

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

**January 6, 2015: 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall (511 Royal Avenue)**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Vice-Chair
Councillor Mary Trentadue	- Vice-Chair
Norah Andrew	- Community Member
Nadine Nakagawa	- Community Member
Briana Tomkinson	- Community Member
Lillian Whitmore	- Community Member
Susan Zygmunt	- Community Member

REGRETS:

Judith Hockney	- Fraser Health Representative
Chinu Das	- Community Member
Richard Dolmat	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Maylen Crespo	- Neighbourhood Small Grant Program Coordinator
Constable Art Wlodyka	- Mental Health Intervention Coordinator

STAFF:

John Stark	- Senior Social Planner
Alison Worsfold	- Recording Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

3.2 Police Mental Health Intervention Unit

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Notes of November 4, 2014

The notes of the November 4, 2014 meeting were circulated for information.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Neighbourhood Small Grant Program

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, distributed the Vancouver Foundation's Neighbourhood Small Grants brochure and introduced Maylen Crespo, Neighbourhood Small Grants Program Coordinator, to the Committee.

Ms. Crespo provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining details regarding the 2014 New Westminister Neighbourhood Small Grants Program. In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Crespo noted the following information:

- The River Market has been very supportive of the program;
- Applications for Neighbourhood Small Grants will be available until the end of February 2015, and can be found online at www.neighbourhoodsmallgrants.ca. The deadline for application submissions is March 30, 2015; and,
- The Vancouver Foundation will be hosting an event in New Westminister to express appreciation for individuals who completed Neighbourhood Small Grants projects in 2014.

3.2 Police Mental Health Unit

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, introduced Art Wlodyka, Mental Health Intervention Coordinator, to the Committee.

Constable Wlodyka provided a PowerPoint presentation with respect to New Westminister's mental health crisis, noting that approximately one in three police dispatch calls are related to mental health.

Constable Wlodyka spoke to the 2012 occurrence whereby *Blake Salemink* was found not criminally responsible, by reason of a mental disorder, of manslaughter in the death of his mother in Coquitlam. As a result of the incident, 16 key recommendations were made nationwide in order to proactively address the issue of mental health. Constable Wlodyka advised that the New Westminister Mental Health Unit also seeks to address the city's mental health issues by utilizing the following three-tiered approach:

1. Crisis - The implementation of an extensive police database, including information on individuals, as well as improved training for frontline officers;
2. Post-Crisis - The Mental Health Officer connects individuals to appropriate resources; and,
3. Repeat Crisis - An integrated case management model is utilized to better address the specific needs of individuals.

In response to questions from the Committee, Constable Wlodyka noted the following information:

- New Westminster's Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team is a specialized outreach program that provides support to the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach mentally ill clients;
- Mental health information regarding an individual is generated into the database through Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME) by the Mental Health Intervention Coordinator;
- Most mental health dispatch calls are handled over the telephone; however, if a criminal offence occurs or the individual requires medical attention, a patrol officer would attend the scene; and,
- The Provincial Government has made it mandatory for municipalities to provide crisis de-escalation training to police officers. The New Westminster Police Department underwent training in 2012 and 2014.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Social Connectedness and Participation

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, reviewed the document entitled 'Social Connectedness and Participation,' which provides a case study of references to social connectedness and participation in other municipalities' Official Community Plan's (OCPs). Mr. Stark advised that the review analysis will help New Westminster guide its social connectedness and participation section in its updated OCP.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee suggested that the following areas be considered during the OCP update:

- How Residents' Associations play a meaningful role in community connectedness;
- The role of Residents' Associations in other municipalities;
- Reforming Residents' Associations to eliminate negativity, and instead focus on building strong neighbourhoods;
- The possibility of utilizing Neighbourhood Small Grants to rebuild Residents' Associations;
- Providing training sessions for Residents' Associations; and,
- Providing public educational opportunities to raise awareness of Residents' Associations.

4.2 Family-Friendly Housing Policy Consultation Update

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, distributed and reviewed an on table document entitled 'Community and Social Issues Committee – Family Friendly Housing Policy,' regarding the Family-Friendly Housing Policy Consultation Update.

4.3 Child Care Needs Assessment Current Situation

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, distributed and reviewed an on table document entitled 'Child Care Supply and Demand Analysis.'

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

- Approximately 15% of New Westminster child care users are from other municipalities;
- Licensed child care facility applications are often rejected due to the applicant not being able to meet Fraser Health's outdoor play space requirements;
- There are no New Westminster public school playgrounds that meet the Ministry of Education's standard for suitably sized play space. As such, this limits opportunities for child care. and,
- A childcare facility will be established in the Larco development.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of licensed child care throughout New Westminster, which results in toddlers being looked after by unlicensed individuals;
- It was suggested that there is a lack of part-time child care spaces available, which should be addressed in the assessment; and,
- It was suggested that the City investigate the option of establishing play spaces on building roofs.

4.4 Reducing the Stigma of Poverty Sub-Committee

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, noted that the meeting date for the first 'Reducing the Stigma of Poverty' Sub-Committee will be established in the near future. The Sub-Committee will develop a facts sheet to raise awareness of poverty.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Social Connectedness and Participation Discussion and Policy Papers

6.2 Family-Friendly Housing Policy Consultation Summaries

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

March 3, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Committee Room #2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting concluded at 7:45 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor J. McEvoy
Vice-Chair

Alison Worsfold
Recording Clerk