

Present:

Councillor Kooner, Chair
Councillor Stutt, Vice Chair
N. Atwal
J. Cuenca
C. Izsak
M. Rooney

Absent:

J. Gosal
M. Mubanda

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Manager, Housing & Social Development
C. Rucci, Social Development Program Lead, Housing & Social Development
C. Brown, Housing Planner, Housing & Social Development
S. Lee, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

A. Zbar, Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health
N. Quilty, Executive Director, Surrey Community Health Services, Fraser Health
S. Gariscsak, Community Health Specialist, Fraser Health

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

It was Moved by M. Rooney
Seconded by Councillor Stutt
That the agenda of the Livability and Social
Equity Committee meeting held on May 17, 2023, be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes – April 19, 2023

It was Moved by C. Izsak
Seconded by J. Cuenca
That the minutes of the Livability and Social
Equity Committee meeting held on April 19, 2023, be adopted.
Carried

N. Atwal joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Dr. Ariella Zbar, Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health, Nicole Quilty, Executive Director, Surrey Community Health Services, Fraser Health, and Stephanie Gariscsak, Community Health Specialist, Fraser Health**

The delegation provided a presentation on Healthier Community Partnership (HCP) and Fraser Health Triad. The following information was highlighted:

- Fraser Health is committed to working with municipalities and other community partners through Triads, a dedicated team consisting of Community Executive Director (clinical and acute care operational expertise), Medical Health Officer (population and public health expertise), and Community Health Specialist (community development expertise). The purpose of the Triad is to support, influence, and facilitate local health promotion and chronic disease prevention actions, community partnerships, and the HCP.
- The Social Determinants of Health include attributes such as educational attainment, income, housing status, race, gender, and the social safety network in the community. These are areas shaped by broader social and economic forces which are not exclusively controlled by the individual. Structural factors such as power and privilege underlie the social determinants of health.
- In recognition of the need for a healthy community approach in 2008, the intention for the HCP was to demonstrate a strong commitment to working with municipalities and community organizations to create healthy environments where residents live, work, learn, and play. The HCPs continue to be a mechanism for collective action, and they align with the BC Guiding Framework for Public Health's objective of creating "supportive communities that make it easier for people to make healthy choices at every stage of life".
- The HCPs are also part of Fraser Health's Service Plan, based on the Mandate Letter to the Minister of Health outlining the key government commitments to British Columbians. Some HCPs may be structured as a Committee of Council or report up to City Council. In August 2022, the Regional HCP Steering committee encouraged HCP's across the Fraser Region to consider engaging in seasonal readiness, wellness, anti-racism, and Indigenous allyship.
- The main purpose of HCPs is to facilitate collective action to promote health and well-being. They aim to strengthen community action and engagement, the healthy built environment, and supporting vulnerable residents and neighbourhoods while using a collective impact approach. Tangible examples of how the Surrey HCP has taken meaningful, practical action to influence the social determinants of health and the overall health of the community include health in all policies approach (such as providing input into the City's transportation plan), increase equity and inclusion in the population (such as promotion of gender inclusivity in recreation: a project supported through a Plan H Grant), and improve child and youth mental health and seniors health (conducting s asset mapping and creating a community needs assessment).
- Municipal representatives are intended as leaders and co-chairs of HCPs. They play a key role in stakeholder engagement, developing relationships across sectors, and championing actions. They are instrumental in the development of HCP action plans and ensuring alignment and coordination with existing municipal strategic plans and ongoing efforts. They also provide key knowledge on current needs of the municipality. In Surrey HCP, some key partners at the HCP table include the school district, Division of Family Practice, community-based organizations, RCMP, and Indigenous organizations.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation provided the following information:

- Seasonal readiness is about some of the emergency planning pieces that are underway such as heat dome or extreme cold weather. Fraser Health supports the communities by spreading the message and helping people be prepared for extreme weather situations.
- Nutrition is part of HCP, but dental is not. The HCP table is currently being refreshed in terms of priorities and membership because over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been a few changes such as new members to the committee, partnerships, and changes with the municipality.
- There is no specific funding allocated to the HCP, but there are opportunities to fund work through potential grant funding sources.
- Fraser Health takes future projections such as population growth into consideration when these programs are planned or implemented.
- The HCP will provide regular updates to the Committee, and the Committee will advance issues to Council, as needed.
- Fraser Health is currently partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department at City of Surrey to do a gender inclusivity project. Partnered with Trans Focus BC, they will facilitate education for City recreation staff regarding updating the language and knowledge on gender inclusivity. Once that training module is done by June 2023, this education will be shared with all the HCP partners. With City of Surrey leading the way in terms of gender inclusivity and affirming language approach, other organizations could follow that modelling, too.

C. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Proposed Development of City of Surrey Social Equity Plan

Social Development Program Lead, Housing and Social Development Division, provided a presentation regarding a proposal to develop a Social Equity Plan to replace the Social Well-Being Plan that was adopted by Council in 2005-2006, and to guide the work of the Housing and Social Development Division over the next five years. The following information was highlighted:

- The purpose of the Social Equity Plan is to engage and connect with the community to identify the current social equity priorities for the City, clarify the role of the City (and other stakeholders) with respect to addressing social equity topics, and provide a foundation and identify strategies and actions for the Housing and Social Development Division. The Plan will be a living document and updated every 5 years in response to emerging issues and changing priorities.

- Equity is about fairness, inclusion, and giving all people access to resources and opportunities to participate and thrive. It is both an outcome and a process. Equity as an outcome is the condition that would be achieved if one's identity no longer predicted how one fares, and Equity as a process is the replacement of policies, attitudes, and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes or fail to eliminate them. The Social Equity Plan process will aim to develop a shared understanding and definition of equity across City departments.
- The Plan will be grounded in Equity and Reconciliation. There is a commitment to work with the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee to ensure that the Plan incorporates an urban indigenous perspective. The development of the Plan will be guided by the principles of respectful engagement, collaboration and partnership, asset based, evidence based, responsive and adaptive, and intersectionality.
- Topics included in Scope reflect the current priority areas that Staff are working on. Issue areas and actions included in the Plan will be identified through consultation and engagement. Possible issue areas include housing and homelessness, mental health and addictions, racism and discrimination, immigration and refugees, and social connectedness and belonging.
- The process and tasks required in the preparation and delivery of the Plan includes engagement with staff and community with a focus on equity-deserving groups, research & analysis to ensure the Plan is evidence-based, alignment with other City plans and policies (including OCP), clarity regarding the City's role in social equity/development and where partnerships are required, and development of baseline and targets to measure progress over next five years.
- Staff will report to the Committee on key milestones in the development of the Plan. Expected to complete in approximately 18 months, the timeline for the project is as follows:
 - Phase 1: Project Start-up (April – May 2023)
 - Phase 2: Data Gathering (April 2023 – June 2023)
 - Phase 3: Engagement (June 2023 – November 2023)
 - Phase 4: Mid-project Corporate Report (March 2024)
 - Phase 5: Reflecting and Refining (October 2023 – February 2024)
 - Phase 6: Draft Strategy Preparation (March 2024 – August 2024)
 - Phase 7: Final Social Equity Plan to Council (September 2024)

In response to questions from the Committee, the staff provided the following information:

- Since Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition has members from multiple sectors, staff will discuss their potential role as a project advisory group for the Plan. Staff will work closely with non-profit partners to determine the best engagement strategies.

- It was suggested that staff consider adding physical health on the list of Topics in Scope. For example, assisting children from lower-income families who need access to recreation centres.

It was

Moved by M. Rooney

Seconded by Councillor Stutt

That the Livability and Social Equity

Committee recommends to Council that the City develop a Social Equity Plan to guide and inform the work of the City.

Carried

2. Overview of Standards of Maintenance Bylaw

Housing Planner, Housing and Social Development Division, provided a presentation on the provincial responsibility on residential rental accommodation, what are standards of maintenance (SOM), and Surrey's SOM bylaw. The following information was highlighted:

- The Province holds responsibility to regulate residential rental accommodation through Residential Tenancy Act. The Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) is responsible for formal dispute resolution processes between tenants and landlords. This process can be challenging and time-consuming. The RTB has no power to enforce orders which means that if an order is in a tenant's favour and the landlord does not comply with it, the tenant would have to go to Small Claims Court have the order enforced.
- In 1994, the Province amended the Municipal Act to allow local governments to enact SOM Bylaws which enable local governments to enforce basic levels of maintenance for residential rental properties. The Province has a model SOM to assist municipalities in drafting a bylaw. In 2012, the City of Surrey Council adopted the Surrey Rental Premises SOM Bylaw by prescribing standards for the provision of water, heat, light, elevators, and mandatory provision of services and utilities (such as refrigeration and cooking facilities).
- At the April 19th, 2023 Committee meeting, BC ACORN highlighted tenant complaint surveys focusing on current maintenance issues in Surrey's purpose-built rentals and that most rental buildings were built in the 1960s and 1970s and many have fallen into disrepair. They proposed that the City review and strengthen Surrey's SOM Bylaw and implement landlord licensing to enforce SOM.
- Following BC ACORN's presentation, the Committee recommended that Staff provide a report to the Committee for consideration on the current SOM with statistics on complaints and enforcement, and to provide options to strengthen the current bylaw without negatively impacting the tenants. Given that recommendation, Staff suggested next steps for consideration by the Committee. Staff will review implementation of the current SOM bylaw, research other local municipalities' SOM bylaws, research other municipalities' landlord licensing, and report back to the Committee to share research results and options for consideration for the Committee, including possible recommendations to Council.

In response to questions from the Committee staff provided the following information:

- The Province holds responsibility to regulate residential rental accommodation in BC. SOM bylaw is the only tool for the City to take immediate actions on issues (covered under SOM bylaw) as opposed to the tenants having to go through the RTB dispute resolution process which can be challenging and time-consuming.
- BC ACORN referenced at the April 19th, 2023, meeting that landlords in other municipalities (such as Toronto and Vancouver) require landlord licensing if they have certain number of rental units. As next steps, Staff will research other municipalities' landlord licensing policy and make recommendations on how the City may approach this. Staff will also contact BC ACORN for a copy of their research on landlord licensing to assist with the research process.
- The issue of the authority of Bylaw Officers to inspect the issues highlighted by BC ACORN was raised. This will be incorporated into the staff review of SOM.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Committee Member Updates

No updates were provided.

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Livability and Social Equity Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2023.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Rooney
Seconded by N. Atwal
That the Livability and Social Equity

Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The Livability and Social Equity Committee adjourned at 6.59 p.m..

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Kooner, Chairperson