

Present:

Chairperson – Councillor Villeneuve
L. Coyle
G. Gill
Dr. Z. Malik
G. Dean

Absent:

Councillor M. Martin
K. Ardawa
D. Chattha
M. Chatwin
S. Dooley
R. Mehta

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
M. McCargar, Planning Technician
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

Also Present:

John Anderson, ACORN

Round table introductions were provided.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by Z. Malik
Seconded by G. Gill
That Social Planning Advisory Committee

minutes of November 24, 2011, be approved.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

- John Anderson, Association of Community Organizations (ACORN) Canada** appeared as a delegation to present on their Healthy Homes Campaign.
File No. 3900-01

Also in attendance were 12 residents from several rental apartment buildings in North Surrey.

Sue Collard provided the following comments:

- There are two questions –
 - *Can the City afford the loss of affordable housing?*
 - *Can the City of Surrey condone what is currently happening to tenants?*
- ACORN is an organization of 35,000 plus members across the country. They work to bring issues into a public forum. Housing is a concern for ACORN across the county with ongoing work underway in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, New Westminster, Burnaby and Surrey.
 - The purpose-built rental housing stock is aging, with little or no affordable housing having been built in the last couple of decades.
- Repair issues - include mold and water damage, insects and pests, and lack of basic maintenance. Issue is lack of repairs and length of time it takes to get the repairs done. For example, tenants have talked of repairs not being done for 9 months to 2 years.

- Taking a landlord to the Residential Tenancy Branch can result in the tenant being harassed and threatened with eviction by the landlord. Sue Collard lives in a building that is badly in need of repairs. In the past 2 years, she has brought her concerns to the RTB and the Supreme Court. The owners were found in breach, but have still failed to meet the order to repair. The suite still leaks and is not a pleasant place to be.
- A Standards of Maintenance would be useful since it involves an actual inspection. (RTB process does not include any on-site inspection so tenant must provide proof/evidence.) It would put a buffer between the tenant and landlord.

Councillor Villeneuve requested a copy of the delegate's notes for attaching to the minutes. She reported that representatives of this Committee have met with the Executive Director of the RTB and can see the limitations of the RTB process in addressing tenants' issues.

Handouts of *Problems seen in Surrey's rental apartment buildings* were provided on table.

Trouble for Rent is about corporate landlords in Canada. It will be aired January 20, 2012 on Market Place on CBC.

(Post meeting note: The CBC Marketplace episode: *Trouble for Rent*, is available to watch online: <http://www.cbc.ca/marketplace/2012/troubleforrent/>)

Discussion and further information:

- John Anderson will contact his allies in Toronto and east York to look into what other cities have done to deal with the liability issue.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the delegation. The delegation departed at 7:47 pm.

There was further discussion about the meeting with the RTB and the limitations of the RTB adjudication process.

- Social Planning staff has done some background research on others cities' Standards of Maintenance Bylaws.
- Concern was expressed over the deterioration of current rental stock.
- The Crime Free Multi-Family Housing Program was raised - is there an opportunity to link with this program in some way?

It was

Moved by G. Dean

Seconded by Z. Malik

That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee request staff to bring components of possible Standards of Maintenance Bylaw back to the table for discussion.

Carried

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Poverty Project ("*this*" is how we end poverty in Surrey)

File No. 5080-01

"this"

- Stephen Dooley, Councillor Villeneuve, Aileen Murphy, and Marlis McCargar are involved in the working group for this initiative.
- Fact sheets will be finished in the next few weeks.
- A Community Forum will be held on March 30. SPAC members will be invited.

2. Doors Open

File No. 8000-01

The subcommittee met today. A list of a possible 60 sites, mostly in the City Centre and Newton areas, was provided. The list will be narrowed down to 30 sites.

- Event date: Saturday, June 23, 2012
- The Doors Open budget is \$50,000.
- Application fee will be \$25 for individuals and \$50 for groups.
- Invitations requesting participation to go out to groups in February 2012.

3. Advocacy to eliminate the Transportation Loan Program for government assisted refugees (GARs)

File No. 5080-01; 0220-05

Councillor Villeneuve reported that she and Aileen Murphy met with Surrey's two new MPs, Jinny Sims and Jas Sandhu, to let them know of the Transportation Loan issue. They also met with Don Davies, MP for Vancouver Kingsway and the Opposition Critic for Citizenship and Immigration. Councillor Villeneuve will continue to meet/communicate with federal politicians of all parties on this important issue.

4. Committee Members' Updates

Linda Coyle –

- Third Age Learning at Kwantlen (*TALK*) - a book
 - The program is very low cost for people over 50. All the presenters are volunteers who are well known in their area of expertise.
- YWCA Volunteer Mentorship Opportunities - "*that's just me*" -
 - This after-school program will be offered by the YWCA in elementary schools throughout Surrey for grade 7 girls to prepare them for the transition to high school.
 - Looking for mentors called "wisdom champions", plus college level facilitators. Application deadline is January 27, 2012.
- Linda is taking her annual trip to Mexico at the end of February. She is delivering wheelchairs to people in Mexico.

Zanbka Malik –

- PICS has been fund-raising for Harmony House; this facility will provide safe second-stage housing for women fleeing violence. The opening is tomorrow, January 20, 2012.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Corporate Report R004 – Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning.
2. Corporate Report R218 – Extreme Weather Response Plan for Surrey - Temperature Considerations
3. Corporate Report R226 - Application for a Grant under the UBCM Age-Friendly Community Planning & Project Program.
4. Vancouver Sun, November 18, 2011 – Indomitable Spirit of ESL Students inspired Burnaby Principal to Pen Book.
5. SPAC 2012 Meeting Schedule

It was

Moved by Z. Malik

Seconded by G. Dean

That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee receive the information items for information.

Carried

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee – 7:00pm on March 29, 2012

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Z. Malik

Seconded by G. Dean

That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee meeting do now (wrap up and) adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee