

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
Vice Chair, Councillor LeFranc
W. Ali-Jabiri
S. Dooley
C. Mohr
M. Shaw
K. Thiara
D. Toor
J. Liu (YR)

Absent:

J. Parmar
J. Sturge
M. Tutt (YR)
L. Rhead
K. Dhesa

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 April 1, to be approved.

It was

Moved by M. Shaw

Seconded by D. Toor

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

minutes of April 1, 2015 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Michelle Ninow, on behalf of the Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls (SVWG) Working Group, provided a presentation to the Committee on the Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls project.

The presenter made the following comments:

- The SVWG was formed in 2013 to understand and address the needs of vulnerable females in Surrey. The Working Group secured funding from the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society for a small research project and hired Michelle Ninow, a social planning consultant to design and oversee the project.
- The SVWG Working Group wanted to know more about vulnerable females in Surrey and to understand their service and housing needs and the barriers they face.

- As part of the project, 12 service providers participated in interviews or focus groups as well as, 50 women and girls in Surrey that are either currently experiencing or have experienced homelessness, addictions, poverty, violence sex trade work, mental illness and/or untreated trauma.
- Ten central themes emerged in the research:
 - Stigma
 - Safety
 - Mental health
 - Addictions
 - Housing
 - Aboriginal Services
 - Navigating the System
 - Ongoing Support
 - Youth Transitions to Adulthood
 - Education and Job Placement
- Many of the women identified key barriers they faced. An example of a few of the barriers highlighted were as follows:
 - There is a stigma that these females face when utilizing services. Some women felt that they received no respect from emergency workers, government ministry workers, doctors and/or nurses and felt they were treated as second rate or untouchable.
 - Women discussed their struggles with mental health and dealing with their untreated trauma.
 - Lack of safe transportation options or inability to afford public transportation.
- The next steps include initiating a collaborative planning process for improving the safety of street-engaged females in Surrey. The final plan is expected in December, 2015.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was suggested that an educational process for the RCMP and other front line workers be made available.
- It was suggested that invitations for future consultations be extended to the Surrey Board of Trade and to other BIA representatives.
- It was noted that a lot that can be done to make Surrey more welcoming and change the stigma these women face (e.g. design a brochure about treating people with respect and place it in strategic locations like a doctor's office).
- It was suggested that access to services could be improved by promoting the Low Cost + Free resources (website and brochures).

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the delegation for their presentation.

Councillor LeFranc thanked the delegation for their hard work.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Refugee Loan Petition

The Associate Planner provided an update on the Refugee Loan Petition.

The following comments were made:

- 933 signatures have been collected to date. The petition has now been made available on the Surrey Youth website. The challenge with providing the petition on the website is it requires people to download the petition, sign it and send it in to City Hall as the original signature is required for the petition.
- In September, a letter will be forwarded to the federal candidates to request that the loan be abolished.
- The Associate Planner will look into the process required to submit a petition to the House of Commons.

2. Doors Open

The Associate Social Planner provided the following update on the Doors Open event:

- June 27, 2015 39 arts, cultural spaces are opening their doors to the public.
- The sites are located in City Centre, Bear Creek, Newton and Cloverdale.
- All sites have free admission for the day and trolleys will be running throughout the town centres.

3. Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition

The Associate Planner provided an update on the Landlord Project that was held at Surrey City Hall on May 28, 2015.

The following comments were made:

- On May 28, a workshop was held at Surrey City Hall. The Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition (SPRC) partnered with LandlordBC to host the event. Landlords were encouraged to rent housing to health and social service agency clients who are homeless and hard to house. There isn't a large

stock of affordable apartments in Surrey. Typically, it is basements suites that are more affordable.

- Surrey Housing First Collaborative, involves Elizabeth Fry, Lookout, Options and Sources, has received federal funding to support people to move off the streets and into housing using the Housing First model.
- Of the landlords in attendance at the workshop, there weren't any willing to sign up to commit to the project, but a lot of questions were raised by the landlords and a lot of information was shared. The SPRC will be following up with landlords who gave their contact information.

The Senior Social Planner provided an update on the Community Leaders Igniting Change (CLIC) project.

- CLIC is an education program for Surrey residents who are interested in making positive changes in their neighbourhood. The program includes concepts like inclusion, compassion, listening, strategizing, relationship building, self and other awareness, engagement and critical thinking.
- The call for applicants was put out in January 2015.
- There were 21 applicants of which 19 were offered a spot in CLIC program. 14 participated through the whole program (7 women/7 men)
- 10 sessions were led by Dr. Kathleen Burke of the SFU Beedie School of Business from January to May 2015.
- Group members will continue to meet monthly for 6 months following the completion of the education program (in May 2015) to help get their projects up and running.
- 3 of the emerging projects were:
 - Building community and connection in an apartment building in Whalley (108th and King George Blvd.)
 - Creating public art in Whalley
 - Community events in Clayton

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy Update

The Senior Social Planner provided the following update:

- The Strategy will identify issues, needs, and priorities in this community. It will assist in leveraging investments for Aboriginal organizations in Surrey.

- The project is being led by a Leadership Committee formed of representatives from Aboriginal agencies operating in Surrey with the City of Surrey being an active partner in this collaborative project.
- A Planning Consultant with experience working with Aboriginal communities will be hired and an update provided to the SPAC.

2. Social Innovation Summit

Stephen Dooley provided the following update on the November 24, 2015 summit:

The Social Innovation Summit will take place in November and is in the beginning planning phase. Stephen Dooley and Councillor LeFranc are co-chairing the planning committee. Social innovation refers to finding new solutions/approaches to social issues.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

There were no items referred by Council.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Committee Member Updates

Christine Mohr

Lori Dennis has been hired as a Deputy Executive Director for Options Community Services.

Stephen Dooley

The LIP table is conducting a needs assessment for refugees in Surrey. Last Saturday, a research training session was done with the research assistants. The project has hired research assistants who themselves came to Canada as refugees.

Dale Toor

There is a new board for the North Surrey Lions and rotary elections will take place in July.

Karanvir Thiari

Karanvir was a speaker at the Elite Leadership conference at UBC. There were 100 youth at the event; the majority was from Surrey. Speakers talked about the stigma around mental health.

Michelle Shaw

PCRS has gained independent school status for their school programs. For ten years PCRS has offered school programs for youth who cannot attend Surrey School District school programs.

June Liu, Youth Representative

On July 26 the Quest Fest will take place at the Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre. The benefits will go to the Surrey Food Bank. Youth bands perform for free and people bring donations. Arielle Patterson, from Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre is the contact person. City Council is invited to attend.

Wafa Ali-Jabiri

The Immigrant Roundtable is planning a Block Party in the City Hall plaza on September 25. A grant from Oak Avenue Neighbourhood House's Neighbourhood Small Grants was provided to organize the event.

2. 2015 SPAC Fun Schedule**I. NEXT MEETING**

The next Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 2, 2015.**

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by K. Thiara
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee