

Present:

Councillor Locke, Chair
G. Bremault
M. Cheema
N. Chima
A. Dhillon
S. Kular
C. Mohr
N. Nastoh
A. Willis

Absent:

S. Andhi Bilkhu
A. Begalka

Staff Present:

K. Marosevich, Bylaw Services Manager
A. Murphy, Senior Planner
K. Patten, Planner
L. Blake, Administrative Assistant

INTRODUCTIONS AND ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR

1. Committee Member Introductions

Round-table introductions were conducted

2. Election of a Vice-Chair

Note: The Vice-Chair would be responsible for chairing meetings if Councillor Locke is unable to attend.

This item was tabled to the May 1, 2018 meeting.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. October 3, 2018 Social Policy Advisory Committee Minutes

It was

Moved by C. Mohr

Seconded by N. Chima

That the minutes of the Social Policy

Advisory Committee meeting held on October 3, 2018, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Kim Marosevich, Bylaw Services Manager

Kim Marosevich, Bylaw Services Manager provided a PowerPoint overview of the City's donation bin policy as outlined in Corporate Report 2019-R039. Ms. Marosevich noted that the majority of other municipalities in the Lower Mainland have similar policies regarding donation bins, seeking voluntary compliance. In Surrey, 67 bins have been voluntarily removed, 24 bins remain at Fire Halls (which are staffed 24/7), and there are 8 bins that still require a follow-up from Bylaws. The City of Delta is the only municipality to declare the bins a risk as per the

Community Charter and requiring them to be removed or modified to remove the potentially hazardous affixed metal flap.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Marosevich provided the following information:

- Bin manufacturers have identified an alternative mechanism for the lid that could be applied to new and existing models that removes the risk of people being injured.
- Some bin modifications, such as removing doors, could result in unsightliness issues.
- A bylaw restricting the type of bins that can be utilized could result in liability issues for the City and would require additional resources for staff to monitor to ensure compliance.
- Donation bins are not required to implement signage indicating potential hazards; however, most property or bin owners include voluntary signage.
- Charities that benefit from the clothing bins have indicated that the clothing bins are necessary revenue source.

Councillor Locke commented that MetroVancouver is reviewing the general issue of clothing/fabric recycling and the final report can be brought to the Committee once it is available.

The Committee noted that while it appears that the safety issue has been adequately addressed, the underlying issue with respect to the donation bins is sustainable funding for the charitable organizations.

The Committee suggested that charitable organizations could be required to indicate any bins they have and to certify that safety measures have been implemented when they apply for their annual business license.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

M. Cheema arrived at 4:38 p.m.

1. Homelessness and Housing

a. Presentation

Councillor Locke, Chair, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding homelessness and housing and highlighted the following information:

- In 2017, there were 602 unhoused residents in Surrey as per Metro Vancouver's count, which is conducted every three years. The count relies on self-identified unhoused residents, so it is difficult to get a true count of unhoused residents.
- Many unhoused residents have physical disabilities and reported mental illness and addiction issues. The top five services accessed by unhoused residents are: emergency room at Surrey Memorial Hospital, meal programs, ambulance services, hospital services (non-emergency) and health clinics.

In 2018, the "tent city" located on 135A Street had grown to a population of over 180 individuals. Through the hard work of the Surrey Outreach Team, BC Housing, Fraser Health and City staff, these residents were relocated to temporary housing sites and shelters. The next steps will be to get these residents relocated to permanent housing, as well as address new challenges, such as camps located in other areas of the City.

- It is anticipated that the Surrey housing market will continue to present challenges for residents with limited incomes to find housing and for residents already in challenging housing situations.
- The City, in partnership with BC Housing, has opened 160 temporary housing units on three sites that include support services. Community Advisory Committee meetings have been established to address any issues that may arise from the temporary housing projects. However, the leases for these sites are set to expire in late 2019 and 2020.
- The Province has committed funding for additional new housing projects, including a large purpose-built transitional housing facility adjacent to Green Timbers Park and up to 250 modular housing units on five sites.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Locke and Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner, provided the following information:

- As modular housing is populated, there is an assessment process for individuals' needs and support requirements to ensure that housing projects have a proper mix of residents and that individuals are receiving the appropriate supports they require.
- Extreme Weather Response (EWR) locations are an extremely temporary, emergency solution and only utilized over-night during extreme cold or wet winter weather, with no services attached.
- In April 2018, the City adopted the Affordable Housing Strategy to address rental housing options, including market and non-market housing.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- Unhoused residents impact the healthcare system. Many shelters and temporary housing units are unable to provide healthcare services for residents and lack of housing can force individuals to stay longer in hospitals.
- Rental housing should be reviewed, as there are few affordable units, rental prices continue to increase and early housing intervention is important.
- Housing conversations should align with the main demographics of unhoused residents to ensure that individuals who require assistance are being properly addressed.

b. Overview of Resources

Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner, reviewed available homelessness and housing resources and highlighted the Low-Cost and Free Services document that is available in libraries and online at <https://www.surreylibraries.ca/services/community-services#A>.

c. Committee Involvement in Community Meals

Councillor Locke, Chair, advised that Committee members who are interested in joining her to volunteer at food service programs can contact her for additional information at Brenda.Locke@surrey.ca.

2. Committee Terms of Reference

Councillor Locke, Chair, advised that the Committee will address diversity as part of its mandate and will provide a draft Terms of Reference at the May 1, 2018 meeting for review.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by G. Bremault
 Seconded by A. Dhillon
 That the Social Policy Advisory Committee
 recommend to Council that the Social Policy Advisory Committee be renamed the
 Social Equity and Diversity Committee.

Carried

3. 2019 Committee Work Plan

The following future delegations were suggested:

- Fraser Health to discuss care for unhoused residents;

- BC Housing to discuss the rental housing market, housing best practice models, preferred and suggested housing mixes and an analysis of housing options available in Surrey;
- BC Housing to share the results of their research on the new modular housing projects (interviews with residents and staff) when available; and
- Surrey RCMP and Mental Health Outreach Team to discuss their expanded services beyond City Centre.

In response to a request from the Committee, Councillor Locke and staff advised that they can provide social housing speaking points so that Committee members can effectively promote the new modular social housing in the community.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were circulated for information:

1. Recycling Council of BC

<https://rcbc.ca/>

2. Low Cost and Free Services

<https://www.surreylibraries.ca/services/community-services#A>

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Adoption of 2019 Social Policy Advisory Committee Schedule

This item was deferred to the May 1, 2019 meeting.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Social Policy Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room A.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by G. Bremault

Seconded by N. Chima

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee


meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:53 p.m.



Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk



Councillor Brenda Locke, Chair