

Present:

Councillor Villeneuve, Chair
Councillor LeFranc, Vice-Chair
A. Begalka
K. Thiara
M. Schaafsma
M. Shaw
R. Gunderson
S. Dooley
W. Al-Jabiri

Absent:

C. Mohr
D. Jimeno
M. Bains
M. Dhillon

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Planner
K. Patten, Social Planner
C. Eagles, Administrative Assistant

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of March 7, 2018.

It was

Moved by A. Begalka

Seconded by M. Schaafsma

That the minutes of the Social Policy

Advisory Committee meeting held on March 7, 2018, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **BC Framework for Wellbeing: Findings from the Community Engagement Process**

Craig East, Director, Board Voice Society and Options Community Services Society; Anne Peterson, Policy & Research Manager, Surrey Board of Trade; and Tim Beachy, Chair, Board of Director, Options Community Services Society
File: 0250-20

The delegation provided a Power-Point presentation on the findings from the community engagement process from the BC Framework for Wellbeing and highlighted the following information:

- The project was initiated to build the case for the need for a provincial social policy framework to address the increasingly complex issues facing BC communities. The project used the social determinants of health as its foundation. Public engagement included 16 communities, 1,600 community members, an online survey, and interviews with experts between May and September 2017. Volunteers conducted short interviews at public events and centers within the community that outreached to diverse populations.

- The consultation activities identified 10 top themes, with affordable and appropriate housing as the main issue. The process highlighted the importance of municipal Social Plans. Surrey's Social Plan was adopted in 2006. There is no Social Policy Framework or Plan at the Provincial level in British Columbia.
- The next steps include meetings with government and MLA's, sharing results and encouraging advocacy for a Social Policy Framework for BC. The Social Policy Framework will guide decision making, set direction, identify connections, support alignments and improve the well-being of residents.

K. Thiara entered the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

2. Lookout Shelters and Modular Housing: Creating a Positive Housing Continuum for Surrey

Bailey Mumford, Lookout Housing and Health Society

File: 0250-20

The delegation provided a Power-Point presentation on Lookout Shelters and the new Temporary Accommodation Units and highlighted the following information:

- Lookout Housing and Health Society services 13 communities in the Lower Mainland for vulnerable people including housing and a network of services such as outreach, needle distribution, community cleanup, and medical and dental clinics.
- There are three shelter locations in Surrey operated by Lookout with a total of 161 beds. The Boulevard Shelter is located at 10677 Whalley Boulevard, it opened on December 1, 2015 and is a 40 bed shelter. The Guildford Shelter, located at 14716 - 104 Avenue, opened on February 14, 2017. The Guildford shelter currently houses 20 men, 8 women and 6 couples. The Gateway and Parkway Shelters are located on 135A Street, each providing 40 beds.
- Each individual entering a shelter receives a personal plan and approach to assist them in managing their specific needs, including assistance securing housing. People can be turned away because of full capacity. There is no time limit on occupants' duration of stay. The shelters allow pets.
- Temporary accommodation housing units are being built in the Whalley area on three sites, providing a total of 160 units of transitional housing. Two staff will be onsite 24 hours 7 days a week. Two meals will be provided daily along with case management support and services for residents.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation noted that there has been extensive planning regarding the move to the temporary accommodation units including outreach and communication with the homeless population on 135A Street. The Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT) has been used to assess and make decisions as to where each individual would best fit.

The Committee commended the delegation on the work that is being done and wishes the team the best of luck.

K. Thiara exited the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Elimination of the Transportation Loan Program for Government Assisted Refugees

Staff recapped the discussion at the previous March 7, 2017 SPAC meeting and discussed the opportunity to have SPAC put forward a resolution to Council, to support a resolution to the UBCM to terminate the Refugee Transportation Loan.

The Committee noted the transportation loan has a detrimental impact to the refugees and believes that the Canadian Government should cancel the debt.

RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by A. Begalka
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to prepare a Resolution for submission to the UBCM calling on the UBCM to urge the Government of Canada to cancel all outstanding refugee transportation and pre-entry medical loan debt and to cease seeking repayment of the transportation and pre-entry medical costs for new Government Assisted Refugees coming to Canada.
Carried

K. Thiara returned to the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

2. Connecting Community to Youth Leaving Care Working Groups

3. Social Innovation Summit Update

The Social Innovation Summit will be held on September 6, 2018, at Surrey City Hall. The Vice-Chair discussed the speakers.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Affordable Housing Strategy:

Aileen Murphy, Sr. Social Planner, Planning and Development and Kristin Patten, Planner, Planning and Development

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Affordable Housing Strategy and highlighted the following information:

- Over the past ten years, the City has focused its housing investments towards the most vulnerable segments of the population. With rising housing costs and low rental vacancies, Surrey is becoming unaffordable for low and moderate income households.
- The Surrey Affordable Housing Strategy complements the Master Plan for Housing the Homeless in Surrey, and focuses on purpose-built market and non-market rental housing.
- At the Federal level, there is the 10 year, \$40 billion National Housing Strategy that is human rights based approach that prioritizes the housing needs of Canada's most vulnerable. The Provincial government has introduced a 30-point plan for housing affordability called the Provincial Housing Plan. The Plan includes a \$6 billion investment in building and preserving affordable housing.
- There has been a 4% increase in the proportion of rental households in Surrey between 2006 and 2016. Currently, 29% of Surrey households rent their home. The majority of rental units are private market rentals.
- Purpose-built rental housing is considered to be the most secure type of market rental housing. The majority of purpose built rental housing developments in Surrey were built in the 1970s when government tax incentives were available for the development of rental apartments. Currently, there are approximately 1250 market rental housing projects in progress or recently completed.
- Non-market rental housing includes housing for low-income individuals and families, low-income seniors housing, co-operative housing and supportive or transitional housing.
- Housing is considered affordable when rent is 30% or less of a household's income. Renter households generally have significantly lower household incomes as compared to owner households. Both rent and home values have been outpacing income increases by 19-41%. Many rental units are above what renters can actually afford to pay each month.
- On average, compared to elsewhere in the Metro Vancouver Region, Surrey renter working households pay less towards their housing costs but more for transportation. Locating affordable rental units near transit can have a positive impact on resident's budgets.
- The Surrey Affordable Housing Strategy consists of four key action items:
 - Prevent the loss of purpose-built rental housing;
 - Strengthen protection for tenants;
 - Encourage the development of new purpose-built rental housing; and
 - Increase the supply of housing affordable to renter households with low to moderate incomes.

- Key actions to implement the Strategy include adopting a one-for-one replacement policy for rental units, developing a "Tenant Protection and Relocation Policy", re-introducing the requirement that new residential development contribute \$1000 per unit to support the development of new affordable rental housing and using the Affordable Housing Funds to purchase land that can be leased for affordable rental housing projects.

The Committee noted there is a link between affordable housing and transportation and that it is important that affordable housing is along transit lines.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Simon Fraser University's Community Building Programs

File: 5080-01

New programs are being offered within the Community Building Program's at Simon Fraser University.

2. Community Open House Materials regarding Temporary Accommodation

Staff provided the Committee with materials from the January 23, 2018 Community Open House on new temporary accommodation housing for the homeless in City Centre.

3. Connecting Community to Surrey Youth Leaving Care

The Committee is invited to participate in working groups arranged by the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) and the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition.

4. Social Innovation Resources

Staff provided the Committee with Social Innovation Resources.

5. Indigenous and Refugee Youth-Intercultural Dialogues Report

Staff provided the Committee with the Indigenous and Refugee Youth-Intercultural Dialogues Report.

6. SPAC Member Biography Template

7. Surrey Affordable Housing Strategy

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Committee Member Updates

The Committee noted that the City of Vancouver has approved a motion that would give Permanent Residents the right to vote in municipal elections. The motion needs to be approved by the provincial government. The Committee would like background information on Vancouver's initiative to determine what would be involved to pass a similar motion with the City of Surrey.

Currently, a person needs to be at least 18 years old and a Canadian citizen to vote.

2. 2018 SPAC Fun Schedule

Staff discussed the opportunity to hold the July 4, 2018 SPAC meeting off-site with a tour in Newton focused on placemaking.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Social Policy Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 in 2E Community Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by K. Thiara

Seconded by M. Schaafsma

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

for 
Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Villeneuve, Chair