

Present:

Vice-Chair, M. Shaw
J. Calbick
L. Coyle
E. Milavic
L. Rhead
J. Sturge
D. Toor

Absent:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
D. Chattha
S. Dooley
K. Thiara
D. Purvey

Guest:

Liane Davison, Manager, Visual & Community Art & Director
Surrey Art Gallery
Naveen Girn, Project Coordinator,
Komagata Maru 1914-2014: Generations, Geographies and Echoes
Vi Nguyen, Director, Vancouver Foundation
Nicole MacLellan, Manager Vancouver Foundation
Ashley Crossan, Vancouver Foundation
June Lim, Vancouver Foundation

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social
Planner
K. Baglo, Planning Technician
J. Gallinger, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes of January 8, 2014 to be approved

It was Moved by L. Coyle
Seconded by E. Milavic
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee
minutes of January 8, 2014 be adopted with required amendments.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Komagata Maru Project**
File No. 8200-01

Naveen Girn, Project Coordinator, Komagata Maru 1914-2014: Generations, Geographies and Echoes, and Liane Davison, Manager, Visual and Community Art and Director, Surrey Art Gallery appeared before the Committee to provide information on the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the Komagata Maru incident. The delegation noted:

- May 23, 2014 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Komagata Maru's arrival in the Port of Vancouver. The Komagata Maru was a ship of Indian nationals intending to immigrate to Canada. Upon arrival in the Burrard Inlet, the ship was not permitted to dock and its passengers were prohibited from entering Canada, despite being citizens of the Commonwealth. At the time, the Act of Direct Passage was in effect. This

Act required all immigrants to arrive by uninterrupted journey, a “continuous passage”, from their point of origin to Canada. The Act created a significant barrier to immigration from India as all voyages from India to Canada required stops. The Act therefore made it impossible for Indians to enter Canada as immigrants.

- Racial discrimination, disguised as federal regulations requiring direct passage from one’s point of origin to Canada, is the primary reason for the passengers of the Komagata Maru being refused entry into Canada.
- Of the 376 passengers, including 4 women, only 24 were admitted to Canada. The remaining 352 passengers were forced to return to India.
- During the 2 months (May 23 to July 23, 1914) the ship was docked, the passengers were denied food and water. Surrey residents offered support to passengers in the form of food, water and paid legal fees to fight for the passengers’ human rights.
- On return to India, World War I had begun and on July 23, 1914 the Komagata Maru was forced to sail back to Budge-Budge, India. Upon arrival in India, the ship was met by British Soldiers and when passengers refused to re-board the ship nineteen were killed by gunfire and many others were imprisoned.
- The Surrey Art Gallery, the Surrey Museum, Surrey Public Library, Museum of Vancouver, Vancouver Maritime Museum, Simon Fraser University, and Khalsa Diwan Society (Ross Street Temple and Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS), have partnered on a yearlong project across Metro Vancouver to commemorate the centennial of this event
- On February 13, 2014 the Surrey Museum will feature Echoes of the Komagata Maru, marking the 100 day countdown to the 100th Anniversary on May 13, 2014. This event will present the oral history of first-hand participants, and will be attended by Komagata Maru descendants currently living in Surrey.
- The Surrey Art Gallery presents Ruptures on Arrival: Art in the Wake of the Komagata Maru, opening in May 2014, with a Komagata Maru Symposium May 10-11, 2014. The group exhibition will address the history and moments of cultural conflict related to trans-Pacific migration to Canada. Artists include Ali Kazimi, Raghuvendra Rao, Avantika Bose and others.
- The Surrey Public Library will hold 3 story time sessions for children featuring diverse folk tales. The library event will feature recognition activities, displays related to the Komagata Maru episode, and the distribution of buttons.
- On May 23, 2014 SFU Harbour Centre campus in Vancouver will host a commemorative event of the 100th anniversary of the Komagata Maru.
- All exhibitions are open to the public to view and learn about the history of the Komagata Maru.
- Descendants of passengers of the Komagata Maru will be invited to the events.

- An invitation was extended to Surrey City Council to attend all events. The City is asked to recognize the anniversary and to promote education and awareness of the Komagata Maru episode.
- The website <http://komagatamarujourney.ca/> is dedicated to the history of the Komagata Maru. Information on the Surrey event can be found on the Surrey Art Gallery and Surrey Museum event websites.

The delegation was thanked for the excellent presentation and informed that the invitation to the events would be forwarded to the Mayor and Council Members.

2. **Vancouver Foundation Youth Vital Signs**

File No. 4120-01

A. Crossan and J. Lim, members of the Vancouver Foundation's Youth Leadership Council, provided the Committee with a short presentation on the Youth Vital Signs (YVS) Report Card for 2013. The following was noted:

- YVS is a youth-driven research and public opinion initiative with the goal of informing and influencing decision-makers, policy-makers, funders and organizations with issues affecting young people. YVS provides a forum to initiate dialogue and create positive change. YVS was created under the direction of the Youth Leadership Council, comprised of 14 young people. The Youth Leadership Council worked in collaboration with mentors, community stakeholders and Youth Leadership Council alumni
- Youth Vital Signs invited Metro Vancouver youth to grade 13 key areas of life including: sustainability, homelessness, employment, and education, among other social issues. The survey was designed with youth in mind and was field-tested with three youth focus groups. The youth driven approaches help to ensure that the research design, data and reports accurately portray youth life in Metro Vancouver.
- The survey was distributed in May and June 2013 at community centres, schools and other youth hangouts. The survey enabled youth to identify opportunities for positive change and rank priorities for community investment. The report reflects actual experiences and perceptions of more than 3,500 youth in the Metro Vancouver area, providing a forum for youth to make their voices heard and initiate an ongoing dialogue with decision-makers.
- The survey targeted at all youth throughout Metro Vancouver. Approximately 35% of the 350 respondents were from Surrey, White Rock, Langley and Aldergrove. The majority of respondents were age 15-18 (64%), and just over half of respondents were female (56% were female, 42% male and 2% identified as transgender). For further information on the demographic profile of survey respondents see page 36 of the report.
- The Youth Vital Signs report grades 13 subject areas to capture the perceptions and experiences of youth in Metro Vancouver. The report assigned the following grades to each of the subject areas:

TOPIC	RANK
Youth Spaces	B
The Arts	C
Youth Voice	C
Sustainability	B
Transportation	B
Safety (includes bullying)	C
Poverty	C
Youth Housing & Homelessness	C
Health & Well-being	B
Mental Health	C
Education & Learning	B
Employment & Training	C
Culture Identity & Belonging	B

The grades represent the average grade for each of the 13 subject areas; however, it is recognized that not all youth experience Metro Vancouver in the same way and that differences of opinions and experiences are highlighted throughout the report.

- Of the 13 subject areas, four were identified as requiring immediate attention including, poverty, employment and training, education and learning, and youth and homelessness. All four subject areas are closely interconnected and contribute to the ongoing cycle of poverty.
 - Overall, the subject area “Poverty” received a C grade; however, it was the subject area that received the highest number of F grades. Youth who have experienced homelessness (19-24 age range) gave “poverty” a D grade. The top “poverty” related priorities include: more support for people living in poverty, reducing the cost of living and increasing minimum wages, more affordable housing, and improved economic policies.
 - The “Youth housing and homelessness” subject area received a C grade however, it also received the second highest number of F grades. Older youth (aged 19-24) assigned “poverty” a D grade. The top youth housing and homelessness priorities include more affordable housing, long-term sustainable housing options, investments in homelessness prevention and intervention, and a lower cost of living.
 - “Youth Spaces” received an overall B grade; however, older youth, those living with disabilities, who have experienced homelessness, been in government care or are identified as sexual minorities (LGBTQ) gave youth spaces a C grade. The report recommends the provision of more youth only spaces as well as more affordable youth spaces.

- The subject area “Health and well-being” received a B grade; however, youth living with disabilities gave “health and well-being” a C grade. The top four priorities that emerged in the “health and well-being” subject area are: more youth-oriented recreation options, more education and awareness about healthy lifestyles, reduced costs of fitness and community centres, and better access to and awareness of youth clinics.
- Overall, three key themes emerged from the 13 subject areas:
 - High costs - forcing many to leave Metro Vancouver;
 - Schools of thought – incorporate social and environmental justice into the school curriculum; and
 - Accessibility and awareness – improve access to youth specific information and resources, both in person and online.
- As a follow up to the report, community conversations will be held across Metro Vancouver to initiate interactive dialogue, develop ideas, and raise awareness on issues of importance to youth. The Surrey Community Conversation will be Tuesday, February 25th, 2014 at 5:15 p.m. at the Simon Fraser University Campus. Mini-grant opportunities for youth will be announced at this event for project ideas that relate to Youth Vital Signs. YVS invites all interested parties to review each of the subject areas and to grade them by going to www.youthvitalsigns.ca.
- Sponsors of YVS include Coast Capital Savings, Vancouver Foundation, Youth Philanthropy Council, MAKE and the City of Vancouver.
- A short video (trailer to Youth Vital Signs) was shown and provided a quick glimpse into the lives of Metro Vancouver's youth. All participants in the video were age 24 and under, and many were connected to the Vancouver Foundation's programs.

Committee members questioned whether YVS is interested in making presentations to schools as well as whether the results of the survey have improved since the last survey was conducted. The delegation responded that schools are in their target area, and that it will be difficult to compare the results of the survey because the first survey was conducted only in Vancouver, and this survey includes all of Metro Vancouver.

City staff inquired as to whether YVS would be able to provide the City with survey-specific data. The delegation responded that they would further explore the possibility.

The delegation was informed that the City of Surrey has adopted a Poverty Reduction Plan. Staff asked if the Vancouver Foundation would be interested in developing a partnership project with the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition. The Vancouver Foundation Director stated that she would be interested in exploring this possibility.

The Director of the Vancouver Foundation inquired as to whether Surrey is connected to the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition. Staff responded that the BC Coalition is linked to the Surrey group.

The Director of the Vancouver Foundation invited the committee members and members of Council to attend the event on February 25, 2014.

3. **Standards of Maintenance Bylaw** - the Manager, Bylaws and Licensing to provide an update.

It was Moved by L. Jeff Calbyk
Seconded by E. Milavic
That the Standards of Maintenance Bylaw
update be deferred to the March 5, 2014 Committee meeting.
Carried

4. **Request for Delegation** - Committee member J. Sturge requested that a delegation from Fraser Health Mental Health and Substance Use Services be invited to appear before the Committee.

- The Committee agreed that they would appreciate a delegation from Fraser Health.

A Committee member suggested that consideration be given to inviting Welcome Home to present on their program. It was recommended that this suggestion be considered at a future meeting.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Debrief and discuss of next steps related to the meeting held with the service clubs on January 29, 2014.

On January 29, 2014, a second meeting between the Social Policy Advisory Committee and the Service Clubs was held for the purpose of developing an alliance among service clubs in Surrey. It is hoped that through these meetings of service clubs, that a project for joint venture will be identified. The Planning Technician provided an overview of the notes from the small group discussions:

- Many groups cited food programs as one of the project areas that they would be interested in pursuing. The types of food programs mentioned include breakfast programs, food banks, and community gardens. Partnering with food companies and grocery stores was suggested as a way to obtain resources.
- Youth programs were identified as an interest area for the service clubs. Project suggestions included supporting extracurricular activities such as sports, music, early years learning and literacy programs. It was also mentioned that it was necessary to empower families in order to keep children in school.
- Access to transportation for low income persons was identified as a potential project area of interest by service club members. Access to transit is necessary for low income persons to gain employment opportunities or access to support programs.
- The clubs expressed interest in participating in a "Seeing is Believing" tour and having Pecha Kucha presentations by community service operators.
- Service club members suggested that a potential project could involve mentorship and skills development, such as mentorship in starting a business, or internship/ experience opportunities. .

- Many service club members cited enhanced communication between service organizations as necessary for the clubs to work together effectively. Suggestions to improve communication included appointing a coordinator between clubs, quarterly meetings, and a shared website. The website would facilitate the sharing of information, improve awareness about other service club's projects and allow the clubs the opportunity to get involved and/or establish joint projects.

The following comments were made by the Committee:

- Facebook was suggested as an option for developing the shared website. Concerns were raised by some SPAC members as to the skill/knowledge level of the service club members in using the technology. A SPAC member with social media experience offered to provide a training session if it is of interest to the service club members. Facebook provides an easy, low-maintenance forum for the service clubs to share information and engage in conversation about their projects.
- A SPAC member suggested that the City's website could include a list of Surrey's service clubs and their associated contact information. A list of projects being undertaken by the clubs could be updated on the website bi-annually.
- It was noted that the service clubs appear to share SPAC's interest in projects focusing on poverty reduction.
- It was suggested that a questionnaire be provided to the service clubs to allow them to identify project areas of interest. The clubs could grade each project area proposed at the last meeting by priority level.
- The "Seeing is Believing" could be structured around the results of the questionnaire. The Surrey Poverty reduction Coalition is prepared to work with the SPAC to organize a tour.

Next steps with regard to the service clubs include distributing the meeting minutes to the attendees, developing a questionnaire to determine project areas of interest and hosting a further meeting of the service clubs in the next few months.

2. Update on the Government Assisted Refugee Transportation Loan Petition

- The Planning Technician provided an update on the Government Assisted Refugee Transportation Loan petition, reporting that the petition currently has 124 signatures. Committee members were asked to continue seeking support for the petition.
- The Government Assisted Refugee loan page is the eighth most visited page of the social planning section of the City's website in January. The page saw an average view time of 5.5 minutes, indicating that people are reading the information. Comparatively, the other social planning pages had an average time of less than two minutes on the page.
- Staff stated that obtaining signatures for the petition is proving to be a greater challenge than expected due to the complex nature of the issue.
- Minister of Immigration, Chris Alexander, will be in Vancouver on February 18, 2014 at a Canadian Club of Vancouver lunch event. The

Minister will be available to speak with participants before his presentation.

D. NEW BUSINESS

- **2014 Good Citizen Award** announcement and nomination form were distributed to Committee Members.
- **Heart in the City Awards** will be held in the fall 2014. SPAC to form a subcommittee to work on the event with a meeting being held in late February or early March. M. Shaw, L. Coyle, J. Sturge, J. Calbick, and E. Milavic volunteered for the subcommittee.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Vancouver Foundation, Youth Vital Signs, Report Card 2013 – see Item B.2 above.
2. Surrey Rental Premises Standards of Maintenance By-law, Corporate Report #R115, May 28, 2012.

Deferred to March 5, 2014

3. Resolution submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities – RES. R12-1058 – Amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act Dispute Resolution Process

Deferred to March 5, 2014

4. An Anti-Poverty Community Event – Building Capacity in Our Community, Kwantlen Park Secondary, February 20, 2014.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2014 SPAC Fun Schedule – review the schedule and agenda for the March SPAC meeting

The Committee reviewed the schedule and deferred the Somali Women's Project to the April or May 2014 meeting.

The Fraser Health delegation (item B.4 above) is to be invited to the March 5, 2014 meeting. J. Sturge is to coordinate the invitation.

2. Committee Member Updates

- The Committee was reminded that the worldwide Rise-Release-Dance event protesting against domestic violence will be held in Holland Park on February 14th, 2014.
- The Planning Technician updated the Committee on the Doors Open project, reporting that the June 21st, 2014 event is still in the planning stages. A list of locations has been identified and contacts are being made at the sites. The City is only able to book three trolleys for this year's event. The Doors Open committee is currently searching for additional unique and intriguing forms of transportation.
- L. Coyle reported that she made a connection at the Library to discuss Interfaith Change in January 2014. A workshop will be held March 1. Registration is currently open.
- L. Coyle distributed the Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) "Third Age Learning (Talk)" catalogue of spring 2014 programs for adults age 50 and over. Interested committee members can contact KPU for further information or registration for the programs.
- A summary of the questionnaire completed by SPAC members at the January 8, 2013 meeting was distributed to committee members. The questionnaire results offer direction for the SPAC's work plan for this year.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 5, 2014** in room 2.E.A. located on the 2nd floor, new City Hall.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting to now adjourn.

Moved by
Seconded by
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:12 pm.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Vice-Chair, Michelle Shaw
Social Policy Advisory Committee