

## **COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

**January, 7 2014 - 5:30 p.m.  
Committee Room #2, City Hall (511 Royal Avenue)**

### **MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair
Norah Andrew	- Community Member
Ashley Currie	- School District No. 40 Representative
Chinu Das	- Community Member
Yasser Elmasri	- Community Member
Briana Tomkinson	- Community Member
Lillian Whitmore	- Community Member
Judith Hockney	- Fraser Health Representative (arrived at 5:50 p.m.)

#### **VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Christine Vickers	- Community Member
Catherine Cheng	- Community Member
Nancy Brar	- Community Member

#### **GUESTS:**

Betina Ali	- Fraser Health
Deanna Tan Francoeur	- Fraser Health
Gabriella Maio	- BC Ministry of Child and Family Development

#### **STAFF:**

John Stark	- Senior Social Planner
Mark Allison	- Senior Planner
Alison Worsfold	- Recording Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

#### **1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions.

## 2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of November 5, 2013

#### **MOVED and SECOND**

*THAT the minutes of the Community and Social Issues Committee meeting held on November 5, 2013 be received and adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## 3.0 PRESENTATIONS

### 3.1 Larco Development (Child Care & Family Friendly Housing)

Mark Allison, Senior Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation and outlined the following details regarding the proposed Larco Development located at 660 Quayside Drive:

- The City began the process in response to changing community values and to move forward with implementing the City's waterfront vision, and to improve public views towards the waterfront;
- The designation for the location will remain "Mixed Use High Density;"
- The development will maximize open and green space;
- The proposed esplanade will be expanded in the future to further enhance the public waterfront experience;
- The proposed Concept Plan includes the following:
  - Three 28-45 storey high towers;
  - 800 residential units;
  - A two-acre public park;
  - A 9 metre wide waterfront Esplanade;
  - 80 underground public parking stalls;
  - A 40 child minimum childcare facility; and,
  - A potential 150 room hotel.
- The design of the buildings have not yet been decided;
- 6,000 square feet of the third tower will be dedicated to childcare space;
- The developer will offer the childcare space to a licensed childcare provider at a reduced rate;
- Two roundabouts have been included in the proposal to help regulate traffic in the area;
- The buffers included in the proposal aim to diminish train whistle noise;
- Whistle cessation in the area continues to be investigated;
- Elevators will be installed at Hyack Square to increase accessibility;
- There are three phases of the development:
  - Phase I – Tower 1
  - Phase II – Tower 2

- Phase III – Tower 3, including the daycare facility
- A community open house was held in December 2013;
- The next steps include Council direction and further community consultation; and,
- Additional information on the development can be found at: [www.newwestcity.ca/waterfrontvision](http://www.newwestcity.ca/waterfrontvision).

Discussion ensued, and the following comments were noted:

- There will be commercial space located in towers 1 and 2;
- The area will remain connected to Westminster Pier Park and the Fourth Street pedestrian connector;
- The proposal includes a mix of one, two and three bedroom units; and,
- Four bedroom units are not offered in the application due to affordability and the idea that family sizes are decreasing.

**Procedural Note:** Judith Hockney arrived at 5:50 p.m.

### **3.2 New Westminster Community Food Action Committee**

Betina Ali of School District #40 and Deanna Tan Francoeur of Fraser Health provided details regarding the following New Westminster Community Food Action Committee initiatives:

#### **1. The New Westminster Food Charter:**

- The Committee has collaborated with the United Way of the Lower Mainland and Family Services of Greater Vancouver to work towards the development of a Food Charter;
- The Charter states that “Food security is a goal, while Food Sovereignty describes how to get there”;
- The goal of the Charter is to ensure that all members of the community are provided with access to food, and feel empowered to provide input on their food system;
- The Charter is an inclusive sustainable food system; and,
- The Committee plans on asking Council to support the Food Charter.

#### **2. Southwest BC Bio-regional Food System Design and Plan Project:**

- The project is a three-year Kwantlen Polytechnic University initiative;
- The project will research the food system cycle throughout the region;
- The goal is to improve the local economy by maximizing the food cycle;

- The University is asking the following assistance from the City of New Westminster:
  - i. Endorsement of the project;
  - ii. A staff liaison for the project; and,
  - iii. \$6,000 towards funding for the project.
- A number of Metro Vancouver municipalities have supported and funded the project to date.

### **3. Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Advocacy**

- The Committee wrote a letter in support of the ALR; and,
- The Committee plans on asking Council to write a letter in support of the ALR.

Ms. Ali provided a brief overview regarding the New Westminster Harvest Box program, and noted the following:

- The program is a twice-monthly delivery service of fresh produce;
- The New Westminster Parks, Culture & Recreation Department have been great supporters of the program;
- The first Harvest Box delivery occurred at the end of November 2013;
- Between 90 and 130 boxes of produce have been distributed throughout the community to date;
- The Harvest Box program was featured in the Active Living Guide;
- Boxes can be booked until the end of June 2014;
- “BoGo” boxes, which donate a box of produce to a needy family for each purchased box, have been popular in New Westminster; and,
- The Food Action Committee distributes approximately 17 to 26 boxes to needy families each depot day.

### **3.3 Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Gabriella Maio of BC Ministry of Children and Family Development provided the following information regarding the New Westminster Poverty Reduction Strategy:

- The Strategy is a joint initiative that began in April 2012 between the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Provincial Government;
- The project aims to address poverty reduction related to families at both the community and individual levels;
- Assets and challenges in regards to poverty have been researched in New Westminster since the launch of the program;
- In 2012, an individual case study was carried out that examined twelve local families living in poverty; and,
- The program will now study the community element of poverty.

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided the following information regarding the Community Poverty Reduction Strategy:

- The goal of the Strategy is to establish a viable profile of families living in poverty in New Westminster;
- The information will ultimately be displayed on a map, which will be a helpful tool for external organizations such as community , faith and social service organizations;
- The project aims to create a better definition of “poverty” and to discover the exact number of families living in poverty in New Westminster; and,
- Benchmark information will be compiled throughout the duration of the project to measure the overall progress of the project.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were noted:

- It was suggested that the Strategy is a fantastic initiative that will benefit the community;
- The program’s success has resulted in it becoming a permanent initiative, as it was initiated as a pilot program;
- The program aids in supporting community clinics, and providing residents with additional access to community services; and,
- It was suggested that a follow-up plan to measure the outcome of the project could be beneficial to the community.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Child and Youth Friendly Community / Family-Friendly Housing Update**

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided an update regarding the Child and Youth Friendly Community Strategy and Family-Friendly Housing Policy that was discussed at the November 5, 2013 Community and Social Issues Committee meeting. Mr. Stark advised that the report was brought forward to Council on December 2, 2013 and that surveying has started at the New Westminster Family Place. The Society of Children and Youth in British Columbia, project partners, will be assuming responsibility of a portion of the Strategy with the support of City staff.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Child Care Needs Assessment**

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided the following information regarding the Child Care Needs Assessment:

- A Child Care Needs Assessment survey was completed in New Westminster in 2007;

- 428 parents were surveyed and seven focus group were held;
- The survey concluded that access to affordable childcare is an important factor to positive community development;
- The survey demonstrated that parents tend to enroll their children in unlicensed and unregulated care facilities if they cannot afford a licensed facility; and,
- There will be a Child Care Needs Assessment survey circulated this year, with the results being compared to the 2007 survey.

## 6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

### MOVED and SECONDED

*That the following items be received for information:*

#### 6.1. Community Poverty Reduction Strategy – Profile Framework

#### 6.2 Child Care Needs Assessment – Proposed Methodology

**CARRIED.**

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

## 7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

## 8.0 NEXT MEETING

TBD

## 9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 7:15 p.m.

Certified correct,

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**Councillor J. McEvoy**  
Chair

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**Alison Worsfold**  
Recording Clerk