

Present:

Councillor Locke, Chair
G. Bremault, Vice-Chair
A. Begalka
M. Cheema
A. Dhillon
C. Mohr
A. Begalka
S. Andhi Bilkhu
A. Willis

Absent:

S. Kular
N. Chima
N. Nastoh

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Planner
L. Blake, Administrative Assistant

A. ADOPTIONS

1. Adoption of the Agenda

It was Moved by G. Bremault
Seconded by A. Dhillon
That the agenda of the Social Equity and
Diversity Committee meeting be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes

It was Moved by G. Bremault
Seconded by M. Cheema
That the minutes of the Social Equity and
Diversity Committee meeting held November 6, 2019 be adopted as presented.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Erin Desautels, Sustainability Planner, City of Surrey and Amy Lubik, PhD, Policy Analyst, Population and Public Health Program, Fraser Health Authority

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation on addressing Urban Heat in Surrey: Health, Vulnerability, and Climate Action. The following information was highlighted:

- Canada is experiencing longer periods of hotter days. Vulnerability to these more frequent heat waves are divided into three categories: exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity.
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- Only a small fraction of death or injuries during a heat wave are related to heat exposure and are often due to the exacerbation of pre-existing health conditions and/or social factors such as low income. As demonstrated during studies of previous heat waves, targeted interventions and social inclusion can help reduce heat-related deaths and injuries. There are also opportunities for education regarding heat vulnerabilities, as the factors or signs of heat-related injuries are not commonly known.

The City is currently working with Fraser Health on an Urban Heat project that is anticipated to be completed by 2021. The project is connected to the Climate Adaptation Strategy, as it addresses how the City can adapt to heat increases. One of the goals of the project is to address urban heat islands, which are dense, urban areas that hold onto heat and are often hotter than surrounding areas. City Centre was chosen as the focus area for the project.

- Urban heat has numerous causes, including: less tree canopy, shrubbery and greenery; less permeable surfaces such as concrete and asphalt; urban design such as building dimension and space; and human-caused heat factors, such as cars and power use. Solutions to addressing urban heat include planting additional trees and introducing more green spaces; using building materials that do not hold heat, such as reflective surfaces; using cooler urban design features; and using alternative transportation, such as walking and bicycling.
- The Urban Heat Project has three main goals:
 - Address the short-term cooling needs of City Centre and vulnerable populations.
 - Explore long-term adaptation pathways and land-use in the context of urban densification.
 - Emphasize engagement and awareness for three audiences: the community (with a focus on City Centre), City staff and development professionals.

C. Mohr left the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation advised that the City has environmental cooling guidelines outlined in the Official Community Plan. The BC Building Code includes the BC Energy Step Code and the City has the Tree Bylaw.

Meena Cheema volunteered to serve on the Urban Heat Project Steering Committee. The Terms of Reference will be distributed to the Committee.

The Committee suggested that staff reach out to the Surrey Food Bank in order to reach individuals who may be impacted by heat increases to participate in the Urban Heat project, as well as the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition to be involved with the Project Steering Committee.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**1. Housing Project Updates****a. Opening of the Cove Shelter**

Councillor Locke, Chair, advised that Cove Shelter has opened and that all 41 beds are full.

Aileen Murphy, Senior Planner, noted that connecting with people from local homeless camps prior to the opening of the shelter was beneficial and expressed appreciation to Lookout Society, Surrey Urban Mission, Bylaw staff, RCMP, Fraser Health and BC Housing for their assistance in relocating individuals from the camp to the shelter.

The Committee directed Councillor Locke to send a letter of appreciation to all the agencies involved in the relocation of individuals to the shelter.

b. Extreme Weather Response

Aileen Murphy, Senior Planner, advised that there are 157 extreme weather mats ready to be made available in Surrey and White Rock in 11 locations. There were 14 nights in November when an extreme weather alert was called; however, utilization of the mats was low throughout November.

c. Ground Breaking for Green Timbers Transitional/Supportive Housing Project

Councillor Locke, Chair, advised that construction has commenced on the Green Timbers transitional/supportive housing project. It is anticipated that construction will require 18 months to complete.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Housing Needs Report**

Aileen Murphy, Senior Planner, summarized Corporate Report R221 regarding the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Housing Needs Reports Program grant and highlighted the following information:

- In 2018, the Province introduced legislation requiring all municipalities to complete a housing needs report by 2022. Reports must be submitted to the Province every five years.
- In addition to the general categories all municipalities are requested to report on, Surrey has added additional study areas of the Urban Indigenous housing and affordable housing on the new SkyTrain corridor.

The City has submitted an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for grant funding to prepare Surrey's housing needs report in 2020.

In response to a comment from the Committee, Ms. Murphy advised that student housing needs has been identified as another study area of interest by Planning staff.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Information Regarding Amendments to the *Highway and Traffic Bylaw*

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Upcoming Agenda Items

The Committee requested a presentation from Umoja for the January 8, 2020 meeting and a presentation regarding the reduction or removal of Development Cost Charges (DCC) for community group-based projects in March 2020.

2. Committee Member Updates

Sonia Andhi Bilkhu thanked the City for a cultural grant to the Shakti Society that supported a screening of "Because We Are Girls" as well as a panel discussion of the film. The film focuses on the issue of abuse.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Social Equity and Diversity Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room A.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by G. Bremault
Seconded by M. Cheema
That the Social Equity and Diversity

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Brenda Locke, Chair