



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2004
Time: 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Chair: Councillor Hunt
Mayor McCallum
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Tymoschuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Priddy
Councillor Watts
Councillor Higginbotham

Councillors Entering the Meeting in Progress:

Councillor Bose

Staff Present:

City Manager
City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR

A. DELEGATIONS

1. John Stark John Talbot & Associates Inc. File: 5080-01; 0550-20-10

Annie McKittrick, Surrey Social Futures Society, and John Stark, John Talbot & Associates, were in attendance to share the findings of the Surrey Homelessness Plan and to answer any questions Council may have with respect to the Surrey Homelessness Plan.

Annie McKittrick provided the following comments:

- That the Surrey Homelessness Plan was developed through the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force comprised of residents, federal government, business, labour, and religious organizations, as well as the City of Surrey's Social Planner and Councillor Villeneuve.
- That she extended thanks to Council and the City for its participation and support.
- That homelessness is a significant issue in the community and impacts everyone.

Councillor Bose entered the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

John Stark then provided the following comments:

- That the Task Force's preferred definition of homelessness encompasses the following two components: absolute homelessness refers to people who are living with no physical shelter and people who are at-risk of homelessness refers to people who are living in spaces or situations that do not meet basic health and safety standards, do not provide for security of tenure or personal safety and are not affordable.

- That the Surrey Homelessness Plan was developed by the Surrey Homeless and Housing Task Force, which included representation from over 30 agencies and organizations in Surrey.
- That the Surrey Homelessness Plan builds on an earlier needs assessment study of the homeless through two 24-hour counts of the homeless, and a major forum on homelessness and housing as well as contributions of the Task Force members.
- That the Surrey Homelessness Plan includes recommended actions, a communication strategy, preliminary implementation strategy and a monitoring and evaluation plan.
- That the goal of the Surrey Homelessness Plan is to develop a continuum of housing, income and support framework in Surrey to assist people who are homeless to move out of the cycle of homelessness and to prevent people who are at-risk from becoming homeless.
- That the extent of homelessness in Surrey indicates that between 200 and 250 persons are absolutely homeless based on two 24-hour counts.
- That there are 24,110 people or 8,535 households at risk of homelessness.
- That the number of shelter less homeless people sleeping outdoors or in a drop in center was higher in Surrey than for any other municipality in the GVRD, including Vancouver, implying there are far few shelter beds in Surrey than in Vancouver.
- That profile information collected for absolutely homeless people, based on daytime component, indicated that of the 108 people counted, 85 or 78.7% were male and 23 or 21.3% were female and that the average age was 39.5 years and the range was from 14 to 68 years.
- That most homeless people (80 or 74.1%) lived alone and the majority (75 or 69.4%) reported that their last permanent housing was located in Surrey.
- That as for time spent being homeless, 48 or 44.5% reported they had been homeless for more than six months and most people reported at least one health condition, with 61.5% citing an addiction, 39.5% citing a medical condition and 27.5% citing mental illness, and a number of people had both.
- That the goal is to assist homeless persons to achieve both employment and housing.
- That 10 gaps in facilities and services to assist homeless people in Surrey were identified as follows: year-round, minimum barrier emergency shelter beds; emergency shelter beds for men and/or women with children; safe house beds for youth who are homeless or street involved; second stage housing for people who are homeless and women and children fleeing abuse; supported housing for people dealing with addiction, mental illness and other health problems; non-market housing for single adults who are homeless; employment program for deeply entrenched homeless and multi-barriered men and women; availability, currency and reliability of information; outreach services; and treatment services for people dealing with addiction.
- That as part of the framework solutions to homelessness are based on the following three interrelated elements: a continuum of housing, adequate income, and support services such as food banks, soup kitchens, outreach and detox facilities, outpatient and residential treatment services to treat persons with addictions and/or mental health addictions.

- That the proposal under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) Extension Program, targets Surrey residents and would fund \$2,466,948 to provide additional addiction services beds (18), transitional housing units (37), additional safe house beds (4) for youth, upgrade to Gateway Shelter, expanded outreach services for youth, and expanded support services.
- That Atira Women's Resource Society and the Elizabeth Fry Society received partial funding for their proposals.
- That if the SCPI funding is not renewed, the Task Force believes a sustainable source of funding is needed in which to implement the plan by developing year-round, minimum barrier shelter beds; developing additional safe house beds for youth; developing detox beds; monitoring the stock of affordable rental housing and researching ways to preserve and enhance it; developing partnerships and a sustainable source of funding in which to implement the plan.

Annie McKittrick then highlighted three recommendations:

- That Council officially endorse the Surrey Homelessness Plan and use the plan as services are developed in Surrey;
- That Council assist the Task Force in the implementation of its priorities; and
- That Council host a meeting with other levels of government and the Task Force so that the identified priorities may be achieved.

2. Harold Logan, Committee Chairperson
Ocean Park Community Hall
Ed Fader and Alan McInnes
File: 6800-10; 0550-20-10

Harold Logan, Committee Chairperson, Ocean Park Community Hall, Ed Fader, and Alan McInnes were in attendance to make a presentation with respect to the renovation of Ocean Park Community Hall and to seek Council's endorsement for the project.

Harold Logan then provided the following comments:

- That he represents the Ocean Park Community Association, which has been in operation since 1925.
- That the Association received donations of land and materials to build the Ocean Park Community Hall at that time.
- That the Hall has been renovated and added on over the years and remains functional.
- That public meetings, seniors' events, weddings, private parties, religious services, exercise and dance classes are held at the Hall, as well as serving as a polling station during elections.
- That it is operated by the local Association resulting in no obligation for operations on the part of the City.

- That the hall is in need of upgrading, particularly the heating and electrical systems, kitchen, office, cloakroom, and storage areas, and upon request from the Association, Mr. Logan drew up initial plans for the upgrades.
- That the Association will be putting forward an application for a building permit.
- That initial estimated costs to upgrade the facility are estimated at approximately \$250,000.
- That the Hon. Gordon Hogg, MLA, Minister of Children and Family Development, has endorsed the Association's plans to seek funding for the upgrade.
- That the Association seeks Council's endorsement for the project through a letter of support and requests that Council provide assistance in undertaking the grading and paving of the parking lot.

Councillor Higginbotham made the suggestion that the Association pursue registration on the Surrey Heritage Register.

Councillor Villeneuve then made the suggestion that the Association approach various service groups for funding opportunities.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Tymoschuk

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Chairperson