



Community and Social Issues

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 – 5:30 pm
EOC Room #1, City Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy, Chair
Yasser Elmasri, Community Member
Chinu Das, Community Member
Norah Andrews, Community Member
Nancy Brar, Community Member
Christine Vickers, Community Member
Catherine Cheng, Community Member
Lillian Vickers, Community Member
Briana Tomkinson, Community Member

ABSENT:

Ashley Currie, School District No. 40
Judith Hockney, Fraser Health Representative

STAFF:

Mark Allison, Senior Policy Planner
John Stark, Senior Social Planner
Lynn Roxburgh, Planner
Stephanie Lam, Committee Clerk
Kelly Sims, Committee Clerk

GUEST:

Jack Beatty, Psychiatric Nurse, Fraser Health

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

1.0 ANNUAL HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Committee Oaths and Orientation – Stephanie Lam, Committee Clerk

Stephanie Lam, Committee Clerk, welcomed the 2013 Community and Social Issues (CSI) committee members and advised them on the following items:

- Amendments to the Rules of Conduct: Advisory Committees & Bodies of Council, importance of quorum, recruitment; recommendations to Council and process, minutes and circulation, need to RSVP, revisions to the minutes; and

- Social Media Policy, personal Information forms, and schedule – online at www.newwestcity.ca.

Ms. Lam asked members the Committee to recite the oath after her. All present members recited the oath and affirmed their commitment to the Committee.

Councillor, Jaimie McEvoy, Chair, advised that committee members are expected to read agenda material prior to the meeting, to provide valuable feedback. It was also noted that members are welcome to provide feedback regarding the policy direction of the Committee and that all members will be given an opportunity to speak.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

No items.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of December 4, 2012

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the December 4, 2012 minutes be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Fraser Health Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team – Jack Beatty, Psychiatric Nurse, Fraser Health

Jack Beatty, Psychiatric Nurse, Fraser Health, provided a background regarding the purpose and functions of the Fraser Health Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team. Mr. Beatty advised that currently there are two ACT teams in Vancouver, one in Surrey, and one in New Westminster/Tri-Cities. The purpose of the ACT team is to engage with those who have mental health and substance abuse issues. Details regarding the operations of the ACT team are further noted:

- The team works with approximately 80-100 clients;
- The team is comprised of: three nurses, two social workers, three healthcare workers, one occupation therapist, one vocational therapist, one psychiatric nurse (Jack Beatty) and peer support workers (those who have experience with mental illness) who provide support to clients and work as case managers and are full time employees of the union;
- Primary clients are those who suffer from concurrent disorders (people who have substance abuse and mental health issues at the same time);

- Primary goal of the team is to build relationships with people and encourage treatment and provide housing options;
- Operate seven days a week 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, and from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on weekends;
- With the Motivation, Power & Achievement (MPA) Society's support, landlords are contacted to establish assisted living residences for clients as part of the Housing First initiative - currently eight suites are occupied by clients of the ACT team;
- Everyone on the team shares responsibility and there are requirements for active clients which include: volunteer for a 50-60 day treatment period, 2-3 hospital visits, and a police department assessment;
- Currently there is a proposal in the City's budget to hire a sworn police officer/mental health officer to become an active member of the ACT team.

Discussion ensued and clarification was made on the following points:

- Members of the ACT team were initially hired through internal postings (Fraser Health), and then externally to the public;
- Landlords in Surrey have come forward to the ACT team there to negotiate leasing agreements to provide housing for clients – with the hope that this will also occur in New Westminster;
- Everyone on the team shares equal responsibility and takes a turn leading;
- The contact number for the New Westminster ACT team is: 604-777-6803;
- The ACT team does not force those who are suffering from mental illness/homelessness into treatment ;
- The geographic limit of the ACT team outreach is encompassed by New Westminster/Tri-cities;
- The ACT team will take people without a fixed address;
- Burnaby does not have an ACT team, but has certified case managers who work with Surrey's ACT team;
- The ACT team is not on call, and currently does not respond to night calls – this is an issue;
- The ACT team's work load is managed between 25 individuals with 80 clients, the intake is carried out through day-to-day work plans, intakes are completed through a doctor's assessment and a concurrent disorders nurse, and all clients are assigned a primary worker.

4.2 Integrated Community Sustainability Plan Descriptions of Success – Mark Allison, Senior Planner

Mark Allison, Senior Planner, provided a Power Point presentation regarding the *Descriptions of Success Review* and focused on the following points:

- Definition of sustainability and the application of the sustainability lens;
- Eleven Guiding Principles;
- Twenty-year plan and rationale behind it;
- Process of Envision 2032 and current reality;
- Steps to planning Envision 2032 (planning on how to avert disasters);

- Fifteen Descriptions of Success for Individual and Community Wellbeing.
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Mr. Allison asked the Committee to consider the fifteen Descriptions of Success presented and consider if they describe where New Westminster should be in 2032; and if not to provide suggestions to improve them. The Committee was then asked to provide feedback by taking a survey located online at: www.envision2032.ca.

4.3 **Queensborough Community Plan** – Lynn Roxburgh

Lynn Roxburgh, Planning Analyst, provided a Power Point presentation on the *Queensborough Community Plan*. Ms. Roxburgh outlined the planning framework, and noted that the plan started with a vision which has been used to develop the goals and objectives found in the plan. It was noted that each goal is broken down with different objectives which are meant to serve as guiding actions to help determine what the City should do and targets for the future. Ms. Roxburgh advised on six themes in the plan and asked the committee to provide feedback on the themes, goals, and objectives given.

Discussion ensued and the following points were noted by the Committee:

- A lot of new construction is occurring, and there is a proposal that all new buildings would have to be built up to the flood plain as noted in the plan;
- Planning Queensborough as a complete community with New Westminster should be supported- however residents are often isolated from the City;
- There is a proposal in the plan for a pedestrian/cycling crossing, and ideas as to how to better connect Queensborough with Translink;
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- Focus on improving pedestrian areas through design guidelines to encourage the type of building that will mitigate loud traffic noise and enhance accessibility such as curve extensions and sidewalks along Ewen Avenue;
- The City has a number of different streetscape design plans and proposals for making Ewen Avenue a more community oriented street, however the community needs to work with the City to implement such plans;
- More should be done regarding integrating those who live in Queensborough with the City
- Community cohesion in Queensborough is an issue as services are limited to the City.
- Queensborough residents do feel that it is not a safe place for pedestrians.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Community Poverty Reduction Strategy – John Stark, Social Planner

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided an oral update regarding the Community Poverty Reduction Strategy. Mr. Stark advised that New Westminster was selected to participate in the Community Poverty Reduction Strategy, a pilot project administered by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), in partnership with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. Mr. Stark noted that the project has had many challenges, including the administration of resources, funding, and staffing. Mr. Stark also advised that the consultant hired to carry out the project may be asked to provide a presentation to the Committee.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Hoarding – John Stark, Senior Social Planner

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided the Committee with an information sheet on hoarding in New Westminster (see on-table correspondence item 8.3). Mr. Stark advised that the issue of hoarding has increased in the City by the number of complaints received, and that compulsive hoarding is a mental health issue linked to obsessive compulsive disorder. It is noted that at least five percent of the population suffers from compulsive hoarding and that it cannot be treated, however it can be managed. Mr. Stark provided further background regarding the characteristics and risks of the disorder and noted that those 50 years plus are at the greatest risk of suffering from the disorder, and that with the City's projected increase in this age group over the next twenty years the issue will increase.

Mr. Stark advises that the City's role in managing the issue of compulsive hoarding is based on the City's Business Regulations and Licensing (Rental Units) Bylaw which prescribes minimum maintenance standards for rental properties. The most common risk of hoarding is based on the risk of increased fire risks and that the issue usually comes to the attention of the City when Bylaw Officers inspect residential units for such risks.

Discussion ensued and clarification is made on the following points:

- Rental and strata units comprise the most risk associated with hoarding, as where single family homes generally indicate less risk;
- The typical risks associated with hoarding include: blocking fire exits, avalanche issues – items burying someone, pest and health issues.
- If there is interest from the Committee, then City staff members (fire officers, and bylaw officers) will be asked to present and discuss their experience in dealing with hoarding and the risks associated with it.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Community and Social Issues Committee express their interest in learning more about hoarding in New Westminster and request staff provide more information on the subject.

CARRIED.

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

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

No items.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Second ACT Team under Development for Fraser Health

Received for information.

8.2 ICSP Descriptions of Success

Received for information.

8.3 CSI Hoarding Backgrounder (on table)

Received for information.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

May 7, 2013 – 5:30pm, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Councillor J. McEvoy
Chair

Kelly Sims
Committee Clerk