

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
J. Calbick
D. Chattha
L. Coyle
K. Dhese (Youth Representative)
S. Dooley
J. Liu (Youth representative)
E. Milavic
J. Parmar
M. Shaw
K. Thiara
D. Toor

Absent:

J. Sturge
L. Rhead

Guest:

Don Reddick, Instructor, Department of
Economics, School of Business, KPU
Caroline Dailly, Manager Resettlement Assistant
Program, Immigrant Services Society of BC
Craig Easton, Director, BoardVoice
Tim Beachy, Chair of Options Community
Services
Anita Huberman CEO, Surrey Board of Trade
Ingrid Kastens, Executive Director, Pacific
Community Resources Society

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 April 2, 2014 to be approved

It was

Moved by E. Milavic

Seconded by L. Coyle

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

minutes of April 2, 2014 be adopted.

Carried

2. Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes of March 5, 2014 to be approved with the amendment to the recommendation in item B.1 - Standards of Maintenance Bylaw Update changing the wording of the recommendation to "the Deputy Premier and Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing".

It was

Moved by K. Thiara

Seconded by D. Chattha

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

minutes of April 2, 2014 be adopted.

Carried

The Chair introduced K. Dhese as a new member to the Committee representing youth.

B. DELEGATIONS

The order of the Delegations were varied.

1. Refugee Myth Busting Project

File No. 5080-01

Caroline Dailly, Manager of the Resettlement Assistance Program, Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia (ISSofBC), before the Committee to present on the Refugee Myth Busting Project

The following comments were made:

- The Refugee Myth Busting Campaign was a project of the Surrey Welcoming Communities initiative. Funded by the Province of BC, the Surrey Welcoming Communities initiative took place between January 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014.
- The Refugee Myth Busting project included a number of elements including: preparation of information on refugees; presentations to people working in the education sector; and a museum exhibit. Overall the project was very successful. The one challenge was obtaining media attention around the project.
- The project started with 3 focus groups with approximately 30 refugee participants. The purpose of the focus group was to hear how welcoming or not welcoming refugees found Surrey to be.
- The main issues cited by refugees included challenges finding employment and education. Barriers to employment / English class included a lack of babysitting and transportation. Affordable housing was not cited as a barrier as refugees felt that if they found employment they would be able to afford housing. Participants stated that it was helpful to have someone show them the way.
- Two workshops were developed for the education sector. For elementary school staff, an art therapist worked with refugee children to develop an art project that reflects their experiences before coming to Canada, their current lives, and their dreams for the future. The art project was presented to the school staff.
- For high school and post-secondary educators, refugee youth/young adults developed and facilitated a workshop on refugee myths and facts.
- The following documents were produced ISSofBC as part of the project:
 - Document on facts / statistics about refugees
 - Guide for teachers on how to work with refugee children
 - Book of children's stories / artwork
 - Two videos for the education sector
 - Four newsletters
- The Chair noted that these were excellent projects and that a presentation on the Welcoming Communities project had been made to Council.
- It was noted that City Hall will display the museum's refugee exhibit as well as the children's artwork on July 20-21 for World Refugee Day, and at Doors Open on June 21.

2 Refugees Youth's Transition to Post-Secondary

File No. 5080-01

Don Reddick, Instructor, Department of Economics, School of Business, KPU before the Committee to present on Refugees Youth's Transition to Post-Secondary

The following comments were made:

- The purpose of the Zipporah's Dream Steering Committee (ZDSC) is to enhance postsecondary access for government assisted refugees (GARs) in the South Fraser Region. In 2013, ZDSC undertook a study with a 3 pronged approach: literature review; participation action research; and post-secondary access demand estimation.
- ZDSC produced a report in September 2013 regarding access barriers for GARs to postsecondary. The study indicated that postsecondary education is a key goal for both youth and their parents (parents want to work and want their children to study).
- Barriers included:
 - Lack of language skills;
 - Insufficient previous education;
 - Limited income
 - Insufficient awareness of postsecondary pathways and programs; and
 - Dependence on guidance and on-going support to navigate education experiences.
- Recommendations included to:
 - Increase KPU staffs' awareness about the refugee community. Increase community service groups' awareness about KPU pathways and programs;
 - KPU collaboration with community service groups to identify mutually beneficial partnerships;
 - Ensure effective bridging programs / ongoing student support; and
 - Facilitate refugees making contributions in KPU – trace their successes upon graduation.
- Refugees come to Canada and look toward education to better their lives.
- Committee members are requested to inform organizations, groups or individuals interested in partnerships about ZDSC and its work.
- ZDSC is concerned about the termination of government funding for postsecondary academic preparation programs in English as an Additional Language. The Province has been funding these programs as part of Welcome BC's settlement services. Responsibility for settlement services has transitioned back to the federal government. The federal government does not fund postsecondary institutions to provide ESL.

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Chair noted that the Committee can play an advocacy role on social issues (eg. propose a Union of BC Municipalities Resolution). It was

suggested that the delegation provide the Committee with additional information about the issue of funding for ESL at KPU.

- It was noted that a partnership with Progressive Intercultural Community Service Society (PICS) may be possible and it was questioned if there is an economic argument to investing in GARs.
- The delegate was urged to stay in touch with the Committee.

3. Board Voice - "Social Policy Framework for BC"

File No. 4710-01

Craig Easton, Director, Board Voice, was before the Committee to present on the Social Policy Framework for BC.

The following comments were made:

- The CEO of the Surrey Board of Trade (SBOT) provided a short presentation on why business is interested in social issues by pointing out that businesses want to be proactive in addressing issues that impact business and that social and economic policy should be linked.
SBOT is asking the City to support the resolution being proposed by Board Voice.
- The Director asked SPAC to support a Provincial Social Policy Framework. Board Voice is seeking municipal assistance to put forth a resolution to the UBCM calling on the Province to adopt a Social Policy Framework for BC.
- The Province of BC has an economic framework, but does not have a social policy framework. In the absence of a framework, provincial social services are uncoordinated.
- Alberta undertook a province-wide discussion in 2012. Approximately 30,000 Albertans participated in the dialogue.
- Alberta's Social Policy Framework coordinates the Children's Charter, an Approach to Early Childhood Development, a Poverty Reduction Strategy and Program and service delivery.
- A conversation needs to be started in our province about a social policy framework. A united voice strengthens the argument.
- Board Voice asked the City of Surrey to endorse the resolution.

It was

Moved by E. Milavic
Seconded by M. Shaw

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee recommends that, in support of the Social Policy Framework, that Council endorse the following motion:

WHEREAS every British Columbian depends on social services, healthcare, justice and education services;

AND WHEREAS our communities are partners in the delivery of many of these services and are facing increasingly complex social challenges requiring coordination between multiple social ministries of government, municipalities and the community agencies and organizations that deliver services to the public;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call upon the Premier to begin a consultation with British Columbians to initiate the development of a Social Policy Framework that will set out key policy directions, values, priorities, roles and expectations, and guide the creation of public policy to meet our social needs now and into the future.

Carried

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Chair suggested that Board Voice present to Council and thanked the delegation stating that the Committee supports Board Voice's efforts.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. **Doors Open** – Update

The Planning Technician distributed the notice, map and volunteer flyer for the event and made the following comments:

- Surrey Doors Open will be held June 21, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in City Center, Bear Creek, Newton and Cloverdale.
- Volunteers are still required.
- The refugee museum exhibit and children's art project will be on display in City Hall. The petition will accompany the exhibit. Committee members are welcome to help staff the refugee exhibit.

2. **Heart in the City Award** – Update

File No. 0290-20

The Planning Technician distributed the flyer and made the following comments:

- Only one query and one nomination have been received to date. The Committee members were asked to spread the word. The deadline for submissions is June 23, 2014.
- It was suggested that the flyer be sent to service organizations, the Surrey Board of Trade as well as other organizations.
- The e-flyer will be sent out to Committee members.

3. **Alliance of Service Clubs**

The Planning Technician distributed a hardcopy draft of the webpage for review and asked for feedback regarding the proposed webpage. Any feedback was requested to be sent to the Planning Technician before to May 24th, 2014.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was suggested that Council be provided with a copy of the webpage and that a press release accompany the launch of the website.
- The content of the website should focus on the contributions of the clubs to the Surrey community.

Seeing is Believing Tour

- The Senior Social Planner informed the Committee that the results of the service club questionnaire indicated that the majority of the clubs are interested in developing a website and in participating in a "Seeing is Believing" tour. The purpose of the tour is educate/raise awareness about poverty in Surry.
- The Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition will organize the tour.
- The "Seeing is Believing" Tour is tentatively planned for the fall of 2014.
- The Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition's "Seeing is Believing" Tour subcommittee will be meeting on Friday, May 16th, 2014. L. Coyle volunteered to join the subcommittee. A summary of the meeting will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.

4. **Refugee Transportation Loan Petition** – review presentation

The Planning Technician distributed a draft PowerPoint presentation and notes, and the Committee members were requested to review the presentation/ notes and to provide feedback by May 31st, 2014.

D. **NEW BUSINESS**

E. **ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

There were no items referred by Council.

F. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. **Inter-Office Memo** – to Mayor and Council from the General Manager, Planning and Development regarding SPAC's recommendation for the amendment of the "Heart in the City" Award Terms of Reference – approved by Council April 14, 2014.
2. **Letter to the Honourable Rich Coleman**, Deputy Premier and Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing from Council in regards to an update on the proposed amendments to the *Residential Tenancy Act* (RTA).

It was

Moved by S. Dooley
Seconded by D. Toor
That the Social Policy Advisory

Committee receive the above noted correspondence.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **The Homeless and the Vulnerably Housed in Surrey: Exploring Variations in Needs and Experiences - Executive Summary and Recommendations**
File No. 5080-01

The information item includes the report executive summary and recommendations. The full report is available on the City's Social Planning website.

The Planning Technician distributed the "Low Cost and Free" Housing brochure. .

2. **2014 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count Preliminary Report**
 - It was noted that the final report will be available in July.
 - The Chair stated that it is important to note that Surrey has taken in 80,000 new residents since the 2005. The City can be proud that the homeless population has remained stable since 2005 in spite of high overall population growth. The 2014 Homeless Count also showed a decrease in the number of unsheltered homeless.
3. **Let's Talk Ending Homelessness: Housing First**
4. **Government Loans Saddling 'Most at Risk' Refugees with Debt, The Tyee,**
April 7, 2014
5. **Surrey Welcoming Spaces: A Surrey Welcoming Communities Project**
File No. 5080-01

The Committee received the information items.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **2014 SPAC Fun Schedule**
 - As there are many events in June, including Doors Open, it was suggested that the June meeting be cancelled and that Committee members' time be used to support those events.
 - The Committee agreed to cancel the June 4, 2014 SPAC meeting with the next meeting being held July 2, 2014.
2. **Committee Member Updates**
 - L. Coyle noted that the Rotary Club in South Surrey is having a fund raising breakfast and that she has tickets available (\$15). The proceeds from the tickets go to the Sources Food Bank.
 - M. Shaw reported that the Transitions of Youth report will be ready in September. A delegation request will be added to the July agenda for the report to be presented to the Committee in September.
 - D. Chattha reminded the Committee of the upcoming Komagata Maru anniversary event at SFU Harbour Centre.

- D. Toor informed the Committee that there will be a fundraising event for the Food Bank at the gas station at 80th and King George – car wash and a drive for canned good donations.
- E. Milavic will send an article on the homeless to the Secretary for distribution to the Committee.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 2, 2014 in City Hall, 2E – Community Room A.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Shaw


Seconded by E. Milavic

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:22 pm.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee