

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
Vice Chair, Councillor LeFranc
W. Al-Jabiri
A. Begalka
S. Dooley
C. Mohr
J. Sturge
L. Rhead
K. Thiara
D. Toor

Absent:

J. Liu (YR)
M. Shaw

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A roundtable of introductions was done.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes of December 9, 2015 to be approved.

It was

Moved by K. Thiara

Seconded by S. Dooley

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

Minutes of December 9, 2015 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls Project**

File: 0510-20

M. Ninow Consulting presented the Final Report – April, 2015 on the Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls' Project.

The following comments were made:

- A Working Group for the Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls Project was established in 2013. The purpose of the group is to collaborate to ensure that vulnerable woman and girls in Surrey receive the support they need and deserve.
- Recently, a research report was published by the Working Group that highlights the service gaps and barriers that vulnerable women and girls in Surrey experience. The research was funded by a grant from the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society.

- Following the research report, the Working Group secured funding from the provincial government for a collaborative planning process to begin to address the concerns that were raised in the research project. The collaborative planning process brought together a group of representatives from several non-profit service providers and government organizations.
- The Working Group had 3 planning workshops in 2015 and, as a result, was able to identify and plan key projects that would start to improve the safety and well-being of vulnerable women and girls in Surrey.
- Three key projects that will start to improve the safety of vulnerable women and girls in Surrey are: a Women's Overnight Drop-In, a Mobile Assistance Program (MAP) Van and a Youth Evening/Overnight Drop-In.
- Through the workshop process, a committee of non-profit organizations was formed to collaboratively develop the MAP Van and the overnight drop-in for women projects. The process is underway and the partners are seeking funding for these projects.

Two issues identified through the research include: women needing better access to information about services available to help them; and the stigma they experience when accessing services. In terms of addressing stigma, the Vulnerable Women & Girls Working Group is participating in a training session next week on "Effectively Responding to the Needs of Sex Workers".

- The Working Group has submitted funding applications to enable it to continue working on these issues.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the delegation for their presentation.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Refugee Transportation Loan Petition Update

The following update was provided:

- As reported at the previous SPAC meeting, Councillor Villeneuve and City staff provided Minister McCallum with an information package on the transportation loan and a copy of the signed petitions when he attended a meeting at Surrey City Hall in December.
- Councillor Villeneuve and Aileen Murphy are scheduled to meet with Mr. Randeep Sarai, the new MP for Surrey Centre, to discuss the possibility of Mr. Sarai presenting the petition in the House of Commons.

- It was reported that Minister McCallum mentioned in a media interview that the City of Surrey and other groups have been lobbying for the repayment of the transportation loan be terminated. Councillor Villeneuve noted that the profile of the issue has been raised and that the City of Surrey has been working on it since 2009.
- Councillor Villeneuve thanked the Committee for all their work on this issue and encouraged members to continue sharing information about the Refugee Transportation Loan.

2. Syrian Refugee Update

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner provided the following update:

- The Federal government is expected to meet their commitment to bring 25,000 refugees to Canada by the end of February.
- The Federal government is providing information about the Syrian refugees at the following website:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/index.asp>
The site lists information such as the number of refugees that have arrived in Canada and how many applications are pending.
- According to the website, the following information was provided:
 - 15, 685 refugees have arrived in Canada since November 4, 2015
 - Surrey has 0 Syrian government assisted refugees; 21 privately sponsored Syrian refugees; and 6 Blended Visa Officer Referred (BVOR) refugee (government funds half and private sponsor group funds half) arrivals since November 4, 2015.
- Immigration Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) has secured at least 22 apartment units in Surrey for the refugees. The biggest challenge is finding housing for the refugees.
- A brochure listing agencies that will be assisting the Syrian refugees was distributed to the Committee. The brochure is intended for people wanting to volunteer and help.
- The City of Surrey in partnership with the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) hosted a public forum on January 20, 2016, to provide information about the Syrian refugees and how a person can assist. The event was well attended with approximately 200 people present.
- The City of Surrey will be providing an information/education session for staff on the arrival of the Syrians and will be working with the Immigrant Advisory Roundtable to organize an event (likely in in June, 2016) at City Hall to welcome the refugees.
- The Province is planning to establish 5 regional refugee response teams to coordinate services for the Syrian refugees. The teams are expected to be in place in mid-February. The call for proposals has been issued.

3. Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Update

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner provided the following update:

- The LIP is a program of the Federal government that funds activities that will bring a local community or city together to welcome and include newcomers. The City of Surrey is the lead agency for the Surrey LIP. There are approximately 30 agencies represented at the table.
- By March 31, 2016 a Surrey Local Immigration Strategic Plan will be in place. The plan will focus on the following themes: Access to Services, Community Engagement and Intercultural Connections, Employment and Youth.
- A Youth Consultation was held on January 25, 2016. The event was held at SFU Surrey and facilitated by the Vancouver Foundation's Fresh Voices team. There were approximately 50 youth in attendance and about half of the youth attendees were refugees. The interest of the youth in being engaged was very inspiring. The youth talked about poverty and the struggles with housing. The consultation results will be incorporated into the Local Immigration Strategic Plan.
- SFU is completing the research that will inform the development of a Refugee Strategic Plan that will be completed later in 2016.
- A Committee Member commented about the refugee project being in place prior to the Syrian refugee crisis and hopes that the needs of other refugees also continue to be looked at.
- The City has been informed by the federal government that the LIP contract will be extended for another year with a 15% reduction in funding.
- Councillor Villeneuve suggested that a package of LIP resources be provided to the new Committee members. She also expressed gratitude to staff and the LIP for the work that has been done to date.

4. Surrey Urban Aboriginal Strategy - Social Innovation

Councillor LeFranc provided the following update:

- The City of Surrey received a grant of \$90,000 from the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) to develop a Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy. Project consultants – Michelle Guerin and Sheldon Tetreault are responsible for facilitating the Aboriginal Leadership Committee, undertaking research and consultations, and preparing the Strategy.
- The Aboriginal Leadership Committee is guiding the project. It is composed of representatives of Aboriginal agencies, First Nations, and Aboriginal programs. Councillor LeFranc chairs the Committee.

It was noted that Surrey has a fast-growing and exceptionally young Aboriginal population. In the past couple of decades the Urban Aboriginal population in Surrey has doubled. The Surrey School District has more Aboriginal students than any other district in Metro Vancouver.

- The funding allocated for the project must be spent before March 31, 2016. Councillor LeFranc expressed pride for the work that has been done to date and noted that this is the first step to empower Urban Aboriginal people in Surrey to succeed.
- Surrey has a similar population of Aboriginals to Vancouver yet Vancouver has over 20 Aboriginal organizations and Surrey has only 5 organizations, most of which are under-funded.
- Another issue identified through research is the lack of a cultural gathering place for Aboriginals in Surrey.
- A Committee Member shared details about the "Kairos Blanket Exercise" which provides the history of how Aboriginals were systematically depowered by the Canadian government through the implementation of Residential Schools and the *Indian Act*. The information about the blanket exercise will be forwarded to the SPAC.

5. Winter Shelter

J. Sturge provided the following update:

- It has been 2 months since the 40 bed temporary winter shelter opened on Whalley Boulevard on December 1, 2015.
- The shelter has had 91 guests of which 24 have been women. One of the trends of the shelter appears to be male guests in between the ages of 40 and 50. 42% of the shelter residents have mental health issues, 74% struggle with alcohol or drug addiction and 96% presented a medical health concern which meant, having the need to see a doctor.
- The partners that have contributed to the success of the shelter were highlighted. Some of the partners mentioned were City of Surrey, Elizabeth Fry Society and Fraser Health.
- The Committee discussed possible ways to inform the public on how to donate items properly. Many residents and church groups hand out food, clothing, blankets and other items to people on the street. It creates garbage in the area. The information to the public would include lists of items that are needed by shelters and meal programs.
- It was reported there have been minimal critical incidents at the temporary shelter.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. 2016 Doors Open – Saturday, June 18**

- The event encourages residents to be a tourist in their own City. Doors Open is similar to events held in Ontario and other parts of Canada and the Surrey Doors Open has been successful in the past.
- This year the event will happen in Newton, Cloverdale and South Surrey. It will provide the public with an opportunity to tour some of the new facilities being built in Surrey including the new Operations Centre and potentially the RCMP and Courthouse.
- Cloverdale area will include places to visit such as the Heritage Museum, and the Truck Museum.
- A trolley will transport people between locations. There will be 3 or 4 trolleys.
- The SPAC is invited to have a representative on the planning committee. Planning meetings are held once a month on a Thursday between 3:00 to 4:30 pm.

2. Discussion of 2016 Fun Schedule

The Committee made the following suggestions for topics, presentation and delegations for 2016:

- Surrey Urban Aboriginal Strategy (Michelle Guerin/Sheldon Tetreault) – March or May
- Sustainability Charter Update (Anna Mathewson) – March
- Smart Hub (Jodi Sturge) – March or May
- READ Surrey/White Rock Society (TBD) - May
- Wrapping the Community around the Youth Leaving Care (Councillor LeFranc) – July
- Youth Transiting from Care (TBD) - July
- Social Innovation (TBD) – Fall
- Friends of the Grove (TBD) - Fall
- Childcare Task Force (Christine Mohr) – September

3. BC Integrated Youth Service Centre Initiative – Call for Proposals

- A call for proposals was sent out by the Province in December 2015 for 3-year funding to establish and operate a youth health centre. The Province is intending to fund five pilot centres across the province.
- Funding provided is up to \$600,000 for capital costs and up to \$500,000 annually to augment services. These centres are meant to bring together "one stop shopping" for youth ages 12 to 24 for health care, housing and other services.
- Options and Pacific Community Resources are partnering on a proposal.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

D. Toor noted there is a new Surrey Lions Club.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 2, 2016.**

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by D. Toor
Seconded by S. Dooley
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee