

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

April 16, 2015: 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall (511 Royal Avenue)

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair
Norah Andrew	- Community Member
Brynn Bourke	- Community Member
Jason Campbell	- Community Member
Tammy Dewar	- Community Member
John Hooker	- Community Member
Peter Rautenbach	- Community Member
Ken Wilkinson	- Community Member

REGRETS:

Judith Hockney	- Fraser Health
Nadine Nakagawa	- Community Member
Briana Tomkinson	- Community Member

GUESTS:

David Beattie	- The Hello Project
Al Hunt	- The Hello Project
Andrea Lemire	- Society for Children and Youth of BC
Mary Wilson	- Jane's Walk

STAFF:

John Stark	- Senior Social Planner
Jessie Wang	- Development and Project Engineer
Alison Worsfold	- Committee Clerk

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 February 3, 2015

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the February 3, 2015 Community and Social Issues Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Street Lighting in the Brow-of-the-Hill

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, advised that Committee members expressed concerns regarding the lack of street lighting in the Brow-Of-The-Hill neighbourhood at the February 3, 2015 Community and Social Issues Committee meeting.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee expressed concerns regarding the lack of lighting in residential areas throughout New Westminster, as it poses a safety threat to individuals, specifically women. As such, the Committee suggested the following:

- That the City investigate implementing additional lighting in dimly lit areas throughout the city, such as in Moody Park;
- That the crosswalks located at Eighth Avenue and Second Street, as well as at Eighth Avenue and Fourth Street, be provided with additional signage and lighting;
- That the City investigate how other municipalities have addressed the issue of inadequate street lighting;
- That the community be engaged throughout the process;
- That the issue of light pollution, as well as how street lights can negatively affect residents' ability to sleep, be taken into consideration; and,
- That short term lighting during construction periods be considered.

Jessie Wang, Development and Project Engineer, advised that the City is currently replacing street lights to improve illumination along sidewalks. Ms. Wang noted that she will forward the Committee's concerns and suggestions to staff for investigation and response.

3.2 Jane's Walk

Mary Wilson, Organizer, Jane's Walk, advised that the Jane's Walk event is held to inspire citizens to discover the alleys and pathways located throughout New Westminster. Ms. Wilson distributed an on table document regarding the 2015 Walks, which will be held in New Westminster from May 1 to 3, 2015. Ms. Wilson encouraged Committee members to attend the event, and requested their assistance with spreading the word to community members. More information regarding Jane's Walk can be found online at www.janeswalk.org.

3.3 The Hello Project

David Beattie and Al Hunt, The Hello Project, provided the following information regarding The Hello Project:

- The project is designed to help residents of Metro Vancouver to become more friendly by wearing a lapel button stating 'Hello;'
- Individuals displaying the pin are inviting other individuals to initiate a conversation with them;
- The project aims to integrate the various cultures in the lower mainland and establish Vancouver as a more welcoming city for new immigrants;
- The goal is to make the pins visible at various organizations throughout the lower mainland, including at civic buildings and transit stations;
- The City of Surrey and TransLink have expressed interest in the project;
- Surrey will be undertaking a six week pilot project, whereby approximately 50,000 pins will be distributed to citizens; and,
- The pins will also be distributed at the Fusion Festival in Surrey on July 19 and 20, 2015.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Hunt advised that the City would be required to allocate a minimal budget should they proceed with a pilot project in the future.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee commended Mr. Beattie and Mr. Hunt for creating the project, and wished them future success.

3.4 Child and Youth Friendly Community Strategy

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, and Andrea Lemire, Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCYBC), provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Child and Youth Friendly New Westminster.'

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

- The Child and Youth Friendly survey was specific for New Westminster, and the results were not compared to other municipalities;
- City-wide childcare spaces have increased by approximately 600 in the past five years; and,
- The City is now applying design guidelines to new developments that require developers to establish three bedroom units on the ground level to minimize the cost of buying a dwelling.

Ms. Lemire summarized the actions the SCYBC suggested to City staff regarding how to better engage children and youth in civic processes. Once reviewed, the actions will be forwarded to Council for approval prior to the action plan being implemented.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee suggested the following:

- That the City work with the New Westminster Police department to foster a more positive relationship with local youth;
- That tools be utilized to ensure that individuals of all classes and groups are properly represented in the plan;
- That society could benefit from schools being designed as community centres;
- That introducing innovative and creative children and youth programs plays a positive role to adolescent development; and,
- That building an innovative playground, such as the [Terre Nova Adventure Play Environment](#) in Richmond, could benefit New Westminster.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Official Community Plan (OCP) Update

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, advised that here are ongoing engagement opportunities for residents to discuss and provide input regarding the OCP. Mr. Stark noted that there was an open house at the Anvil Centre on February 28, 2015 with respect to the neighbourhood visioning process, and that staff is currently reviewing the input and creating goals in order to continue moving forward with the process.

4.2 Cuts to Homeless Outreach, Referral and Advocacy Programs

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, advised that there has been a \$382,000 funding cut to local homeless outreach, referral and advocacy programs in New Westminster. Furthermore, additional requirements have been implemented by the provincial government, making it difficult for individuals to utilize these programs.

Mr. Stark noted that the BC Housing Society may provide funding towards the Elizabeth Fry Society and the Seniors Services Society.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Access to Washroom Facilities in Emergent Situations

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, advised that Council has requested that the Community and Social Issues (CSI) Committee consider how the City can work with local businesses to provide individuals with access to washroom facilities in emergent situations.

The Committee noted that, as businesses are not usually receptive to allowing individuals to utilize their restrooms without making a purchase, the item be further discussed at the May 5, 2015 CSI meeting.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society Request

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, summarized the letter of February 6, 2015 from the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society regarding the assisting of Aboriginal individuals and families living with a disability in British Columbia.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

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

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting concluded at 7:50 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor J. McEvoy
Chair

Alison Worsfold
Recording Clerk