

Present:

Chairperson - Councillor Martin
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor LeFranc
Councillor Starchuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Woods
Mayor Hepner

Absent:**Staff Present:**

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

A. DELEGATIONS**1. Doug Tennant, Executive Director, Semiahmoo House Society**
File: 1850-20; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to seek consideration for City of Surrey's investment where non-profit building projects are concerned.

The following comments were made:

- Semiahmoo House Society is a non-profit organization that provides quality services and support to people with developmental disabilities and their families in the community;
- People with developmental disabilities struggle to find safe and affordable housing and are limited to home-share or group-home arrangements;
- Semiahmoo House Society is trying to address the housing problem with an innovative apartment project to not only supply housing to people with developmental disabilities but also providing affordable housing in general;
- Located in South Surrey, the apartment project consists of 71 self-contained apartment units;
- Project is unique as it provides affordable and inclusive rental housing in perpetuity, as it will be owned in perpetuity by the non-profit;
- People with disabilities receive \$375 a month in shelter allowance, which leaves a financial "gap" that must be addressed for 20 units in the apartment;
- The financial gap is being addressed for 10 units with an innovative 60 year-lease option, leaving 10 rental units for people living below the low-income cut-off;
- The Society is requesting a grant of \$1.0 million from the City to cover these gaps in perpetuity and allow people living below the poverty line to live in their community; and,
- The granting of \$1.0 million from the City would secure a significant reduction in rents for ten homes within the project.

Subsidizing rents is a Provincial responsibility. The Delegation advised the presentation has been made to their provincial partners who have agreed to come to the table with \$1.2 million in funding in terms of the capital costs and not necessarily the actual subsidization. Further, the Delegation confirmed that Fraser Health and Federal Government have been approached, however due to rules pertaining to obtaining grants, funding is not possible. The Delegation advised they explored a number of options pertaining to filling the “gap” and clarified that the Society is not requesting a reduction in the municipal fees (Development Cost Charges), but is asking for a \$1.0 million investment that will enable the Society to undertake a smaller mortgage.

The 60 year lease option is really limited to those individuals who can afford to purchase the 60 year lease and more importantly the Society did not want to reduce the number of units available for people with developmental disabilities who have no financial means to purchase a lease. The Society would be unable to increase the number of rental units, based on their agreements with BC Housing and the City of Surrey.

2. **Colleen Kerr, Crime Reduction Strategy Manager**

File: 7450-30; 0550-20-10

Note: See Corporate Report R098 of the Regular Council – Public Hearing Agenda

In attendance before Council to provide an update regarding Vulnerable Women’s and Girls Working Group.

Michelle Shaw, Director Youth and Addiction Services – Pacific Community Resource Society introduced members of the Vulnerable Women’s and Girls Working Group. Corrine Arthur, Special Projects Coordinator - Surrey Women's Centre introduced Michelle Ninow, Project Coordinator of Phase 1 of the project who provided the presentation.

The following comments were made:

- Project entitled “In Their Own Words” is based on research gathered from women and girls within the City of Surrey;
- Purpose of the project was to learn more about the housing and service needs of street engaged women and female youth in Surrey;
- To date there has been limited data that has been documented and analyzed on this population;
- Project was designed to collect the perceptions of women and female youth about their lived experience – to understand what the barriers to access and the service gaps are for them;
- In terms of methodology, 12 service providers participated in interviews and 5 focus groups, with 50 street engaged (currently or formerly) women and female youth;
- The participants identified the following barriers and challenges
 - Facing constant stigma;
 - Navigating a complex system;
 - Staying Safe; and,
 - Managing Transition for youth.

- Service gaps were identified within the following areas:
 - Mental health (access to therapy);
 - Addictions (treatment transitions);
 - Housing (range of needs);
 - Aboriginal services (very limited for women);
 - Ongoing support; and,
 - Education and job placement (necessary for economic stability).
- The initial report is just the start of the conversation, as the Working Group is fortunate to have received new funding from the Ministry of Justice to move forward to the next phase of this process beyond the research;
- In partnership with the City and the Working Group, a collaborative planning process will be initiated with the aim of improving the safety of street-engaged women and female youth in Surrey;
- The process will involve three workshops with community leaders and a reference group of street engaged women and female youth; and,
- The Final Plan, a collaborative/community response, is expected to be completed in December 2015.

The work of the delegation was acknowledged, including the various organizations that are involved and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of vulnerable women and female youth.

**3. Robyn Affleck, Healthy Communities
Parks, Recreation and Culture**

File: 7800-01; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to provide information regarding the Surrey Doors Open Event.

The following comments were made:

- Surrey Doors Open 2015 is the fourth annual event, with this year's event hosted on Saturday, June 27th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm;
- The event includes 39 sites providing a behind-the-scenes look at Surrey's rich culture, history, art and architecture, with free activities and guided tours in City Centre, Bear Creek, Newton and Cloverdale;
- This year's tour sites were selected based on their relevance to art, culture and/or history, including a number of new venues: Cwenengitel Aboriginal Society; Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association; Surrey Arts Centre; and Honeybee Centre;
- A number of community meetings for planning the event were undertaken throughout the year leading up to the event;
- There are 75 City of Surrey volunteers providing over 479 volunteer hours, including the new Surrey Doors Open Ambassadors role;
- Marketing and promotional work for this year's event was updated to a more modern, fresher, inclusive look, including a new brochure depicting the various transportation routes with free transportation (Cloverdale, Newton, City Centre/Bear Creek);

- City Website has been updated for the Surrey Doors Open Event, including an interactive map that also can be viewed on mobile devices;
- Feedback received from the 2014 Surrey Doors Open event indicated that 96% of volunteers that responded felt they were prepared for the day and 100% of the venue leaders indicated they would have their venue participate again next year, and 98% of attendees said they would participate again;
- The Surrey Doors Open Event celebrates the historical, cultural, architectural and artistic diversity in the City, creates a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, builds an understanding/awareness of the various religious sites, and encourages positive community engagement; and,
- Event participation has grown each year, with 3004 in 2012 to 13,868 participants in 2014.

Council extended appreciation to staff and the many partners involved in putting this event together.

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 LeFranc


Seconded by Councillor Hayne

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do


now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:35 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Martin, Chairperson