

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

**October 7, 2014: 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

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

REGRETS:

Lillian Whitmore	- Community Member
Briana Tomkinson	- Community Member
Susan Zygmunt	- Community Member

STAFF:

John Stark	- Senior Social Planner
Alison Worsfold	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the June 3, 2014 Community and Social Issues Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

2.2 Notes of September 9, 2014

The notes of the September 9, 2014 Community and Social Issues Committee meeting were circulated for information.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Family-Friendly Housing Update and Discussion

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided an on table PowerPoint presentation regarding the New Westminster Family-Friendly Housing Feasibility Study.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark noted the following information:

- There is a small percentage of three bedroom apartments currently available for rent in New Westminster;
- Additional information regarding the income breakdown displayed in the presentation can be provided to the Committee upon request;
- During the rezoning process, the City has the ability to negotiate with developers to establish two and three bedroom units in lower priced areas of buildings; and,
- The goal would be to increase the proposed 10% three bedroom unit minimum in developments after demand has been monitored over a two year period.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- It was suggested that additional family-friendly units in New Westminster could provide accommodation for individuals requiring to be close to the Royal Columbian Hospital as it continues to grow;
- Concerns were expressed regarding the study's findings, specifically with respect to families who are unable to afford a three bedroom unit to support a second child;
- It was suggested that the 10% three bedroom unit minimum be increased;
- It was suggested that incentives be included with the policy that would encourage developers to provide a higher percentage of three bedroom units in their development;
- Community members leave New Westminster due to the low percentage of family-friendly units currently available;
- It was suggested that developers be required to incorporate an amenity, such as a playground, in new developments to attract families;
- It was suggested that specific guidelines between the City and the developer be established early on in the rezoning process;

- It was suggested that cultural and urban issues, such as society's view of housing two kids in one bedroom, be considered;
- It was suggested that a development's proximity to high frequency transportation routes and transit is an important aspect to family-friendly housing; and,
- It was noted that it is common for more than one family to reside in a house.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Child and Youth Engagement Toolkit

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, advised that the Society for Youth and Children of British Columbia will be presenting to the Committee at the November 4, 2014 meeting. Mr. Stark noted that the Society's goal is to make New Westminister neighbourhoods more responsive to the needs of families.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Homelessness Action Week

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, distributed and reviewed an on table document entitled "Homelessness Action Week New Westminister Events October 12 – 18, 2014." Mr. Stark advised that the City has developed an extreme weather response plan, which includes the establishment of an extreme weather shelter in the Downtown area.

5.2 Community Poverty Reduction Initiative

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided an on table PowerPoint presentation regarding the Community Poverty Reduction Strategy and reducing the stigma of poverty. Mr. Stark suggested that, in the future, a sub-committee be formed that could establish a poverty fact sheet to distribute throughout the community.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted that British Columbia has an alarmingly high child poverty rate. It was suggested that it would be beneficial for the strategy to identify barriers, such as transportation costs, as they relate to poverty.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Homelessness Action Week – <http://nwhomeless.ca/>

6.2 Shifting Societal Attitudes towards People Living in Poverty

6.3 Our City Visioning Workshop Stakeholder Group Application Form

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

November 4, 2014; 5:30 p.m.; Committee Room #2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting concluded at 7:10 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor J. McEvoy
Chair

Alison Worsfold
Recording Clerk