



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2003
Time: 3:30 p.m.

Present:

Acting Chair - Councillor Watts
Mayor McCallum
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Tymoschuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Bose
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Higginbotham

Councillors Entering Meeting as Indicated:

Councillor Priddy

Staff Present:

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

A. CORPORATE REPORTS

1. The Corporate Reports, under date of January 13, 2003, were considered and dealt with as follows:

Item No. C001 Framework of Activities in Support of the Social Well
Being of the City's Residents
File: 4815-20 (Affordable Housing)

The General Manager, Planning & Development submitted a report concerning the framework of activities in support of the social well being of the City's residents.

The General Manager, Planning & Development then provided a brief presentation and recommended approval of the recommendations outlined in his report.

Councillor Priddy entered the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Before the question was called, Councillor Bose requested that recommendation No. 3 be removed from the main motion.

The Chair advised that the following portion of the motion would be dealt with under the next report on the agenda, namely Corporate Report No. C002:

- “3. Continue to provide funding assistance for housing only through the City’s Home Ownership Assistance Program and continue to insist that the senior levels of government take on the full responsibilities of their social mandate and provide funding to meet the social housing needs of Surrey’s residents, particularly in non-ownership forms of housing and accommodation.”

It was
Moved by Mayor McCallum
Seconded by Councillor Hunt
That Council:

1. Receive the report as information;
2. Endorse the activities listed in Appendix 1 as the policy framework for the City's on-going involvement in support of the social well being of the City's residents; and
3. Consider, as part of the 2003 annual budgeting process, expanding the Social Planner role in the Planning and Development Department from a half time position to a full time position with the additional time being primarily dedicated to:
 - research and policy development with a view to implementing a broader range of crime prevention measures in conjunction with planning for an approval and construction of new growth and development within the City; and
 - acting as a "champion" of the social needs of the City's residents by monitoring opportunities and by liaising with appropriate community groups and government agencies to motivate these various agencies to act upon the social needs and interests of the City's residents, in a coordinated and timely manner.

Carried

It was
Moved by Councillor Higginbotham
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That Corporate Report No. C001 be referred
to the Public Safety Committee for comment with respect to Council
Initiatives.

Carried

Item No. C002 Home Ownership Assistance Program
File: 4815-20 (Affordable Housing)

The General Manager, Planning & Development submitted a report concerning the Home Ownership Assistance Program.

The General Manager, Planning & Development made a brief presentation and recommended approval of the recommendations outlined in his report.

Gary Charles, Regional Manager, Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation was in attendance and reported the following:

- That he had administered the Home Ownership Assistance Program over the first two years and there are indications that adjustments are needed.
- That a number of pre-approved potential homeowners found a limited amount of product on the market and in their preferred location.
- That a housing program takes a period of time for community, individuals and professionals working the field to gain understanding of program.
- That 2002 was more successful in attracting real estate and mortgage professionals to take an active interest in program.
- That there are currently more than 20 clients approved, another 20 clients working toward the final stages of approval, and 6 clients who have gone through with home purchases.
- That clients may have difficulties with the short timeframe to make arrangements to re-organize personal finances or priorities to set up a down payment.
- That, without the program, most clients would have had to wait at least another five years to be in a position to acquire a home.
- That the program has received over 500 enquiries this year and 280 first stage information packages were sent out.
- That there is opportunity for research.
- That the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation is a non-profit organization, which has a large asset base but not the availability to take cash flows from that asset base.
- That the City of Toronto has developed an affordable housing program, and any funds that are recovered are reinvested to develop more affordable housing without requiring large amounts of government funding.
- That Vancity Enterprises and Columbia Housing, both non-profit organizations, have indicated interest in partnering to look at ways to develop affordable housing, both rental and home ownership.

Before the question was called, Councillor Bose asked that each recommendation be voted upon separately.

The Chair indicated that each recommendation would then be divided.

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham
That Council:

1.

Receive the report for information.
Carried

2. Approve the extension of the Home Ownership Assistance Policy (the “Policy”) and related Home Ownership Assistance Program (the “Program”) for a three-year period beyond the expiry of the current policy, which concludes in February 2003.
Carried with Councillors Bose, Villeneuve and Priddy against.
3. Authorize staff to negotiate an agreement with the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation (“GVHC”) to administer the Program for the three year extension with similar provisions to the agreement between the City and GVHC for administration of Phase Two of the Program, with the new agreement to be forwarded to Council for approval; and
Carried with Councillor Bose, Villeneuve and Priddy against.
4. Direct that staff submit an annual report to Council, for each calendar year of the extended program, by the end of February of the following calendar year; and
Carried with Councillor Bose against.
5. Continue to provide funding assistance for housing only through the City’s Home Ownership Assistance Program and continue to insist that the senior levels of government take on the full responsibilities of their social mandate and provide funding to meet the social housing needs of Surrey’s residents, particularly in non-ownership forms of housing and accommodation.
Carried with Councillors Bose, Priddy and Villeneuve against.

Item No. C003 Heritage Management Plan
File: 6800-20 (HMP); 6800-01 (HAC)

The General Manager, Planning & Development submitted a report concerning the Heritage Management Plan.

The General Manager, Planning & Development was recommending approval of the recommendations outlined in his report.

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham
That Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Receive, as information, the Heritage Management Plan, Part 1 and Part 2, attached as Appendix I; and
3. Adopt the Heritage Management Plan Implementation Strategy documented in Appendix II as a framework for implementation of the Heritage Management Plan.

Carried

Councillor Higginbotham introduced members of the Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission who were in attendance.

B. DELEGATIONS

The Chair advised that the agenda order would be varied.

2. Rock Chalifour Addiction Treatment Advocacy Group File: 4900-03; 0550-20-10

Rock Chalifour, Addiction Treatment Advocacy Group was in attendance to make a presentation regarding facts surrounding the costs of the disease of addiction and proposed alternatives to cutting services for treatment, while still addressing the fiscal reality of budget constraints.

Mr. Chalifour, Addiction Treatment Advocacy, reported the following:

- That he is a nurse at the Psychiatric Unit at the Royal Columbian Hospital and represents a group of professional, private citizens advocating for a more effective treatment of addictions.
- That the disease of addiction is well above epidemic proportions.
- That he asks that Council support the Addiction Treatment Advocacy Group by sending a letter to the Fraser Health Authority Board of Directors requesting no further cuts in the addictions budget until other sources of funding are explored.
- That the Fraser Health Authority spent in excess of \$440 million on treating the illnesses and injuries associated with addiction.
- That only \$13.2 million is spent to actually treat the disease of addiction itself.
- That the Fraser Health Authority's first action with the new responsibility for the treatment of addiction is to reduce the monies spent on treatment by \$750,000.00.

- That in addition to the cost to health care the disease of addictions has direct cost in the police, courts and penal system as well as the disability pension and social service systems, costs in excess of an additional \$500 million to manage the criminal behaviours often precipitated by the disease.

It was

Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That Council:

1. Request that the Fraser Health Authority not cut or reduce the number of in-patient detox beds or recovery beds prior to consulting with the Municipal Councils to assess the alternatives;
2. Consider the possibility of a public/public partnership and help the Fraser Health Authority assist citizens and reduce crime rates;
3. Urge the Fraser Health Authority to explore other external sources of funding for addiction treatment, such as: Provincial Drug and Mental Health Court programs, Federal Research monies for Mental Health and Addictions, and private sources, including individuals and fund raising in partnership with community organizations, businesses, and foundations;
4. That the Fraser Health Authority develop a plan of addressing the recommendations of the LMMA Addictions Strategy Committee and former Provincial Coroner Cain's report on addiction fatalities and implement research based treatment options;
5. Encourage the Fraser Health Authority, when developing a plan for addictions treatment, to consult with interested psychiatrists and addictions specialists in the area in a meaningful manner, so that the needs of the addict population can be effectively met; and
6. Refer the matter to the Drug-Crime Task Force for review.

Carried

The original agenda order then resumed.

1. **Deborah Hauptman**
Whalley Business Improvement Area (BIA)
File: 0550-20-10; 0250-20-WBA

Deborah Hauptman, Director, Whalley Business Association and Executive Director of the Surrey Rehabilitation Society, was in attendance to provide an update on the proposed Whalley Business Improvement Area (BIA) and to outline a continuing partnership with the City of Surrey.

Ms. Hauptman reported the following:

- That the vision of the BIA is to create a vibrant, safe and livable downtown area.
- That the BIA was incorporated in January 2002, has a volunteer based Board of Directors and 45 members.
- That the purpose of the BIA is to promote and encourage trade and commerce in the Whalley area.
- That downtown revitalization only works when local business groups come together as one cohesive group to provide a larger voice and effective interests of individual bus and property owners.
- That the BIA works with all levels of government as partners in the community revitalization process
- That the BIA has forged a strong relation with local MLAs, MPs and local government through funding assistance and have a consultant to assist in developing a formal BIA proposal.
- That the BIA has recruited a base of volunteers to help with the activities and administrative support through HRDC job creation funding through the Surrey Social Futures Society.
- That the BIA has held numerous meetings, a vision workshop, public information meetings, and small group meetings.
- That the BIA will be holding a public information meeting on January 15, 2003 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Orthodox Church in Whalley.
- That the BIA has prepared a formal BIA proposal and distributed information to approximately 1200 business and property owners and received positive feedback.
- That the BIA has undertaken a survey as to the formal Business Improvement Application and received responses from 50 property owners and 29 business owners.
- That the BIA is addressing social issues such as prostitution, drugs, crime, homelessness, vagrancy, and garbage removal.
- That the BIA would request that Council consider providing funding in the amount of \$11,500 to complete the community outreach process and finalize BIA proposal.

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham
That the matter be referred to the Finance

Committee for review.

Carried

3. Pakhar & Manjeet Chohan
File: 4000-01; 0550-20-10

Pakhar & Manjeet Chohan, were in attendance to object to the fine levied by the City of Surrey against their property located at 13683 Grosvenor Road.

Mr. Chohan reported the following:

- That he owns the property and had rented the house out to a certain party after checking the renters' references.
- That the renters were a good family and maintained the property.
- That the neighbours did not report any difficulties with the renters at first.
- That he discovered new people living in the basement and there were reports of noise disturbance, which resulted in the basement renters moving out.
- That the renter asked Mr. Chohan if he would rent the basement to his relatives.
- That in November 2002 the renter notified Mr. Chohan that the police were at the home.
- That Mr. Chohan attended and was told by the RCMP there was a grow operation in the basement and upper floor bedrooms of the house.
- That he has received an invoice from the City of Surrey to recover the costs of emergency services in taking down the grow operation.

It was

Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham
That Council receive the information

submitted by Mr. Chohan.

Carried

C. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. Committees, Boards & Commissions - Alternate Members

File: 0540-10

At the December 9, 2002 Regular Council - Public Hearing meeting, Council referred this matter to Council-in-Committee for discussion.

It was

Moved by Councillor Higginbotham
Seconded by Councillor Tymoschuk
That the matter be deferred to the next

Council-in-Committee meeting.

Carried

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Tymoschuk

Seconded by Councillor Hunt

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Chairperson