M. Shaw
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

Carried

H. OTHER BUSINESS**1. 2015 SPAC Fun Schedule**

Councillor LeFranc noted that Seth Klein did a presentation at the Columbia Institute on Climate Justice and recommended that the same presentation be provided to the SPAC and the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) and even members of the Poverty Reduction Coalition.

Staff will work with Councillor LeFranc to discuss details about a possible presentation in the future.

2. Committee Member Updates

There were no Committee updates.

3. Sustainability Forum – April 20, 2015

Connie Hong & Lynne Rhead will be attending the Sustainability Charter Workshop on April 20, 2015 on behalf of the SPAC.

4. BC Poverty Reduction Plan**UBCM Resolutions****RECOMMENDATION**

It was
recommend that Council consider the proposed resolutions entitled, “BC Poverty Reduction Plan” and “Funding for Poverty Reduction” and approve the resolutions be forwarded as part of the 2015 UBCM Resolution process.

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

Carried

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2015.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by C. Hong

Seconded by J. Parmar

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