

Present:

Chairperson - Councillor Hunt
Councillor Bose
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Martin
Councillor Rasode
Councillor Steele
Councillor Villeneuve
Mayor Watts

Absent:**Staff Present:**

City Clerk
City Manager
City Solicitor
Deputy City Clerk
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance & Technology
General Manager, Human Resources
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Planning & Development

A. DELEGATIONS

1. **Deb Jack, President, Surrey Environmental Partners
Michelle Molnar, David Suzuki Foundation**
File: 5280-01; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to present on a study entitled "Natural Capital in BC's Lower Mainland, Valuing the Benefits from Nature."

The following comments were made:

- Deb Jack, President, Surrey Environmental Partners introduced Michelle Molnar from the David Suzuki Foundation to address the issue of Natural Capital.
- Michelle is an ecological economist with the David Suzuki Foundation.
- A century ago, when much of the economic theory was developed the resources were seemingly unlimited. Things have now changed.
- A local example can be drawn on by the state of the fishing industry. The health of the fish stock is the limiting factor today, historically; it has been finding enough men to serve as the crew. At a local, municipal scale, trees and wetlands purify the air, regulate the microclimate, mitigate waste, and provide for a natural environment.
- Unfortunately, many of these resources are invisible and society fails to track environmental inputs.
- One tool developed to address assigning costs to resources is natural value quantification. Natural quantification makes nature's value visible and decision makers at all levels can equate a cost to track natural capital assets and include them in natural development plans. Natural capital evaluation is a tool that can be used to inform decision makers of the unaccounted for costs of development.
- Unfortunately, natural capital evaluations can only cost out a subset of ecosystem services, but cannot cost a cultural value. Humanity is unable to replicate the many connections of ecosystems.

- One valuation released this past fall identified the terrestrial values of the lower mainland. The David Suzuki Foundation released Natural Capital in BC's lower mainland. It was commissioned by the Park's Commission.
- The evaluations were based on the cost to replace ecosystems with engineered systems. The total value of benefits was 4.5 Billion dollars which translates to 6,500 / household.
- The top three benefits of ecosystems include climate regulation, flood protection and water regulation.
- A similar natural capital study has recently been commissioned to look at fish habitat; part of the information captured will include carbon sequestration by sea grasses, the mitigation of storm surges and flooding, and the biotic and a-biotic organisms that filter our water.

The delegation encouraged members of the public to use the report to make assessments when planning future projects. The report can be downloaded free of charge by visiting www.davidesuzuki.org/publications

Council requested detail on analysis with successful recovery initiatives be included in the report.

Council requested clarification on the use of "develop" vs. "residential". The delegation agreed to contact the author of the report to provide a detailed explanation / definition relative to urban development and what it represents.

2. **Natasha Raey, Project Manager, South Asian Mental Health Action, and Awareness (SAMHAA)**

File: 4900-01; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to speak about an upcoming two-day conference to be held in Surrey on October 2011 with a focus on decreasing stigma and increasing awareness of mental health issues in the South Asian community.

The following comments were made:

- SAMHAA's goal is to increase awareness within the South Asian Community. There is a lot of stigma and superstition associated with mental health issues within the South Asian Community.
- The delegation noted that historically the community has had limited access to culturally relevant information.
- The organization has been in operation since January 2011 and is working closely with the Surrey School District on some youth leadership projects.
- On October 22, 2011, a free two-day conference will be held to bring discussions of mental health to the forefront and to have service providers available to have more culturally relevant resources.
- The conference will feature an art exhibit; there will be a call for local artists.
- Future projects include a therapeutic Community Garden at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara and having on-going community workshops.

- SAMHAA would appreciate any support the City of Surrey would be willing / able to provide.

Council noted that the issue of mental health and the associated stigma is not only unique to the South Asian Community but rather a global issue. The group was urged to contact Councillor Steele and liaise with the Focus on Seniors Group to share resources and available information.

3. **Sheila McKinnon, Manager, Arts Services, Parks, Recreation, and Culture**
Marnie Perrin, Artistic Director of the Surrey Children's Festival
File: 8200-20; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to present on the upcoming Surrey Children's Festival.

The following comments were made:

- Sheila McKinnon introduced Marnie Perrin, Artistic Director of the Surrey Children's Festival.
- The delegation noted that the Children's Festival is the only arts based festival for children south of the Fraser.
- The festival ties in nicely with the Child & Youth Friendly City Strategy, Surrey's Plan for Social Well-Being and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan and Youth Arts Strategy.
- All programming is selected for its artistic relevance and educators can have a list of the programming to enhance their classroom experience and provide a tie in. Performing, visual, and circus arts skills are popular for youth who are not keen or involved in sports or other youth activities.
- There are a number of community partners and engagement.
- All education resources used throughout the festival are compiled into a comprehensive list and are made available through the library and on-line on the City of Surrey website as a teaching supplement.
- The program is seeking continued funding to keep the program sustainable. Currently the only funding available is through a Canadian Federal Grant Program, in order to access other available grants; an organization must be classified as a non-profit society. The festival relies on 37 percent of the budget from in kind or in cash sponsorship. In 2011, the festival saw an increase in sponsorship due to increased advertising. Going forward the Children's festival will be turning to local businesses to help purchase tickets for high need schools.

Council thanked the delegation for the presentation and all the efforts along with staff, the sponsors, and all the volunteers.

Planning staff will come back to Council with a timeline advising when a non-profit status could be established for the Children's Festival with recommendations outlining possible parings with other non-profit societies within Surrey that might be worth pursuing to maximize grant funding opportunities.

- B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL
- C. CORPORATE REPORTS
- D. DELEGATION REQUESTS
- E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
- F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS
- G. ADJOURNMENT


It was

now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Martin
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:04 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Hunt, Chairperson