
Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor LeFranc
W. Al-Jabiri
A. Begalka
J. Liu (Youth Representative)
S. MacKinnon
C. Mohr
L. Rhead
M. Shaw
M. Tutt (Youth Representative)

Absent:

S. Dooley
J. Sturge
K. Thiara
A. Quiroz
D. Toor

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
K. Patten, Social Planning
P. Heer, Community Planning Manager
L. Luaifo, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes of July 6, 2016 to be adopted.

It was

Moved by A. Begalka

Seconded by S. MacKinnon

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes

of July 6, 2016, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **City Centre Plan Update**
File: 6520-SCC

Preet Heer, Community Planning Manager, Planning & Development, presented an update on the Surrey City Centre Plan.

The following comments were made:

- Surrey's large City Centre is located at the north end of the City and is approximately 581 hectares in size. The north end of the plan is 112 Avenue and the south end is bounded by 96 Ave. East to west boundaries are 132 Street and 140 Street. The area is three times the size of downtown Vancouver and the population is over 32,000 and expected to double within 30 years. According to Metro Vancouver, Surrey is slotted to be the second downtown within the region.
- The City Centre Plan was developed in 1990 when the skytrain was first introduced to the area and staff has since made updates to the original plan. The vision of the plan is to move forward and transform the suburban centre into a transit-oriented, walkable downtown area.

- The area will be a centre for major employment, education including cultural activity, all linked by a green public network. The area is unique as it is home to two water creeks; Quibble Creek and Bolivar Creek.
- The principles that have been developed to help guide the vision are as follows:
 1. Building Density & Mixed Use
 2. Encourage Housing Diversity
 3. Break Up the Block Size
 4. Design Roads for Multiple Modes
 5. Create Vibrant Urban Spaces
 6. Promote Identity and Sense of Place
 7. Encourage Office & Employment
 8. Green the Downtown

Building Density & Mixed Use – Density refers to the number of people living within a certain area. The City Centre Plan is designed for jobs and people to be near transit areas. Single Family (SF) dwellings will be situated towards the edge of plan.

Design Roads for Multiple Modes – Roads in the City Centre will be designed for a whole spectrum of users and not only cars. This will include walking, cycling and transit.

Create Vibrant Urban Spaces - A truly urban downtown is vibrant, identifiable and has unique neighbourhoods and districts. A few of the different neighbourhoods include “The Chuck”; an area developed as an athletic precinct, “Central Downtown”; the core area where the skytrain is located designed for civic, cultural and educational uses. “Historic” is an area where historical buildings are intact. The City will work to keep those features in the neighborhood.

- The City Centre Plan relates to Social Policy through the Guiding Principle – Encourage Housing Diversity, Supportive Housing and Rental Housing. Housing Diversity is the availability of a wide range of housing types and tenures for all ages, incomes, and household composition to accommodate housing choices for families, students, seniors, working professionals, and vulnerable populations.
- The Land Use Plan allows for a whole range of density designations that allow for a wide diversity of housing stock. Single households are an important piece of the downtown and are included in the plan. The smaller unit types allow for student housing or other kinds of housing. These units are called micro-suites and are between 320 and 375 square feet. Policy has been developed to make these units more livable and include design guidelines to ensure things such as; enough light entering the unit and adequate storage space. Lock-off suites are ‘suites within suites’ that let condo owners securely rent a portion of their suite to help pay the mortgage. Lock-off suites have their own kitchenette and bathroom.
- Supportive Housing is a key need; support from other levels of government is needed to increase the stock of Supportive Housing. The Plan allows for the creation of Supportive Housing, so that funding opportunities can be capitalized on.

- Rental Housing – A comprehensive and detailed strategy is needed to fully explore the role of the City and future policies related to creating new rental and affordable housing city-wide. The City is currently developing an Affordable Housing Strategy.
- The Committee thanked the delegation for the presentation and commended staff for putting so much effort into making Surrey both a livable and sustainable City.
- The Committee commented about Bolivar Heights and the need to make the area safer noting that it currently isn't a "walkable" place. Staff noted that consultation will occur in the different neighbourhoods including Bolivar Heights.
- The Committee commended the use of descriptive names for the neighbourhood areas; Central Downtown, The Chuck, Gateway, Bolivar, West Village, Powerline Gateway, Holland Park, King George, Innovation and The Forsyth and Historic.

2. Surrey Child Care Taskforce

File: N/A

Daljit Gill-Badesch and Gerard Bremault, CEO, Child Development Centre, presented on the Surrey Childcare Taskforce.

The following comments were made:

- Surrey has the largest child population and highest birth rate in the province. In 1976, only 40% of Mothers with young children worked; it has increased to 73% in 2016.
- There is a growing inequality between high income and low income families and the average family income has plateaued. Family debt is extremely high and multiple incomes are needed for family survival.
- An analysis in 2011 detailed the availability of child care and determined the following; gaps in spaces for children 0-12; there is a deficit for families seeking child care for under 3 years old and after school care; and fewer facilities offer child care for more than one age group. Families have more than one child in the different age groups and are keen on keeping their children together at one location.
- Despite the need and gap of spaces for child care in Surrey, there are still empty spaces due to the high costs for fees. The cost for one child can be anywhere from \$1500 to \$2100. For 6 years and older, the fee is approximately \$800. These prices are not affordable for many families.
- The type of childcare available in Surrey is 93% Commercial Care (private operators) and 7% Community non-profit.

- There are many impacts when child care spaces are lacking and not affordable. A few example of those impacts include:
 - Big gap between provincial child care subsidy and the actual fees
 - Provincial operating grants for child care average less than 1/10 of what is provided in public schools
 - Parents miss work and are stressed getting kids to and from child care. Some parents can't enter or stay in the workforce; for some, it can cost less to stay home and take care of the child. This impacts the workforce as well.
 - Children do not receive the quality of consistency of care and supervision they need.
- The quality of child care is important. At times parents are put in hard places and are pressured to select child care based on affordability. Some parents have to leave their children in care they might not otherwise because it is cheaper. Studies indicate that children who are provided with quality care have a better chance in life to perform. If children are not provided the best quality care, it will cost as a society as a whole.
- Other concerns about child care include:
 - High fee does not necessarily translate to higher wages for qualified Early Childhood Education (ECE) staff.
 - Quality of ECE training is inconsistent.
 - Lack of appropriate amenity space for new child care programs.
 - Zoning requirements need review.
- Key Outcomes of the Taskforce include:
 - Integration of child care into continuum of child and family support services in Surrey.
 - Optimal utilization of existing licensed spaces.
 - Increase spaces.
 - Child care that is high quality, accessible, affordable and comprehensive.
 - Child care that meets the needs of children, families and employees.
- An integrative community sustainability strategy which:
 - Improves child outcomes
 - Supports family wellbeing, capacity and community connectedness
 - Complements workforce engagement
 - Encourages social, economic and cultural inclusion
 - Contributes to financial prosperity
- Members of the Taskforce include representatives from the School District, Fraser Health, Alexandra Neighbourhood House & Middle Childhood Matters, Options Services, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, YMCA and Surrey Board of Trade etc.
- The Committee clarified that the City does not have the ability to fund child care as it is provincial responsibility. This is an important issue because child care is not affordable.

- The Committee noted that there is a need to identify ways of working together through the planning stages of new schools to designate space for Early Childhood Education.
- Staff noted that through this Committee, in 2012, the City endorsed the vision and directions as contained in the "*Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning*" as proposed by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia and the Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia.

The delegation will provide a report with recommendations at a future date for the Committee's consideration.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. **Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy (SUASIS) Update** File: N/A – Verbal

Councillor LeFranc provided the following update:

- The City was successful in securing \$90,000 in funding from the BC Association of Friendship Centres to continue work on the SUASIS for the year. Thanks were noted to staff; Aileen, Kristin and also Sheldon Tetreault for their hard work in securing the funding.
- The SUASIS group will work on establishing protocols internally. Phase 2 will include the organization of a workshop with the broader community to find solutions for the key issues that were identified in the report. Another key activity will be to look at the Leadership Committee itself and to develop a strategic plan in the future.
- The Chair noted that Surrey museum is expanding and hoping to have a component to celebrate the different cultures within the community.

2. **City Staff Refugee Donations/ Surrey Welcomes Refugees Day** File: N/A - Verbal

Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner provided the following update:

- From April to June, 191 Government Assisted Refugees arrived in BC - 39% were Syrian, 69% are still coming and once arrived, 28% of people came to Surrey.
- Surrey Welcomes Refugees Day was held on July 20, 2016 from 4:00 pm at the City Hall atrium. The City of Surrey, VanCity and United Way sponsored the event and provided the food. 25 organizations set up "fun" booths and there were from 300 to 500 attendees. Stephen Dooley emceed the event and committee member Wafa Al-Jabiri was in attendance to assist with translating.
- Staff Donations – in March training was offered for staff and a call to action to staff to give back to the refugees was made over the summer. 60 staff members donated

in various ways and 208 staff members donated gift cards from the Staff Appreciation to the refugees.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Youth Transitioning from Care – 19th Birthday Party, October 6** - The date for this event was changed to October 6. The Youth Transitioning from Care project is funded by the Vancouver Foundation. Each year in South Fraser, 59 youth age out of foster care. A save the date was sent out and an invitation will be sent out as well.

A draft report will be brought to the Committee in the next couple of months. A three year proposal has been submitted for funding to continue the work with youth who have graduated out of care.

2. **Social Innovation Breakfast** - Registration for the next event is available on the City of Surrey website for a fee of \$25. David Young from Sources completed his Social Innovation Residency in Banff and will be making a presentation on what he learned and his experience.
3. **Orange Shirt Day** – On September 30, people are encouraged to wear orange to support the initiative on raising awareness about the impact of Residential schools. An educational display has been set up in the lobby of City Hall. In addition, Bev Sellers, a best-selling author on Indian Residential Schools and reconciliation, will be facilitating a learning session at the City Centre Library on October 25. Councillor LeFranc thanked staff for taking an interest in this initiative and supporting Orange Shirt Day.
4. **Surrey Vulnerable Women’s & Girls Collaborative Workshop – November 17** – An update will be provided at the November SPAC meeting.

Staff noted that the project is continuing and there is going to be another collaborative workshop to look at some of the key themes that came out of the research report, with a particular focus on homelessness. On Friday, the Supporting Women’s Alternatives Network (SWAN) will be making a presentation at City hall at 11:30 am. SWAN works with immigrant women who are involved in the indoor sex trade, supporting their health, safety and well-being.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Committee Member Updates

- Monie Tutt - Organized a golf tournament fundraiser for child development that raised \$10,000.
- Lynne Rhead - The Syrian family that Lynne's church sponsored has two older sons who wish to migrate to Canada and join their family.
- June Liu - Surrey's Youth Fest is a free event on September 17 from 1 pm to 7 pm and a teen dance with a DJ Deth Klown at 8 pm. This event is being held at the Guildford Recreation Centre and consists of numerous activities for teens including a dance battle, carnival games and food trucks.

2. 2016 SPAC Fun Schedule

- November 23 - Social Innovations Summit - list of dates to the Committee - January
- November - Sam Pothier - Youth Transitioning from Care - to be confirmed.
- Drug overdose and a presentation - Staff to invite Fraser Health to do a presentation

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Social Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2016 in room 2E Community Room A.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by J. Liu


Seconded by L. Rhead

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting

do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 7: 15 pm.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Policy Advisory Committee