

**Present:**

Councillor Villeneuve, Chair  
Councillor LeFranc, Vice-Chair  
C. Mohr  
M. Bains  
M. Dhillon  
M. Schaafsma  
N. Chima  
R. Gunderson  
W. Al-Jabiri

**Absent:**

A. Begalka  
D. Jimeno  
K. Thiara  
M. Shaw

**Staff Present:**

A. Murphy, Senior Planner  
K. Patten, Social Planner  
O. Shcherbyna, Planner  
C. Eagles, Administrative Assistant

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of May 2, 2018.

It was Moved by C. Mohr  
Seconded by R. Gunderson  
That the minutes of the Social Policy  
Advisory Committee meeting held May 2, 2018 be adopted as presented.  
Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS****C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS****D. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **SPAC/ Immigrant Advisory Roundtable (IAR)**

Staff noted both the Social Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) and the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership's (LIP) Immigrant Advisory Roundtable (IAR) attract committed Surrey residents that are passionate about volunteering on key social issues that affect the community.

The two Committees met together for a one-time informal 'Roundtable' meeting which provided them an opportunity to discuss individual experiences as members, and exchange ideas and insights as to how the City and the LIP can best understand the commitment and energy of volunteer members.

The Roundtable provided an opportunity for SPAC and IAR members to connect with each other as Surrey residents.

Staff outlined the role and mandate of the SPAC Committee and described its many achievements and initiatives.

The Surrey Immigrant Advisory Roundtable (IAR) is part of the governance structure and is a standing committee of the Surrey LIP. Surrey LIP is a community collaboration of over 30 organizations working together to make Surrey more welcoming and inclusive of new immigrants and refugees. Surrey LIP is funded by the federal government (Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada-IRCC).

Surrey IAR was formed in 2014 to provide input to the research and the development of Surrey's Immigrant and Refugees Strategies and be the newcomer voice on the LIP. Surrey IAR has since undertaken a number of activities aimed to advance the actions from the Surrey LIP's Immigrant and Refugee strategies.

Attendees of SPAC and the IAR formed small groups and discussed the following questions:

1. What attracted you to being on the SPAC or IAR? What did you hope to get out of it?
2. What have been some highlights of being on the SPAC or IAR? What made it a highlight? (can bring in examples from other volunteer committees)
3. What have been some of the challenges?
4. What is your advice about making involvement in these Committees meaningful?

The main themes from the small groups were shared and discussed as follows:

#### **What attracted you to join?**

- Having a voice on important social issues in Surrey was a key factor in inspiring members to join the SPAC and IAR.
- The SPAC and IAR help to give people in Surrey the opportunity to achieve their potential.
- Being a member provides an opportunity to learn, and to give back to the community.
- The events that the IAR has organized in the past showed what a difference members could make; this was a great attraction to join the IAR.

#### **Highlights**

- On the IAR, it has been a highlight to learn from the diversity of 19 nationalities at the table. On the SPAC, there is a wide diversity of backgrounds, ages, skills and interests.
- The SPAC guided the nominations for the Heart in the City awards – this was a highlight to be part of this as SPAC members.
- The opportunity to have a voice on important issues at the City has been a highlight for SPAC and IAR members.
- The community delegations that present to the SPAC and the IAR have been a highlight, as an opportunity to learn, connect and be inspired by projects happening in the community.

## Challenges & Opportunity

- Members identified that they want to ensure that both Committees maximize time together during meetings.
- Ensuring younger generation voices are heard is a challenge given the current membership of both Committees.
- There is an opportunity to share data and information with members at the SPAC and IAR.
- Members identified the challenge and opportunity of understanding their impact as Committee members. Some members were clear on how their participation is contributing to change and is of value to the City, and shared examples of how members were able to provide good advice and make an impact. However, other members are looking for a better understanding of their role and contributions.
- There could be an opportunity for mentorship between Committee members– for example, experienced Committee members could mentor newer members. This could help new members understand the role of the Committee, and their place on it.
- Measuring progress and the results of the Committee could help to better evaluate and describe the contributions of the SPAC and IAR.

## Advice

- Find meaningful projects or areas where SPAC and IAR members can contribute.
- To keep members engaged, have a clear workplan that identifies goals and priorities.
- There is a wide variety of skills at the table – engage Committee members with a view to accessing these skills

## E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

## F. CORRESPONDENCE

## G. INFORMATION ITEMS

## H. OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. Year Review

Councillor LeFranc noted that Councillor Villeneuve is not seeking re-election, and that this is her last SPAC meeting and highlighted the following:

Councillor Villeneuve is the longest serving Councillor on Surrey City Council, having served for 29 years. Councillor Villeneuve has advocated for smart city growth, balancing building infrastructure with retaining green space. As Chair of the Social Policy Committee, Councillor Villeneuve has been a long-time

champion of the homeless, establishing the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society Foundation.

Councillor Villeneuve was acknowledged and thanked for her time serving on the Social Policy Advisory Committee, the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership and Council.

**I. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Social Policy Advisory Committee will be determined at a later date.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by C. Mohr

Seconded by R. Gunderson

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Councillor Villeneuve, Chair