
Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor LeFranc
W. Al-Jabiri
A. Begalka
S. Dooley
C. Mohr
L. Rhead
M. Shaw
K. Thiara
D. Toor
J. Liu (Youth Representative)

Absent:

A. Quiroz
M. Tutt

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
K. Patten, Associate Planner
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes of November 2, 2016 to be adopted.

It was

Moved by D. Toor

Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes

of November 2, 2016, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Embers Staffing Solutions**

File: 4710-01

Doug Aason, Director of Recruitment and Business Development and Marcia Nozick, Founder and CEO Embers Staffing Solutions, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the non-profit staffing organization.

The following information was highlighted from the presentation:

- Embers Staffing Solutions is a well-established, non-profit Staffing Company in Vancouver. The delegation noted that Embers recently opened a new office in Surrey and is looking forward to working with the community.
- The mission of Embers is to provide workers with opportunities to earn an income, improve their skills, and advance their careers while providing companies with a reliable, professional, and socially responsible alternative to typical employment agencies.

- The delegation noted that funds raised go toward increasing wages, extended medical and dental benefits, tools and equipment, and funding for training. It was further noted that in 2016, the organization invested \$300,000 in training.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- The program is welcoming to everyone; people with barriers, youth and skilled or unskilled workers. The only requirement is that the workers do not use drugs.
- The City of Vancouver has partnered to provide summer jobs to Embers' clients with the Public Works and Operations departments.

The Committee suggested the delegation consider presenting to the Surrey Downtown Business Improvement Association, the Surrey Board of Trade and the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership.

2. Delegation Request

The delegation request received from the Surrey Food Security Collective Impact Project (Maggie Baynham) was approved by the Committee.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Surrey Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Update

- Staff advised that March 31, 2017 is the end of the 3-year LIP contract with the Federal government. Social Planning staff is in the final stages of negotiating a new 3-year LIP Contract.
- The LIP in collaboration with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship will be hosting a Citizenship Ceremony of 60 new Canadian citizens on April 12, 2017 at City Hall atrium. In addition to the official ceremony there will be roundtable discussions and a reception.
- A Refugee Youth Leadership Committee has been formed and the Committee is organizing an evening art event focused on Syrian refugees and a Youth forum on March 18, 2017.
- Staff noted that the City received \$20,000 from Community Foundations of Canada to put towards English language training for refugee youth.

2. Refugee Integration Strategic Plan Update

Staff noted that the Refugee Integration Strategic Plan (RISP) is to be released later this spring. The RISP will contain 4 key strategic directions that were identified through Simon Fraser University (SFU) research and consultations that were completed in the fall.

The four Strategic Directions of the RISP are as follows:

- 1) Investing in the potential of refugee youth;
- 2) Enhancing service capacity and coordination;
- 3) Supporting economic self-sufficiency and inclusion (reducing poverty); and,
- 4) Enhancing social inclusion (newcomers being included in the community as a whole).

The plan includes approximately 50 actions under the 4 priorities. It was noted that since the RISP it is a community plan, there will be others in the community helping take on the actions.

3. Refugee Transportation Loan (RTL)

Councillor Villeneuve provided the following update:

- Member of Parliament (MP), Randy Sarai presented the petition with (or containing) 1,000 signatures in support of eliminating the RTL to the House of Commons.
- In November, 2016 the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration conducted a study of the Syrian refugee settlement process and released a report. The Committee did not make a recommendation on the RTL program and stated that a review was already being conducted by Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada.
- A letter has been sent to new Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen requesting he review the issue; background information was provided along with a summary of the work that the SPAC has done in bringing attention to this matter.

4. True Colours of Surrey Update

- Staff noted that as part of the LIP Immigrant Strategic Plan, a telephone survey of Surrey residents was conducted. Out of the people surveyed, the majority felt that discrimination in Surrey was a problem. In response, City staff applied for anti-racism funding through a Call for Proposals by the Province and was successful. One of the deliverables of the grant was the formation of a working group to create a campaign against racism.
- A series of posters and a book of stories were created featuring a diversity of Surrey residents. The campaign is called "We are Surrey".
- The Committee noted that youth have reportedly avoided using transit for fear of racism; it was suggested that the posters be displayed at transit hubs and on buses.

5. Connector Program

- Staff noted that the Connector program is provided by the Immigrant Employment Council of BC (IECBC) and is modelled after a successful program in Halifax.
- The program enables new immigrants to Canada whom have professional skills, an opportunity to network and meet people in the Canadian workforce in their field.
- The City of Surrey Human Resources department is a sponsor of the Program and is on its third group of 15 employees at a time.

- Staff noted that if any member organization would like to hear a presentation re: Connector Program, to contact Aileen Murphy or Olga Shcherbyna in Social Planning. The LIP hopes that other large employers in Surrey will also participate in the Connector Program.

6. Surrey Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy Update

Councillor LeFranc provided the following update:

- The final draft of Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Indigenous Social Innovation Strategy is nearing completion.
- A Corporate Report is expected go to Council later this spring.

7. Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition Update

Staff reported that a progress report of achievements from 2012-2016 showcasing the work of the Coalition is almost complete.

8. Connecting Community to Youth Leaving Care

- Staff reported that Alice Sundberg submitted an application for a grant through the Vancouver Foundation and was successful. The grant is for 2+ years and focusses on Youth Transitioning out of Care. The second phase includes hiring a project manager and identifying other funding sources.
- It was noted that an anonymous donor provided \$10,000 for this project as well.

9. Metro Vancouver Homeless Count

- Staff reported that there are 250 volunteers available to do the count on March 7 -8, 2017.
- The City has provided support by having staff from various departments (eg. Bylaws, Parks) identify locations where homeless people might be found. Staff have also signed up to volunteer for the count.
- The Committee expressed concern about the homelessness count not being inclusive of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ) community. Staff noted that the homeless count survey does ask questions related to sexuality and gender identity, and this information will be included in the final technical report.

10. Social Innovation Summit Update

Councillor LeFranc provided the following update:

- The planning of the 2017 Summit is underway and potential speakers and streams of programming are being identified. One of the items raised at the meeting is how to make the event accessible to students; it was suggested consideration be given to also hosting evening sessions.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Funding for Social Planning Department**

The Committee suggested that a motion be considered to advocate for more resources for the Social Planning department. The City of Vancouver has 17 planners and Surrey is almost the same population of Vancouver and has only 2 planners. It was further noted that an actual budget should be dedicated to cover expenses for meetings, printing, or hiring consultants.

The Vice Chair noted that funding for these expenses currently come from project budgets; however, a global budget is needed.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS****H. OTHER BUSINESS****1. SPAC Committee Membership Update**

It was Moved by D. Toor
Seconded by A. Begalka
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)
appoint Stephen Dooley as the Simon Fraser University representative to the SPAC.
Carried

2. Committee Member Updates

- June Liu: "Surrey Steps Up" event will be at the City Hall atrium from 6 pm to 10 pm on Friday, March 3, 2017.
- Aimee Begalka: Surrey KPU is hosting an Open House on Saturday, March 4 from 11 am to 3 pm.
- Christine Mohr: On February 1, Options became the owner and operator of the Ted Kuhn towers which is 27 floors and has 423 units of Social Housing.
- Michelle Shaw: The funding for the Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls Working Group is running out. It was noted that the committee is working on writing grants to secure more funding.

3. 2017 SPAC Fun Schedule - Review agenda for May meeting

- The Committee suggested the SPAC meeting be moved to May 10 or May 17.
- Invite Food Collective Group as a delegation as per the Committee's approval.
- The "Fun Schedule" to be reviewed at the following meeting to include the new SPAC members and discuss any new ideas.

4. Indigenous Youth Representative to SPAC

Staff noted that an ad had been posted on the City website advertising for the Indigenous Youth Representative to the SPAC.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Advisory Committee meeting will be confirmed with staff for May 10 or 17, 2017.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Shaw

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.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee