

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
Vice Chair, Councillor LeFranc
S. Dooley
C. Mohr
J. Parmar
J. Sturge
K. Thiara
L. Rhead
J. Liu (YR)
K. Dhesa (YR)

Absent:

M. Shaw
D. Toor

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 June 10, 2015 to be approved.

It was

Moved by Councillor LeFranc

Seconded by K. Thiara

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

minutes of June 10, 2015 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Scott Nunn, Head Organizer, ACORN**, appeared before the Social Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) and presented on the ACORN organization.

The following comments were made:

- ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) Canada is an independent national organization of low- and moderate-income families.
- The organization has over 70,000 members organized into 20 neighbourhood chapters in nine cities across Canada. There are three chapters of ACORN in Surrey; Guildford, Whalley and Newton. Members from all three chapters have collaborated to determine what they would focus on in Surrey. They have chosen housing for low income earners and people on social assistance.
- ACORN stated that one of the biggest issues with housing in Surrey is overcrowding. According to CMHC there are 8840 renter households in Surrey that are overcrowded. ACORN also noted that there is a housing affordability issue.

- An ACORN member provided four anecdotal examples of people in Surrey with a severe need for affordable housing:
 - A 56 year old woman is living in an abusive relationship and cannot afford to live on her own because she is on a fixed income (disability).
 - A man is struggling to make ends meet working one full-time and one part-time job. He currently pays \$785 for a 1 bedroom apartment. It was the only apartment he could find that would allow him to keep his cat.
 - A single mother with a four year old, spent last winter in an unheated basement suite, only space heaters were available. Her daughter was burned by the heaters. She was afraid to complain to the landlord for fear of being evicted.
 - A manufactured home park resident living with a disability spent six months trying to find a place to move when the park was getting redeveloped. He was offered a payment equal to 12 months pad rental. He has moved, but his pad rent increased from \$375 to \$530.
- ACORN is campaigning for:
 - Mandatory inclusionary zoning which requires a certain share of new housing construction to be allocated as affordable. The delegation suggests that 25-30% of all new developments should be affordable. Inclusionary zoning is commonly used in the USA, but three major Canadian cities (Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver) have enacted inclusionary housing policies.

The delegation is requesting that Surrey staff take a look at inclusionary zoning policies more closely, and create a report on the possibility of implementing inclusionary zoning in Surrey.

The Committee made the following comments:

- Staff is currently working on identifying housing issues and options and will be developing an Affordable Housing Strategy for the City of Surrey.
- The Master Plan for Housing the Homeless has a recommendation for the creation of 450 supportive housing units.
- The Chair encouraged ACORN to lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments on housing issues. The importance of a National Housing Strategy was emphasized.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the delegation for their presentation.

2. Delegation Request

Isaac K. Oommen requested to appear as a delegation before the Committee to present on the **2+10 Project**.

The Committee recommended that staff respond to the delegation request and suggest that the Mr. Oommen apply to the City of Surrey's Community Grant program. The City considers applications for funds each year at the end of September.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Refugee Transportation Loan Petition

The Associate Planner provided the following update:

- The petition currently has 946 signatures. Staff confirmed that a public petition only requires 25 signatures to be submitted to the House of Commons.
- Once the federal election is over, the petition can be submitted to the House of Commons by a Member of Parliament (to be determined). Once it is submitted it gets certified by the Clerk of Petitions and is ready for presentation to the House. The MP will give a short speech in the House, explaining the petition, and officially table it in the House. The Ministry will respond to every petition within 45 calendar days.
- The Committee suggested that a letter to the candidates include wording that asks them to send back a response on the issue of transportation loans: "Please send us your response at your earliest convenience via the Social Policy Advisory Committee. After the election, we look forward to working with you to end the transportation loan program."

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the Associate Planner for the work done to date on the project.

2. Doors Open 2015

The Associate Planner provided the following update:

- 8000 people attended the June 27 event. Six trolleys transported approximately 600 passengers throughout the day to different locations.
- Feedback from 200 surveys indicated people enjoyed the event and that the trolley was a success. It was also noted that people would like to see new communities featured in the next Doors Open event.
- 93% of the participants resided in Surrey.

Councillor LeFranc thanked staff and volunteers for their work for the event.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Surrey Local Immigration Partnership

The Senior Social Planner provided the following update to the Committee on the activities of the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) for the year.

- In March 2014, the City of Surrey signed a Contribution Agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for the LIP initiative.
- 41% of Surrey residents are immigrants – in 5 years 50% of residents will be immigrants.
- The agreement with CIC included the establishment of an LIP Committee which was completed in the fall of 2014. The purpose of LIP is to build the capacity of communities to welcome and include new immigrants and refugees. The City of Surrey is the lead agency for the Surrey LIP. The 2-year contract with CIC will end April 2016.
- Activities over the 2 years have been:
 - To establish a LIP Committee – to guide the project;
 - To create a number of communications materials;
 - To conduct research and consultations on immigrant and refugee issues and solutions; and to develop two Plans – Immigrant Settlement Strategy & Refugee Strategy
- Four research projects are being undertaken as part of the LIP activities. The first two projects – Immigrant Integration Research Project and the Service Mapping Project are complete and the full reports are available on the LIP website.
- Key findings of the **Immigrant and Integration Research Project** included:
 - The majority of residents (Canadian-born and immigrants) feel welcome
 - Overall immigration is seen as making a positive contribution to the community
 - Discrimination is somewhat of a problem to half of the survey participants
 - Finding suitable employment is a key barrier for immigrants
 - Surrey residents who are immigrants would like to have more opportunities in making decisions that affect their communities

- **Service Mapping Research Project**

SPARC BC created a database of the 235 programs and services available for immigrants and refugees in Surrey. Social service leaders (managers with agencies) were surveyed and asked about the adequacy of these services and the general response was that the services aren't adequate. Many service leaders weren't aware of other services and people were unsure of duplication.

- The other two projects underway are the Labor Market Integration Research Project, to be completed in October, 2016 and the Refugee Research Project, to be completed in February, 2016.
- In the fall/winter 2015, four consultation workshops will be held. Out of the four workshops, the priorities and recommendations will be identified and used to develop the Surrey Immigrant and Refugee Settlement Strategies that is to be completed by April, 2016.
- The City of Surrey has submitted an application to CIC for funding to support the LIP program for 3 years beginning April, 2016.

2. **Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy**

The Senior Social Planner provided the following update on the Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy:

- Under the leadership of Councillor LeFranc, the City secured funding for \$90,000 to complete an Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy by March 31, 2016. The purpose of the strategy is to identify issues, needs, and priorities of Surrey's Urban Aboriginal community. It will assist in leveraging investments for Aboriginal organizations in Surrey.
- Representatives from Aboriginal agencies in Surrey engaged in a hiring committee to select a Planning Consultant. Guerin Tetreault Governance Consulting Inc. has been contracted to facilitate the planning process.
- A Leadership Committee has been established to guide the project. Chaired by Councillor LeFranc, the Committee includes Executive Directors and Board members from Aboriginal agencies in Surrey.

3. **Social Innovation Summit – November 24, 2015**

Steven Dooley provided the following update to the Committee on the Social Innovation Summit:

- A planning committee has been established for the summit and Councillor LeFranc and Steve Dooley have been confirmed as Co-Chairs of the event.

- The summit will be held at City Hall.
- The purpose of the summit is to learn about social innovation and what it means for Surrey. This local event will inspire and bring together a variety of different stakeholders.
- The agenda has not yet been finalized.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information items were provided to the Committee:

1. Corporate Report No. R149, Update on the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership Year One Activities, July 13, 2015
2. Surrey LIP Newsletter, Engaged & Inclusive, June 2015
3. Surrey Immigrant Advisory Roundtable Block Party, September 25, 2015
4. SFU Philosophers' Café – Inclusive Cities Cafes
5. Early Years Centres in Surrey

It was
the information items as provided.

Moved by S. Dooley
Seconded by J. Sturge
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee receives

Carried

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2015 SPAC Fun Schedule

- Discuss re-scheduling the youth delegation (VYPER) for a future SPAC meeting.
- Update on Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy and Social Innovation Summit at the November SPAC meeting.

2. Committee Member Updates

Stephen Dooley

- SFU's 50th birthday is September 9. A cake cutting ceremony will be held at SFU Surrey.
- SFU Public Square 'We the City' – Surrey event being held on November 7, 2015 at City Hall.

Jodi Sturge

- Mentor with Mental Health Commission of Canada. A Knowledge Translation Workshop is being held in Vancouver on Sept. 17 and 18.

June Liu

- Quest Fest was a huge success with over \$1800 in donations received. In addition, there were also monetary donations. June thanked Christine Mohr and Stephen Dooley for their support with this event.

Wafa Aljabiri

- Wafa has secured a new position with King George International College as the Marketing manager.
- On September 25, at the LIP Immigrant Advisory Roundtable is organizing a Block Party. The event will happen in the City Hall plaza from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The event partners include; City of Surrey, RCMP, City of Surrey Library, VanCity, Kwantlen University and many other Surrey partners. This event was organized by volunteers who were successful with two grant applications. All are invited to attend.

Councillor Villeneuve presented Committee member Kiran Dhesa with a gift and thanked her for her work on the Committee and wished her well.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 9, 2015.**

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by K. Thiara

Seconded by J. Parmar

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

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

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee