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**Present:**

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve  
W. Al-Jabiri  
A. Begalka  
J. Liu (Youth Representative)  
S. MacKinnon  
C. Mohr  
A. Quiroz  
L. Rhead  
D. Toor

**Absent:**

S. Dooley  
J. Sturge  
M. Shaw  
K. Thiara  
M. Tutt (Youth Representative)

**Staff Present:**

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner  
K. Patten, Social Planning  
Olga Shcherbyna, LIP Coordinator  
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes of May 18, 2016 to be adopted.

It was

Moved by A. Begalka

Seconded by D. Toor

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes

of May 18, 2016, be adopted.

Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

1. **Friends of the Grove**

David Dalley provided a presentation on the community initiative called, "Friends of The Grove".

The following information was highlighted:

- "Friends of The Grove" is a group of community members that share a common interest of art, music and the Newton community. "The Grove" is located by the Newton Recreation Centre and is host to numerous events and projects that bring fun, peace and harmony to the Newton Neighbourhood.
- Some events and projects hosted in "The Grove" in the past include:
  - Caroling in the Grove
  - Cedar Bark Poets Gatherings
  - Canada Day Celebration
  - Pay with a Poem
  - Little Free Library
  - Piano in the Grove
  - Katheren's Vigil

- The City of Surrey provided a cultural grant to artists for space and a garden area behind the Newton Recreation Centre. This project has brought together a diversity of people.
- The Chair noted that a community is built from the ground up and not from the top down and that this is the message of the experience in the Grove. The delegation was encouraged to continue to record the wonderful activities that are taking place in the Grove.
- The Chair thanked the delegation for participating in Surrey's Doors Open event and for their presentation to the Committee.

## C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

### 1. Refugee Transportation Loan Petition Update

- Councillor Villeneuve reported that she was extended an invitation to appear as a witness at a Government of Canada's Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration meeting related to the Committee's study of the Federal Government's Initiative to Resettle Syrian Refugees.
- Councillor Villeneuve and Aileen Murphy participated in the meeting via teleconference. Councillor Villeneuve's presentation focused on the refugee transportation loan and its negative impact on the integration of refugees.
- Aileen Murphy noted that presenting to the Committee was a great opportunity for Surrey to put forward its concern about the loan. A thank you letter will be forwarded to the Federal Committee.
- Councillor Villeneuve thanked everyone for their work on this important issue.

### 2. Connecting Community to Surrey Youth Leaving Care Update

Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner provided the following update:

- The Connecting Community to Surrey Youth Leaving Care project is an initiative of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition (SPRC). The Coalition received a grant from the Vancouver Foundation to research how the broader community can support the transition of youth out of care at the age of 19.
- The McCreary Centre Society compiled available information about youth in care in Surrey and the challenges youth face when leaving care in regards to homelessness, education, employment, income, physical and mental health, substance abuse, pregnancy, parenting, justice involvement, etc. McCreary prepared both a full research report and a fact sheet.
- Two workshops were held to review the research and to identify options or ways for the community to be able to help youth transition out of care. A report was developed from the first workshop.

- A group of women who were former youth in care were instrumental in the workshop as they shared what worked for them being in care and transitioning out of care.
- A final project report is being prepared. The SPRC plans to apply to the Vancouver Foundation for a grant to continue the work on this initiative.
- A public event is being organized for October 4 at City Hall. This event will feature an exhibit called the 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party.

### 3. 2016 Doors Open

Councillor Villeneuve advised that a de-brief meeting for the Doors Open event will take place in September at which time, the Committee will receive the full draft report. It was further noted that the participation at the event was good despite the heavy rain.

### 4. Social Innovation Summit & Breakfast Series

Kristin Patten, Associate Planner, provided the following update:

- The second Social Innovation Summit is scheduled for November 23. The purpose of the Summit is to bring people together to discuss innovative and creative solutions to social issues in Surrey.
- The November 23 event will consist of speakers, break-out sessions, workshops and roundtable discussions. It will provide the opportunity to learn, get engaged and to think about creative ways to approach some of the important issues. Themes will be focused on social issues that are priorities for Surrey including housing, vulnerable women, place-making and the urban Aboriginal Strategy.
- A Social Innovation Breakfast series is being held as a lead-up to the event. The next breakfast is scheduled for Sept. 21. Invitations will be sent out.

## D. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Local Immigration Partnership Presentation

Olga Shcherbyna provided a presentation on the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP).

The following information was provided:

- The LIP brings together multiple stakeholders to work together to improve immigrant/refugee integration in Surrey. The first LIP was funded 8 years ago in Ontario and the LIP in Surrey was formed in April, 2014.

- The LIP Committee; co-chaired by Anita Huberman, Surrey Board of Trade and Councillor Villeneuve, consists of representatives of approximately 30 organizations.
- The City of Surrey is the contract manager for the LIP Contribution Agreement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Recently, the contract was extended for one year (to March 31, 2017).
- The Surrey Immigrant Advisory Roundtable (IAR) was formed soon after the LIP Committee determined that participation of local immigrants in the research and planning was required. The IAR group meets bi-monthly and has done a lot of great work in the community.
- One of the main objectives of the Surrey LIP is to raise awareness and engage stakeholders and the community at large. A website was launched last year and Fact Sheets and newsletters were developed. An E-update is sent to approximately 900 subscribers.
- Another main objective of Surrey's LIP over the past two years was to conduct community based research and consultations and to develop two strategies – the first focused on newcomer immigration issues in general and the second one for refugee integration issues. The first strategy has been developed and the second strategy will be developed in fall.
- Highlights of Research Findings were as follows:
  - Surrey is perceived as a welcoming community with a strong sense of pride of its residents
  - Immigrant and non-immigrant residents have different perceptions towards immigration
  - Discrimination is an issue in the city
  - There is a lack of coordination among settlement service providers
  - A lack of English language is a major integration barrier
  - Lack of awareness among employers about the supports available to them when recruiting/hiring new immigrants
  - Multiple barriers for refugees to integrate
- The City is hosting a free event - Surrey Welcomes Refugees – July 20 City Hall Plaza from 4 pm to 7 pm.

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. All Our Relations: Phase 1 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy.
2. A Profile of the Aboriginal Population in Surrey.

3. Surrey Local Immigration Partnership Newsletter: Engaged & Inclusive: Surrey & Syria
4. Surrey Local Immigration Partnership Quick Study: Our Refugee Settlement Plan: A Progress Report on research and Consultation.
5. Corporate Report No. Ro89, April 18, 2016. Update on the Arrival of Syrian Refugees.
6. Doors Open flyer

It was

Moved by M. Shaw

Seconded by C. Mohr

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee receives

the above noted Information Items.

Carried

## H. OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. Committee Member Updates

It was reported that the City is working with Fraser Health to address the issue of fentanyl overdoses that are occurring in large numbers. The BC Centre for Disease Control is organizing a full day workshop on June 9 regarding this issue and Councillor LeFranc and Aileen Murphy will be attending. The Committee suggested that a delegation be invited to present to the Committee on the issue.

### 2. 2016 SPAC Fun Schedule

- Christine Mohr will arrange for a delegation on the Surrey Child Care Task Force to present.
- Youth Transitioning from Care Project delegation– September or November

## I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2016 in room 2E Community Room A.

## J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by D. Toor

Seconded by A. Begalka

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting

do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 6: 45 pm.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve  
Social Policy Advisory Committee