

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

February 3, 2015: 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall (511 Royal Avenue)

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Co-Chair
Brynn Bourke	- Community Member
Jason Campbell	- Community Member
Tammy Dewar	- Community Member
John Hooker	- Community Member
Nadine Nakagawa	- Community Member
Peter Rautenbach	- Community Member
Ken Wilkinson	- Community Member

VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:

Councillor Mary Trentadue	- Co-Chair
Norah Andrew	- Community Member
Judith Hockney	- Fraser Health
Kelly Slade-Kerr	- School District #40
Briana Tomkinson	- Community Member

STAFF:

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

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

1.0 ANNUAL HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Orientation

Alison Worsfold, Committee Clerk, reviewed the following documents with the Committee members:

- Rules of Conduct: Advisory Committees & Bodies of Council;
- Social Media Policy;
- Terms of Reference; and,
- Permission Forms.

Committee Members are to contact Ms. Worsfold regarding attendance at each meeting. If a member is unable to fulfill their duties, they are asked to notify staff as soon as possible so the position can be refilled.

1.2 Committee Oaths

Alison Worsfold, Committee Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the Committee members.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

6.3 City Lighting

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of January 6, 2015

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Community and Social Issues Committee meeting held January 6, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Introduction to Community and Social Issues

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy, Chair, welcomed Committee members to the first meeting of the 2015 term. Committee members introduced themselves to each other and outlined their individual interests and goals.

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the following information:

- Current City projects and policies;
- City statistics pertaining to social issues;
- The Committee mandate; and,
- Proposed Committee areas of focus for 2015.

Mr. Stark distributed and summarized the on-table document entitled 'New Westminster's Official Community Plan Update,' and encouraged Committee members to attend the 'Our City' Open House at the Anvil Centre on February 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Social Connectedness and Participation Discussion

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, distributed and summarized the on-table document entitled 'Social Connectedness and Participation.' Committee members engaged in an exercise whereby they identified welcoming and non-welcoming areas throughout New Westminster. Committee members also provided ideas with respect to increasing social connectedness throughout the city.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Funding Cuts to Homeless Outreach, Referral and Advocacy Programs

Procedural Note: Councillor McEvoy declared a conflict of interest and exited the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Brynn Bourke assumed the Chair.

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, summarized the reported dated January 26, 2015 entitled 'Homelessness Partnering Strategy Funding Cuts to Housing Outreach, Referral and Advocacy Programs in New Westminster.'

Discussion ensued, and the Committee expressed concerns regarding the cuts to housing outreach, and referral and advocacy programs in New Westminster, as it was suggested that there is a large population currently in need of these services.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Community and Social Issues Committee is concerned about the Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding cuts to housing outreach, referral and advocacy programs in New Westminster;

THAT the Community and Social Issues Committee is supportive of efforts by New Westminster City Council to work with the senior levels of government to explore alternative or new funding for housing outreach, referral and advocacy programs in New Westminster; and,

THAT the Community and Social Issues Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to monitor the impacts of these funding cuts on the effected populations and that these impacts be reported back to Council, the Committee and the senior levels of government.

CARRIED.

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

Procedural Note: Councillor McEvoy re-entered the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and assumed the Chair.

6.2 Burnaby/New Westminster Count of Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, distributed and summarized the on-table letter dated January 20, 2015 regarding the 2015 count of sexually exploited or at-risk youth. Mr. Stark suggested that interested Committee members could provide a delegation to Council with respect to advocating the issue.

6.3 City Lighting

Brynn Bourke, Community Member, expressed concerns regarding the lack of lighting in residential areas throughout New Westminster, as it poses a safety threat to individuals, specifically women. Ms. Bourke suggested that implementing additional lighting in dimly lit areas, such as Moody Park, could benefit the community.

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, advised that the Engineering Department will be invited to provide a presentation regarding the matter at a future Community and Social Issues Committee meeting.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

7.1 Homelessness Partnering Strategy Funding Cuts to Housing Outreach, Referral and Advocacy Programs in New Westminster

7.2 Policy Paper B: Social Connectedness and Participation

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

April 7, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Committee Room #2

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor J. McEvoy
Chair

Alison Worsfold
Recording Clerk