

Present:

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

Absent:**Staff Present:**

T. Waterhouse, General Manager, Community Services
A. Murphy, Acting Manager, Housing & Social Development
S. Lee, Administrative Assistant

HOUSEKEEPING

1. Introductions

A round table of introductions was held.

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

It was

Moved by J. Gosal

Seconded by M. Rooney

That the agenda of the Livability and Social
Equity Committee (LSEC) meeting held on March 15, 2023, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

This section had no items to consider.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

This section had no items to consider.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Review of the Terms of Reference**

The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference and the following points were highlighted:

- There is one vacant membership position on the Committee for a representative from the Indigenous community. The City is seeking interested individuals.
- In addition to the number of meetings listed in the proposed 2023 meeting schedule, the Chair may call extra meetings if recommended by staff.

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

- A Committee member may suggest a delegation to the Committee. The Committee would decide by majority vote whether the delegation would be invited to provide a presentation at a subsequent meeting.

It was

Moved by J. Gosal

Seconded by M. Rooney

That the Livability and Social Equity

Committee support the LESC Terms of Reference as presented.

Carried

2. Annual Workplan

Terry Waterhouse, General Manager, Community Services, and Aileen Murphy, Acting Manager, Housing and Social Development, provided an overview of the City's Committees, the Community Services Department, and the Housing and Social Development Division. The following information was highlighted:

- There are currently seven Committees of Council. Many Committees, including the Livability and Social Equity Committee, are new. However, the Terms of Reference of this Committee have been addressed in the structures of other Committees in the past.
- The Community Services Department was created in May 2022. The work, previously done by different departments, is now unified in this department for more specific focus with the ability to support Council and Committees in a broader range of topics relating to community services.

- There are four divisions in the Community Services Department:
 - The Strategic Planning and Responses Division provides strategic planning, data analysis, and manages new programs and projects such as police transition or maintaining the RCMP in Surrey.
 - The Community Safety Division focuses on preventing vulnerabilities that can lead to involvement in gang life with several gang prevention and youth resiliency programs. They are currently developing a program with 23 affiliated agencies to enhance youth resiliency including providing support to indigenous youth who are at risk of criminal involvement.
 - The Housing and Social Development Division has developed several comprehensive approaches for the support of housing and social development programs.
 - The Police Support Services Division supports several community prevention programs. With over 300 employees, they also provide infrastructure for the RCMP in all aspects such as finance and administration.
- While the City does not own or operate housing, it facilitates and supports the development of housing, including affordable and non-market housing. The Housing and Social Development Division focuses on housing types that include emergency shelters, transitional and supportive housing, other types of supportive rental housing, and non-market rental housing, that are primarily operated by a non-profit or government body. The division works with policies and regulations relating to affordable rental housing or vulnerable renters. Primarily a team of Planners, the division develops, implements, and monitors housing plans and policies. Some examples are the Housing Needs Report developed in 2022, Affordable Housing Strategy developed in 2018, and Homeless Plan which is under development in 2023 for which the Livability and Social Committee will be consulted and engaged soon. The division also advises on planning policies and regulations such as Standards of Maintenance Bylaw.
- The City also does not directly provide any kind of social services as these are primarily the responsibility of the provincial and federal government, who either provide the service directly or contract a non-profit body. The City's role is to understand and have awareness of the priority social issues impacting Surrey and advocate to other levels of government. The Housing and Social Development Division facilitates internal and external collaborations since partnership and collaborations between groups working on specific issues meet with the most success. The division also tries to increase the investment in Surrey from other levels of government, which may be funds coming to the City or funds directed through a non-profit body in the city.
- The division currently provides backbone administrative support to the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition, Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee, and Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls Working Group which are groups of multiple non-profit, government, and other partners who are committed to working on specific issues together. The division will be updating the Social Plan that was previously adopted by Council.

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

- Vancouver has a significantly larger stock of social housing as compared to Surrey. The Federal government made significant investments in social housing from the post-war period through to the early 1990s. Vancouver benefited during this time when Surrey was mostly agricultural and suburban. Whether a City can secure units from the developer is dependent on the market. Surrey's Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) and Development Cost Charges (DCCs) are lower compared to Vancouver.
- Surrey Libraries have been working hard at redefining their role within the community. Surrey Libraries recently began a new project where homeless outreach workers work on-site at the Surrey Centre Library for a limited number of hours. It was suggested that Surrey Libraries could be invited to a future meeting to provide a better understanding of the work they do.

The Committee provided the following suggestions for the 2023 Committee Workplan:

- Create a mission for the Committee through a roundtable discussion.
- Learn about the success of gang prevention programs and new programs on youth resiliency.
- Bring in more funds from the province by advocating why Surrey needs more housing.
- Consider ways to incentivize the current for profit, non-profit, and the development community to build more affordable and accessible housing. For example, incentivizing the developers to have minimum number of affordable and accessible units and reward them with compensation or reduced CACs or DCCs for going above and beyond.
- Provide more in-depth mental health support in Surrey. The City recently made some headway in regulating and improving the services supplied by recovery houses, but there is still a need for more recovery or treatment centers.
- Request information from Fraser Health regarding mental health issues and the levels of people going to Surrey hospitals for these issues.
- Request information from the most recent Homeless Counts report.
- Address the housing issue for international students in Surrey. For example, there can be situations where ten students live in a one-bedroom basement.

- Provide access points for vulnerable citizens where people can go and access recovery, treatment, and counselling. For example, a marginalized community center with an office for LGBTQ, an office for immigrants or refugees, and other diversified and marginalized communities in the city where people are aware they can go to for information, support, and assistance.

The General Manager, Community Services, will draft a workplan based on the comments provided and bring it forward to the Committee for feedback.

3. 2023 Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2023 meeting schedule. Meetings are proposed to be held in person on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., except September 2023 where the meeting is scheduled on September 26, 2023. No meetings are scheduled for July, August, and December.

It was

Moved by J. Gosal

Seconded by M. Rooney

That the Livability and Social Equity

Committee adopted the 2023 meeting schedule as presented.

Carried

E. CORRESPONDENCE

This section had no items to consider.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

This section had no items to consider.

G. OTHER BUSINESS**1. Delegation Request**

- (a) Emily Armitage, Lead Organizer, BC ACORN and Leslie MacFarlane, Co-Chair, Newton ACORN

Requesting to appear before the Committee at Livability and Social Equity Committee meeting to provide a presentation regarding the City's Standards of Maintenance Bylaw.

It was

Moved by M. Rooney

Seconded by J. Gosal

That Emily Armitage, Lead Organizer, BC ACORN and Leslie MacFarlane, Co-Chair, Newton ACORN be heard as a delegation at Livability and Social Equity Committee.

Carried

2. Verbal Updates

No updates were provided.

H. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Livability and Social Equity Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by J. Gosal

Seconded by C. Izsak

That the Livability and Social Equity

Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The Livability and Social Equity Committee adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Kooner, Chairperson