
Present:

Councillor Elford – Chairperson
Councillor Annis
Councillor Guerra
A. Heinrich
K. Macdonald
R. Prasad

Absent:**Staff:**

R. Costanzo, General Manager, Corporate Services
T. Waterhouse, General Manager, Policing Transition
L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
R. Dube, Acting General Manager, Planning & Development
P. Sanderson, Manager, Policing Transition
L. Blake, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTIONS**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was

Moved by Councillor Guerra
Seconded by K. Macdonald
That:

1. The Community Services Committee meeting agenda of September 29, 2021, be amended by adding Item H.1: Extreme Weather Response Update;
2. The agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes

It was

Moved by Councillor Guerra
Seconded by K. Macdonald
That the Community Services Committee meeting minutes of June 30, 2021, be adopted as presented.

Carried

B. PRESENTATIONS

The agenda was varied.

2. Update on the City's Approach to Diversity and Inclusion

Laurie Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the City's approach to diversity and inclusion. The following information was highlighted:

- At the September 13, 2021, Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting, Council received Corporate Report R177 regarding Indigenous engagement in the City of Surrey. The report provided information regarding work the City is currently doing to engage with Indigenous communities in Surrey to, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People ("UNDRIP") and its 94 calls to action; and provided information on the City's actions taken to support its commitment to reconciliation.

- The majority of the UNDRIP recommendations are directed towards the federal and provincial governments; however, there are a few recommendations for local governments to ensure Indigenous communities are being engaged and embraced.
- National Truth and Reconciliation Day was endorsed by Council and will officially be recognized on September 30 as a statutory holiday in line with the federal government. The City will work with other local governments with respect to acknowledging National Truth and Reconciliation Day. The City will host an event in partnership with the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (SUILC) and Simon Fraser University in Holland Park between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. on September 30, 2021.
- An Indigenous Hall was incorporated into the expansion of the Museum of Surrey. The City continues to work with the Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation and Semiahmoo First Nation to show case their cultures. For example, an exhibition titled "Chief Dan George: Actor and Activist" will run from October 14, 2021, until April 24, 2022, and will showcase Chief George's life as a leader, actor and First Nation rights advocate.
- There City has engaged many First Nation artists on public art projects. At the April 26, 2021, Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting, Council approved five new Indigenous art projects located at Clayton Library and Community Centre, Cloverdale Library, Fleetwood Library and Semiahmoo Library. Indigenous art provides a visual for the whole community and allows the City to build capacity for Indigenous artists locally, nationally and internationally. Indigenizing civic facilities through public art also helps to create welcoming environments. A complete list of the City's Indigenous public art pieces is available online at:

<https://www.surrey.ca/arts-culture/surrey-public-art/public-art-collection/indigenous-art>

- The City continues to build respectful consultative practices in its work serving the urban Indigenous populations in Surrey. For example, on September 24, 2021, the Kwantlen First Nation led a blessing of "The Rivers That Connect Us" public art located at the Museum of Surrey.
- Surrey is constructing to new Indigenous Carving Centres. The first carving Centre will be located in Elgin Park, which is significant due to its proximity to the Nicomekle River. A private ground blessing for the site will be led by the Semiahmoo First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation and Katzie First Nation. On October 2, 2021. It is anticipated that the first carving centre will be operational by summer or fall 2022. The second location will be in City Centre and that site is expected to be in operation by 2024.
- At the June 14, 2021, Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting, Council adopted the Public Engagement Strategy and Toolkit. The Strategy follows best practices nationally and internationally and prioritizes hearing from diverse and vulnerable populations that have traditionally been missed during engagement. The Toolkit includes a formal process that was developed with the SUILC regarding engaging the urban Indigenous population. As a living document, the Toolkit can be refined and expanded to include other communities that have been underrepresented in engagement, including land-based First Nations.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Cavan, Rob Costanzo, General Manager, Corporate Services and Remi Dube, Acting General Manager, Planning and Development, provided the following information:

- Staff are constantly learning and evaluating how to better engage Indigenous communities. The response has been positive so far. It is important to consult throughout the whole process and ensure there is quality engagement to begin with for any project.
- Council worked closely with the Semiahmoo First Nation to provide access to City services, such as water infrastructure and Social Planning continues to work closely with the SUILC on issues such as affordable housing.
- While the City is an equal opportunity employer and has been ranked the most diverse employer three years in a row, it is always seeking to do more with respect to diversity in the workplace. Internally, management is seeking information regarding the different cultures that work at the City and their experience during their employment.

1. **Actions to Address Homelessness in City Centre**

Terry Waterhouse, General Manager, Policing Transition, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the City's actions to address homelessness in City Centre. The following information was highlighted:

- In March 2021, the City created a Pandemic Response Package with six programs design to support vulnerable populations. With Council feedback and endorsement, staff worked with BC Housing and Fraser Health on a grant application for a Union of British Columbian Municipalities (UBCM) grant program. In July, it was announced that the City would receive a grant of \$14 million for its Pandemic Response Package and staff began working with BC Housing, Fraser Health and key service providers to implement the programs.
- The six programs will be focused in City Centre on its unsheltered population. There will be the potential to replicate the programs in other town centres when successful. The six programs are:
 - **Safe Sleep:** As a result of social distancing requirements, the pandemic has resulted in a reduction in capacity for shelters. To address that challenge, the City has secured a lease extension to retain the Steve Cobon site on 107A Avenue and partnered with BC Housing and Fraser Health to renovate and revitalize the site. The proposal includes temporary modular housing that will provide approximately 60 additional housing beds, office space for Integrated Response Team health services and site improvements to address street appeal issues. Safe Sleep will be one of two programs to be advanced immediately.
 - **Nourish Surrey:** This program provides for enhanced meal support and referral and outreach services. A new location will be sought to provide better support and respite.

- **SMART Cart:** will develop a pilot program to leverage frontline Bylaw staff so they are more engaged with outreach and relocation services for unsheltered residents.
- **Healthy Living:** provision of temporary mobile washroom and shower facilities for unsheltered residents.
- **Clean Team:** ensure streets and encampments in City Centre are clean and safe through enhanced services from contractors.
- **Safety and Community Services Network:** a planning table of senior staff from partner agencies for high-level planning and coordination of service delivery. The Network will be the second of two programs to be advanced immediately.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Waterhouse and Remi Dube, General Manager, Planning and Development, provided the following information:

- All residents of the Steve Cobon site have been relocated, as there were existing plans in place to provide them with better forms of housing. The site is currently vacant. Planning for the site has taken pandemic requirements into consideration and all beds are in separate rooms, with one individual to a room. The facility has different wings which provides additional separation.
- It is anticipated that the Emergency Response Centre will remain open until late winter 2021 or early spring 2022; however, a closure date has not been confirmed. The site has funding available for its operation and the City does not want to leave the building vacant.
- Staff are currently working BC Housing on the Travel Lodge housing site located on 104 Avenue. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for this project closed in September 2021 and staff are currently reviewing the submissions. It is anticipated that this location will be able to provide 28 supportive housing units.

The Committee noted that the Mayor's Summit on Homelessness that was announced during the September 13, 2021, Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting will help bring service providers together.

3. **Illegal Construction**

Rob Costanzo, General Manager, Corporate Services, and Remi Dube, Acting General Manager, Planning and Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding unpermitted construction. The following information was highlighted:

- Unpermitted construction seems to be an increasing regional issue that is likely due to increasing real estate costs. The City is able to track unpermitted construction through stop-work orders.
- At the September 13, 2021, Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting, Council directed staff to review the issue and report back on recommended approaches.

- Since 1999, there have been an average of 240 stop-work orders issues per year, with 36% of cases closed in collaboration with the property owner. There have been 250 stop-work orders issues in 2021 as of June, likely as residents have increased renovations during the pandemic and more people are working from home to notice construction.
- Stop-work orders are issued for unpermitted construction, codes not being followed or occupancy prior to permits being issued. Stop-work orders are usually issued following an investigation to complaints from the public or issues identified during site inspections. Most cases are resolved through the owner obtaining the appropriate permit or removing the structure, if necessary.
- Staff provided an overview of the process for identifying unpermitted construction. The departments responsible for dealing with unpermitted construction include Planning and Development (Building Division) and Corporate Services (Bylaws and Legal Services). The City generally seeks compliance through education, ticketing and fines and notifying the property insurer, holders on title and prospective buyers, but will take legal action when necessary. The City currently has six court cases pending regarding unpermitted construction. All cases are related to residential projects and commercial infractions are rare.
- A dedicated team to address unpermitted construction is being created that will include inspection, compliance orders, remediation and legal actions. Priority cases will be identified to proceed with legal actions in order to focus efforts where more egregious offences are occurring. Staff will also review and update pertinent bylaws, policies and procedures all related to unpermitted construction, as well as streamline the request for charges process. Staff will continue to collaborate with property owners for voluntary compliance, educate residents on the proper permit process, provide enhanced information on the City's website and formulate a public relations campaign via social media and other media outlets.

In response to a comment from the Committee, staff noted that most projects that result in a stop-work order generally do not include professionals that report to a professional regulator such as the Architect Institute of BC and Engineering and Geoscientists of BC. Most of these professionals will not work on a project without the appropriate permits. However, the City is often notified by professional regulators such as WorkSafe BC or the Agricultural Land Commission when a project is not in compliance with certain requirements, such as demolition or soil deposition.

C. NEW BUSINESS

This section had no items.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

This section had no items.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

This section had no items.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

This section had no items.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

This section had no items.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Emergency Weather Response

Remi Dube, Acting General Manager, Planning and Development, provided the following report regarding the Emergency Weather Response:

- The Emergency Weather Response (EWR) is run through BC Housing. This year, the process for identifying shelter locations has started earlier than in previous years and the EWR will be activated in October.
- The pandemic has impacted many potential shelter locations that cannot provide beds due to COVID-19 restrictions. There are currently 35 beds identified throughout the City and potential additional sites, such as the former Steve Cobon site, are being discussed.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Dube advised that there are areas in the city without EWR shelter locations; however, staff are continuing to obtain additional sites.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Services Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Guerra
Seconded by Councillor Annis
That the Community Services Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Community Services Committee meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Elford, Chairperson