



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2004
Time: 4:15 p.m.

Present:

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

Absent:

Councillor Higginbotham

Staff Present:

City Manager
City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
Assistant City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR
Interim General Manager, Parks, Recreation
& Culture

A. DELEGATIONS

1. Penny Coates, Coordinator Surrey/White Rock Make Children First File: 5120-01; 0550-20-10

Penny Coates, Coordinator, Surrey/White Rock Make Children First, was in attendance to discuss issues regarding the health, well-being and learning of children, and to share ideas with respect to ways the City could work closely with other local agencies to ensure positive outcomes for young children and their families and to become known as a "child and family friendly" community.

The following comments were then provided:

- The "Surrey/White Rock Make Children First" organization is active in over 30 communities across B.C. and locally sponsored in B.C. by the Surrey/White Rock Child and Youth Committee which focuses on the health, wellbeing and learning potential of children during their first 6 years of age.
- In just one year, Surrey/White Rock Make Children First has grown to include representatives from over 40 community groups and partners who are committed to health care, safety, and sense of community for children and family.
- Surrey/White Rock Make Children First recently released a report titled "Valuing Our Children: Taking First Steps Together" which stands as a blueprint for action focusing on first steps that communities can take to support the health, wellbeing and learning of children during their first six years of life.
- This report was developed in partnership with 42 local agencies including input from representatives from School District 36, City of Surrey, Fraser Health Authority, Aboriginal groups, Immigrant and Refugee organizations, social workers, childcare workers, people working with special needs children, recreation programmers, family resource providers, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development as well as feedback from over 600 families.

- Research indicates that early childhood development is extremely important as over 90% of brain development occurs by the time a child reaches six years of age.
- Children who experience good health, loving care, positive relationships and play-based, language-enriched learning prior to school entry have distinct advantages and increased chances for lifelong success.
- There is a clear correlation between adverse experiences during early years and the need for remedial and crisis intervention during adolescence.
- The City of Surrey, through its neighbourhood playgrounds, preschool programs at the Public Library and Parks, Recreation and Culture, and community planning initiatives have had a significant, positive impact on the lives of young children.
- Surrey's rapid growth and change is creating new challenges and tensions for families with young children.
- The organization participates in various projects such as mobile child-minding, a South Asian project under VERSA, and is involved with the Aboriginal community in a mentorship project between elders and families.
- The Surrey/White Rock Make Children First organization sees the City as a key partner in early childhood development planning and service delivery to make Surrey a great place for children and families and draws attention to the importance of recognizing increased needs of very young children in the proposed Surrey Plan for Social Well-Being.
- The Surrey/White Rock Make Children First organization has specific concerns regarding land use development, urban design, transportation planning, community amenity space planning, recreation, culture and library services, and crime prevention which need to be addressed to better support the needs of young children and their families in Surrey.
- Public amenity space is hard to find when trying to open the Newton Family Resource plan as childcare is bogged down with by-law and zoning requirements.
- Early engagement with sports, recreational and cultural activities are not just a matter of leisure but are integral to supporting later school participation and a proactive harm reduction strategy.
- Planning family friendly community gathering spaces at the neighbourhood level encourages information neighbourhood and multi-generational support and builds a strong sense of community, taking away a heavy reliance on service delivery.
- Almost 5,000 babies are born in Surrey every year, and when compounded over the pre-school years and adding new residents, there will be over 30,000 children under the age of 6 in Surrey; a larger number than the total population of many Canadian cities. These children rely on the support of their families and communities. Municipal governments play a significant role in the shaping of their community experience.
- There are deep pockets of need hidden among much affluence in Surrey with too many children, across the socio-economic spectrum, not doing as well as they should, with 1 in 4 children vulnerable in at least one area of development upon arrival in kindergarten.

- It makes sense to look at the cost effectiveness of early childhood development programs to prevent later remedial, crisis and criminal justice intervention.
- Council is encouraged to work closely with key public partners like the School District, Fraser Health Authority, the Ministry of Children and Family Development and other players like Health Canada, to explore ways that policy, funding and service delivery decisions related to early childhood development, can be more effectively coordinated, existing resources used most efficiently, and the needs of young children in Surrey clearly articulated and championed within senior levels of government and the broader public domain.

The Surrey/White Rock Make Children First organization asks Council to:

- provide their report "Valuing Our Children: Taking First Steps Together" to the Surrey Social Well-Being Committee and consultants who are developing the City's plan for social well-being, and that they be directed to consider the issues and recommendations included.
- direct staff to explore the range of early childhood development strategies that fall within the City mandate and those requiring collaboration with community and public partners, and then to report back to Council with recommendations for City action.
- direct staff, within the context of the Whalley initiative, to consider specific strategies, in consultation with the community and other public partners, that would reduce barriers of access to service, build neighbourhood cohesion, and enhance positive outcomes for children under the age of six.
- give consideration to ways that they can become active champions for the needs of Surrey's youngest citizens, recognizing that an investment in young children and their families is a long term investment in the social and economic vitality of Surrey as a whole.
- bring expertise, resources, spheres of influence and "can do" spirit to the table and work with families, community groups, and other public partners to make Surrey a place where young children are truly valued, parents are truly supported and families are healthy.

2. Jeff Welch
United Way Committee
File: 0550-20-10

Jeff Welch, United Way Committee was in attendance to make a presentation regarding the "United Way Campaign Goals".

Jeff Welch provided the following comments:

- City of Surrey employees raised \$194,200 for the United Way last year.
- The City of Vancouver has 8,000 employees compared to Surrey's 1,500 employees and only raised \$185,000.

- The City of Surrey received the United Way Award of Excellence for receiving five gold awards consecutively.
- The goal for the next United Way campaign is to raise \$200,000.
- Some City staff members took part in the "Day of Caring" program, taking a day of vacation in order to help paint a 1,200 sq. ft. building housing the Atira Women's Resource Centre.
- The United Way Committee thanks the Mayor, Council members, Senior Management, and employees for supporting the United Way Campaign.

3. Michel Pouliot
Manager of Youth Services - Surrey
Pacific Community Resources Society
(formerly known as Nisha Family and Children's Services Society)
File: 5120-01; 0550-20-10

Michel Pouliot, Manager of Youth Services - Surrey, Pacific Community Resources Society, was in attendance to make a presentation on the new structure of Youth Services in Surrey.

Ruth Annis, Executive Director of Pacific Community Resources Society, provided the following comments:

- The Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD) has restructured youth services and identified Pacific Community Resources, through a tender process, as the delivery agent for youth services in Surrey.
- Pacific Community Resources (PCR) plans to integrate youth and family services within integrated, accessible and user friendly Youth Resource Centres which are well known to youth, families, and others and built on community collaboration.
- The PCR has partnered with Options and others to offer a full range of services to the community and with the support of funding from MCFD and the Fraser Health Region, have begun to implement these services as of September 1, 2004.
- PCR is seeking building permit approval for two proposed sites in Newton and Whalley.
- PCR has been delivering services in the lower mainland since 1990 and is an accredited agency funded by School District 36, regional, provincial and federal government and corporate sources.
- PCR has partnered with Starbucks Coffee Canada on the development of the Baristas (Starbucks) Employment program for youth offering 90% secure ongoing employment.
- PCR trains youth for 50 construction companies in Surrey (TradeBuilders Program) and 70% will maintain ongoing employment in the trades; and runs the TREES Alternate Education Program, alternate school program, in partnership with the Surrey School District, to help youth achieve academic progress and success, (97% achieve academic progress) and provide drug and alcohol prevention programs.

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development proposed to provide youth resource services in response to the 2003 Surrey Drug and Crime Task Report, which identified the need for a better approach to youth services delivery.
- PCR is working in partnership with Options and the government to provide additional youth resource services in Surrey and has been involved in the actual delivery of the first integrated youth services programs in Vancouver as the administrative agency for the Broadway Youth Resource Centre in the Mount Pleasant area.
- This centre became a deterrent to drug trafficking in the immediate area during operation hours and has the support of residents and businesses in the area. The Kiwanis Club in Vancouver is one of their regular donors, providing a major grant.
- PCR stresses a heavy emphasis on early prevention, intervention and practical assistance to help youth go back to school, find work, assist youth and help to resolve family conflicts.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development requires collaboration in the efficient delivery of youth services working with communities, justice system, Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Sisters and Surrey School District in order to deliver this integrated service delivery on a community based approach.
- PCR's goals are to assist youth to stay on track through supportive services and early intervention through the delivery of community-based services in order to prevent youth from drifting into higher risk activities and communities and repatriate them back to the community through rehabilitative services.

Michel Pouliot, Manager of Youth Services in Surrey, provided the following comments:

- There are two proposed sites in the Newton (13479 – 76 Avenue) and Whalley (13624 – 80 Avenue) areas, which would offer central locations and easy access for youth.
- The landlord is providing support, as the centres are compatible with the surrounding businesses and feature attractive storefronts.
- The Newton site complies with current Zoning By-laws and PCR has entered into a five-year lease with the owner.
- PCR requests that Council approve the building permit application for site development for the Newton site.
- The Whalley site is proposed in order to provide local youth services, assist them to return to their home communities, and improvements to the facility would result in a rejuvenation of the area.
- The use complies with the current Zoning By-law and PCR has entered into positive discussions with the Whalley Business Improvement Association and committed to a five-year lease.
- PCF asks that Council provide support-in-principle for development of the two sites.

Marisa Larsen, District Manager, for the Surrey, White Rock, and Delta Starbucks Coffee Canada and Deirdre Longueil of the Whalley Station Starbucks Stores were then introduced.

The following comments were then provided:

- Starbucks Coffee Canada has partnered with Pacific Community Services for 1.5 years on the delivery of a Barista training program providing an opportunity to work with the organization's coordinators and youth offices.
- She speaks on behalf of the managers in saying that the PCR building is a safe and very well maintained building and that this organization runs positive programs focused on building life skills for youth.
- A computer skills training program is delivered by an organization called "Engineers Without Borders" to teach youth computer skills.
- Starbucks Coffee Canada is working with PCR to help them in securing funding of a \$20,000 grant to build a "Passport to Education" program.
- The Minister of Children and Family Development provided a letter of support speaking to the positive programming and expressed pride in the partnership with Starbucks Coffee Canada.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. At the September 27, 2004 Regular Council - Public Hearing, Council deferred Corporate Report R246 to Council-in-Committee.

Item No. R246 Traffic Calming Policy Revisions & Status Update
File: 5460-15

The General Manager, Engineering submitted a report to update Council on traffic calming issues in Surrey, to amend current policy and seek Council's direction on the use of Local Improvement approach for cost sharing for the lower priority traffic calming measures.

The General Manager, Engineering was recommending approval of the recommendations outlined in his report.

The Chair called for a division of Item 2 from the Main Motion, and:-

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Watts
That:

1. Council approve the amendments to the Traffic Calming Policy and Procedure as outlined in this report.
3. An additional level of emphasis be placed on pre-building traffic calming measures as part of land development servicing.

4. Staff meet with the Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities and other community groups to provide information and gather input on the City's traffic calming policies and procedures.

Carried

Council agreed to eliminate Item 2.

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Watts

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson