

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
S. Dooley
E. Milavic
J. Parmar
L. Rhead
M. Shaw
J. Sturge
K. Thiara
D. Toor

Absent:

J. Calbick
D. Chattha
L. Coyle

Guest:

Nathalie Gagnon, Criminology Instructor,
Department of Criminology,
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

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 March 5, 2014 to be approved

It was

Moved by E. Milavic
Seconded by K. Thiara
That the Minutes of the March 5,
2014 Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.
Carried

The meeting varied.

The Chair introduced J. Parmar, appointed by Council as the representative of Kwantlen Polytechnic University on the Social Policy Advisory Committee.

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Stephen Dooley of Simon Fraser University and Nathalie Gagnon of the Department of Criminology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University before the committee to make a presentation on "The Homeless and Vulnerably Housed in Surrey" research project. The following comments were made:
 - The main finding of this research project is that people who are homeless and people who are vulnerably housed are very similar. The project was funded by the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society.
 - The objectives of the project included exploring the extent to which homeless and vulnerably housed people in Surrey are the same or represent distinct groups; to identify the living situation of the vulnerably housed in Surrey; and to identify the community-based resource and service utilization of the homeless and vulnerably housed in Surrey.
 - People attending meal services at Surrey Urban Mission and the Front Room Resource Centre in Whalley were surveyed. 102 people responded to the survey – 59 were currently renting and 43 were homeless. Ten individuals from Phoenix Society were hired as employees of Kwantlen to

aid in the collection of data. These researchers were paired with university student researchers.

- Of those surveyed, 59 participants were currently renting and 43 participants were homeless.
- The study found that the living situation of the vulnerably housed and homeless is in flux and that most had experiences as renters and as homeless persons.
 - 93% of homeless had previously rented.
 - 85% of renters had previously been homeless.
- Of the homeless, 51% had rented in the past 6 months, 61% had rented in the past year, 74% had rented in the past 2 years and 95% had rented at some point. Of those who stated that they were homeless, 61% were living in shelters/safe houses, 26% living on the street, 12% living with family/friends and 2% stated other living conditions which were not specified.
- 53% participants were not concerned about eviction, 19% were a little concerned, and 4% were concerned about eviction.
- The Delegate stated that the final report will be going back to the Project Steering Committee for final review and then will be distributed within the community.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was noted that there is a distinction between food bank and free meals. Those without an address currently do not have access to the food bank in Surrey. A recommendation should be considered in regards to permitting those without an address to access the food bank.
- It was recommended that support should be provided to the homeless once they are housed. Currently, there is only outreach services to get people into housing, not to keep them there.
- It was suggested that the Low Cost and Free project be checked to ensure that it includes information on subsidies/ support for renters.
- The Chair thanked the delegation and stated that the Committee would be interested in reviewing the report once finalized.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. **Committee members' passions and interests** – The notes from the January 8, 2014 questionnaire were reviewed. The Senior Social Planner made the following comments:
 - The information was compiled from the questionnaire which was distributed at the January meeting.
 - The summary lists Committee members' interests and proposed priorities/focus areas for the Committee.

It was suggested that the passions and interest document include the addition of a downtown community court as a social issue that SPAC could address in the next

year Committee member J. Sturge offered to do a presentation for SPAC on community courts.

- The Chair stated that it is very important to continue to pursue the elimination of the Government Assisted Refugee transportation loan. She recommended that a short Power Point presentation with speaking notes on the loan be created; SPAC members could volunteer to do a short presentation on the loan in order to keep the momentum surrounding the petition going. It was also suggested that if possible, refugee(s) could be asked to present alongside Committee members.
- It was suggested that the Welcoming Communities' Myth Busting Project be invited to present to the SPAC. SPAC is interested in the delegation. The Welcoming Communities Project will be added to the Fun schedule for May 2014.
- L. Rhead suggested that the SPAC research the Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op of New Westminster to determine what medical coverage and insurance is available for refugees and new immigrants.
- The Chair stated the selected delegations for the year should be compatible with the interests and passions of the SPAC.
- The Chair invited the SPAC to volunteer for Doors Open, on June 21, 2014.

2. **Surrey Steps Up - Video**
File No. 5120-20

E. Milavic presented the Surrey Steps Up video which is available on the City of Surrey website. The following comments were made:

- Three presentations are available on the City's website including:
 - Presentation from Don Luymes, City of Surrey Manger of Community Planning
 - Presentation by Jason Roberts from the Build a Better Block Project
 - Workshop Presentation by Jason Roberts

The RCMP is leading the Surrey Steps Up initiative. Youth, business and community groups will be engaged in various activities.

The Committee made the following comments:

- There was a presentation at the 2013 Community Summit at SFU by Matt Hern on the development of the Car Free Day which was started on Commercial Drive in Vancouver. Car Free Day is now a huge success and is celebrated in several areas of Vancouver.

3. **Alliance of Service Clubs Project – Update.**

Copies of the questionnaire that was sent to service club representatives and a summary of feedback were distributed to Committee members. The following comments were made:

- Overall, the majority of clubs that returned the questionnaire were interested in pursuing this initiative.
- Service clubs are interested in developing a webpage that provides club contact information and lists projects. The clubs are also interested in a

“Seeing is Believing” tour to gain a better understanding of poverty in Surrey.

- Food programs were the highest priority interest area amongst the service clubs.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was suggested that a “Seeing is Believing” tour be organized for the service clubs.
- The Chair stated that the website is a good way to get groups interested in an alliance. Once the service clubs are able to see an outcome from the dialogue and have a forum to compare and connect projects, interest in the alliance may grow.
- The City will create a webpage for the service clubs to post their projects and contact information on.
- D. Toor offered to coordinate the service clubs that are already working on food programs. He will research which clubs are already working on food programs and identify gaps.
- M. Shaw will advise the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition on the interest of the Service Clubs to participate in a “Seeing is Believing” tour.
- It was suggested that an update should be sent to the service club representatives regarding the findings of the questionnaire and next steps. The update should mention that the first projects that the SPAC will commence will be the website and “Seeing is Believing” tour.

4. **Implementation of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan - Update.**

The Senior Planner distributed a Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition – Funding Proposal for 2014 – 2016. The following comments were made.

- The Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition is leading the implementation of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan.
- Projects on the Coalition’s work plan for this year include the Somali Women’s Project, and Landlord Project. The Somali Women’s Project is a pilot project to support a group of women to identify their skills/interests and work toward accessing employment. The Landlord Project is focused on educating landlords about Housing First (housing the homeless) and building relationships between private market apartment landlords and social service agencies.

D. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Heart in the City Award – Update and review Terms of Reference**

The Planning Technician made the following comments:

- The Heart in the City Award Committee had met and made some proposed changes to the Terms of Reference. These included the reclassification of the existing categories as individual and group, as well as the addition of a third lifetime achievement award category. The Terms of Reference were also amended to clarify that self-nomination is not permitted and that the

individual or group must be Surrey-based. The amended Terms of Reference require Council approval.

- Submissions will be received from April 22 – June 23.
- The Awards Ceremony will be held on October 22, 2014.

The Committee made the following comments:

It was suggested that the group category be clarified to include volunteer community groups and/or businesses.

It was

Moved by E. Milavic

Seconded by K. Thiara

That the Social Policy Advisory

Committee (SPAC) requests that Council adopt the amended “Heart in the City Award” Terms of Reference to include an individual, group, and lifetime achievement award (attached as Appendix 1).

- The existing nomination form was reviewed and the Committee agreed that the same form will be used this year.
- The Heart in the City Award Committee will reconvene on this topic once the submission process has been completed.
- Once promotional materials are received from Marketing, they will be distributed to the SPAC so that they can disseminate them through their networks.

2. Committee Member Updates

- L. Rhead briefed the SPAC on an article from the newspaper regarding the aging out of foster children from government care.
She stated that foster children are supported by the Province until the age of 19. L. Rhead proposed that the SPAC advocate for the increase to the age for which foster children receive support to 20, instead of 19. Apparently Ontario and Quebec have already increased the age for support to 20 years.
- M. Shaw noted that currently the Ministry of Children and Families is consulting with youth in care.
- It was suggested that in the fall the SPAC invite a delegation to present on the topic of youth aging out of care.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

There were no items referred by Council.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to receive.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **SPAC Summary of the Passions and Interests of Committee Members – January 8, 2014**
2. **Surrey Steps Up webpage - www.surrey.ca/community/14571.aspx**
3. **Service Club Feedback Form Responses – Summary of Feedback Forms**
4. **Draft Terms of Reference – Heart in the City Award**
5. **Global Voices: New Perspectives on Refugees in Surrey, Spring 2014.**

The above-noted information items were received by the Committee.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **2014 SPAC Fun Schedule** – review the schedule and agenda for the May meeting
Don Reddick from Kwantlen to be invited to present on his research relating to refugee youths' transitions to post-secondary.

Immigrant Services Society of BC to be invited to present on the Welcoming Communities Project – Refugee Myth Busting
2. **Committee Member Updates**
Updates provided under above items.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 14, 2014**

J. ADJOURNMENT


It was

meeting do now adjourn.


Moved by E. Milavic
Seconded by M. Shaw
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

Carried

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



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee