



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

**September 9, 2014: 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall (511 Royal Avenue)**

NOTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Briana Tomkinson	- Community Member
Lillian Whitmore	- Community Member
Nadine Nakagawa	- Community Member
Patrick Johnstone	- Community Member (Interim Chair)
Susan Zygmunt	- Community Member

REGRETS:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair
Judith Hockney	- Fraser Health Representative
Norah Andrew	- Community Member
Richard Dolmat	- Community Member
Chinu Das	- Community Member

STAFF:

John Stark	- Senior Social Planner
Tristan Johnson	- Planning Analyst
Alison Worsfold	- Recording Clerk

Procedural Note: Patrick Johnstone assumed the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 3, 2014

In the absence of quorum, the item was tabled to the October 7, 2014 meeting.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Panhandling and the Use of Homeless or Kindness Meters

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided an On Table PowerPoint presentation regarding Homeless or Kindness Meters, which are parking meters that collect small donations for services that assist homeless people.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments, should the program move forward in New Westminster in the future:

- The program would offer a communications opportunity for the City to raise awareness on the issue of homelessness;
- It was suggested that businesses be approached to support a meter and match the funds; and,
- It was suggested that the monies raised from the meters be specifically directed to a fundamental purpose or function.

Members of the Committee noted that panhandling allows the homeless to spend their money how they chose, rather than being constricted to predetermined services provided by a Homeless or Kindness Meter program. Further, it was suggested that providing to panhandlers is an easy way for individuals to support the homeless, and that the program should not jeopardize this way of giving.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Family-Friendly Housing Update

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, and Tristan Johnson, Planning Analyst, reviewed an On Table document regarding an update on New Westminster's Family-Friendly Housing Policy.

4.2 Southwest BC Bio Regional Food System Plan Update

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, advised that Council endorsed the Southwest BC Bio Regional Food System Plan. A City staff person has been assigned to the project and efforts are underway to determine a funding mechanism for the project.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 New Westminster Poverty Reduction Strategy

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided an overview of the New Westminster Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Tristan Johnson, Planning Analyst, reviewed the Poverty Reduction Preliminary Backgrounder.

5.2 Draft Child and Youth Engagement Toolkit

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, reviewed the Draft Child and Youth Engagement Toolkit, and requested that Committee members review the document in preparation for discussion at the October 7, 2014 meeting.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Are You Planning to Have Kids? (Part 1 and 2)

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

October 7, 2014; 5:30 p.m.; Committee Room #2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 7:10 p.m.