

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AHCCAC)

**Tuesday, February 11 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair, City Council Member
Brian Curry	- Community Member
Stephanie Erdelyi	- Representative, Child Care Advocacy Organization
Briana Harris	- Community Member
Blaine Kane	- Representative, Indigenous Advocacy or Social Service Organization
Hortensia Moreno	- Community Member (Arrived at 6:00 p.m.)
Iulia Sincaian	- Community Member
Andii Stephens	- Community Member
Betina Wheeler	- Representative, Homelessness Coalition Society

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Justin Byers	- Representative, BC Housing
Wes Everaars	- Community Member
Jennifer Fane	- Community Member
Quirina Gamblen	- Representative, School District 40

STAFF PRESENT:

Claudia Freire	- Housing / Social Planner
Anur Mehdic	- Housing / Child Care Planning Analyst
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Committee Orientation and Oaths of Office

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, led a round of introductions and provided a Committee orientation presentation, reviewing the following documents:

- Affordable Housing and Child Care Advisory Committee (AHCCAC) Terms of Reference;

- Committee Advisory Policy;
- Committee Rules of Conduct;
- City of New Westminster Respectful Workplace Policy;
- City of New Westminster Social Media Policy; and,
- Freedom of Information Permission Forms.

Ms. Corbett administered the Oath of Office to all members of the Committee present.

2.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes were made.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Community and Social Issues Committee (CSI) of November 5, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the November 5, 2019 Community and Social Issues Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Affordable Housing and Child Care in New Westminster

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, and Anur Mehdić, Housing and Child Care Planning Analyst, provided a PowerPoint presentation containing information on the City's key directions and actions in the Affordable Housing Priority Area and details of the Child Care Strategy and Child Care Needs Assessment.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Freire and Mr. Mehdić provided the following information:

- The statistics presented on the current child care spaces did not include recent developments in Queensborough;
- The intention for most new child care providers working with the City is for them to be nonprofit organizations; however, the specific providers in the new Queensborough development are still to be confirmed; and,
- In terms of City-owned and led affordable housing projects, there is an RFP that closes in March for two small sites; otherwise Council's focus is on policy work.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Appointment of Alternate Chair to Affordable Housing and Child Care Advisory Committee

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Andii Stephens be appointed as the Alternate Chair of the Affordable Housing and Child Care Advisory Committee for the 2020 term.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

6.2 Affordable Housing and Child Care Committee Work Plan

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, noted that the Committee would have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on a draft Committee work plan at the April 2020 meeting.

6.3 Inclusionary Housing Policy Update

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, provided the Committee with details of the inclusionary housing policy, which was adopted by Council in December 2019 and outlines expectations for applicants to provide a range of below market or non-market units within building applications as a means to encourage affordable housing.

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

- Non-profit involvement would typically occur with the first option within the policy, which includes the provision of 20% affordable units; and,
- Non-profit involvement is expected in all projects, because there is a requirement that any applications with less than 10% affordable units would need to have non-profit management.

6.4 24 hour Homeless Count

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, provided the Committee with details of the upcoming homeless count, occurring in the City on March 3 and 4, noting that there is a shortage of enumerators, and anyone who would be interested in participating could get in touch with the New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society.

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

- The count is usually done over two days, by volunteers, on foot and in pairs; and,
- An information and training session is taking place on February 18 and is required by anyone who has not participated previously.

6.5 Shared Entrances and Common Areas Policy Update

Anur Mehdić, Housing and Child Care Planning Analyst, provided a presentation on the Shared Entrances and Common Areas Policy, including details on the research and consultation that the City had been undertaking on the subject.

Committee members were asked to provide input on the opportunities and challenges with respect to shared entrances, lobby areas, elevators, and private indoor and outdoor amenity areas.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Mehdić noted that, through the development of this policy, the City is attempting to ensure visual equity and inclusion in all buildings going forward, particularly with the inclusionary housing policy coming into place; and this could include approving designs or separations that are unseen by the naked eye, i.e. separation that occurs through key fobs to specific doors.

Committee members provided the following feedback on opportunities and challenges associated with shared entrances:

Challenges associated with allowing shared entrances:

- There is stigmatization associated with separate entrances and it could lead to residents feeling economically discriminated and confused, particularly in reference to children being separated within a building but attending the same school;
- Separated entrances do not lead to building community, inclusiveness and familiarity among neighbours;
- Shared amenity spaces help to foster a sense of community and encourage opportunities to meet a diverse range of people in buildings; and,
- Equity measures are important in New Westminster, as the City has pride in its sense of community.

Possible opportunities or reasons for allowing shared entrances:

- Development financing considerations, although this may be mitigated if expectations are set early on about a non-tolerance for separated entrances with developers and non-profit operators;
- Managing strata finances, amenity upkeep and maintenance costs, and how difficult these can be to administer; and,
- Extreme cases, such as housing projects where domestic abuse may be a consideration of the inhabitants.

6.6 Child Care Information Session in Queensborough

Anur Mehdic, Housing and Child Care Planning Analyst, provided a presentation highlighting the different types of child care and the shortage of child care in Queensborough, particularly in terms of home-based spaces.

Mr. Mehdic asked the Committee for feedback on how best to communicate to the Queensborough community that it is not a highly stringent process to open home-based childcare, and how to encourage the community to consider offering home-based child care, considering the quantity of single family homes in the area.

Committee members noted the following:

- The City would want to emphasize that people should want to get into the provision of child care because they are passionate about the opportunity and realize the importance of the age group;
- It would be important to ensure that all of the pertinent information is provided in order to make sure that the process does not look too simple, i.e. age-based requirements and indoor and outdoor space requirements;
- Some key channels to disperse information would be through active Facebook groups such as the New Westminster and Queensborough Moms Groups, and by targeting locations where parents visit, such as the Library and Community Centres; and,
- This may be more challenging than it seems and need further development and research on licensing.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

7.1 Housing Backgrounder

This item was provided in the agenda package.

7.2 Child Care Needs Assessment – 2015

This item was provided in the agenda package.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in Committee Room 2, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
COUNCILLOR JAIMIE MCEVOY
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
HEATHER CORBETT
COMMITTEE CLERK