

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

**May 6, 2014: 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall (511 Royal Avenue)**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair
Ashley Currie	- School District No. 40 Representative
Chinu Das	- Community Member
Briana Tomkinson	- Community Member
Judith Hockney	- Fraser Health Representative
Nadine Nakagawa	- Community Member
Richard Dolmat	- Community Member
Susan Zygmunt	- Community Member
Patrick Johnstone	- Community Member (arrived at 6:00 p.m.)

VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:

Lillian Whitmore	- Community Member
Norah Andrew	- Community Member

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

Lynda Edmonds	- Fraserside Community Services Society
Caroline Bonesky	- Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Kent Mullinix	- Institute for Sustainable Food Systems
Sofia Fortin	- Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

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 March 4, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Community and Social Issues meeting held March 4, 2014 be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Social Policy Framework

Lynda Edmonds, Fraserside Community Services Society, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Board Voice and the organization's proposed Social Policy Framework, and noted the following information:

- Board Voice is dedicated to improving social services for people in their communities;
- Board Voice is proposing a Social Policy Framework for British Columbia through a resolution that will be presented at the 2014 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Conference, and is seeking New Westminster's endorsement of the resolution;
- The Policy would aim to address social service deficiencies, and allow British Columbia to be more integrated with respect to social services;
- Alberta engaged 31,000 individuals who helped design a Social Policy Framework in 2012; and,
- If the recommendation passes at UBCM, the Provincial government would be requested to allocate resources towards the development and implementation of the Policy.

Committee members noted that the Policy would provide a practical way of exploring social service options that would be beneficial to New Westminster and the Province as a whole.

MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS every British Columbian depends on social services, health care, justice and education services;

AND WHEREAS our communities are partners in the delivery of many of these services and are facing increasingly complex social challenges requiring coordination between multiple social ministries of government, municipalities and the community agencies and organizations that deliver services to the public;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the municipal governments of British Columbia call upon the Premier to begin a consultation with British Columbians to initiate the development of a Social Policy Framework that will set out key policy directions, values, priorities, roles and expectations, and guide the creation of public policy to meet our social needs now and into the future.

CARRIED.

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

Procedural Note: Patrick Johnstone arrived at 6:00 p.m.

3.2 Southwest BC Bio-Regional Food System Design and Planning Project

Kent Mullinix, Director, and Sofia Fortin, Research Associate, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Southwest British Columbia (BC) Bio-Regional Food System Design and Planning Project, noting that the project aims to:

- Strengthen the regional economy;
- Support agriculture and food provisioning;
- Promote environmental stewardship and health;
- Foster food security and public health;
- Strengthen communities and build social capital; and,
- Create a regional food system by 2050.

Mr. Mullinix advised that the estimated timeline for implementing the \$1.5 million project is three years, and is requesting that the Committee advise Council to endorse the project through:

- The endorsement of the Southwest BC Bio-Regional Food System Design and Planning Project;
- The assignment of a staff liaison to the project, who would be requested to allocate 12 to 15 hours of work annually towards the project; and,
- The provision of an annual contribution of \$2,000 for three years.

Mr. Mullinix noted that the project has received approximately \$650,000 in funding to date, and that the New Westminster Community Food Action Committee has endorsed the project.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the development of the Food System Design and Plan, and provided the following comments:

- It would be beneficial for the plan to introduce options with respect to improving local economy and agriculture for urban areas with no viable farm land, such as New Westminster;

- The initiative could positively shape the future of the Lower Mainland, as it was suggested that consuming food raised and produced within 100 miles of someone's home is currently difficult to achieve;
- New Westminster Secondary School students are educating elementary school students with respect to growing food on their porches by utilizing recycled materials; and,
- It was suggested that the program provide educational and involvement opportunities for local students.

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, noted that the Official Community Plan update will include a section on food systems.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council consider endorsing the project through:

- *The endorsement of the Southwest BC Bio-Regional Food System Design and Planning Project;*
- *The assignment of a staff liaison to the project, who would be requested to allocate 12 to 15 hours of work annually towards the project; and,*
- *The provision of an annual contribution of \$2,000 for three years.*

AND THAT, upon endorsement, Council encourage the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, to engage the City and School District #40 throughout the duration of the Design and Planning Project.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 2014 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, summarized the on table report dated May 5, 2014 regarding the Metro Vancouver Homeless Count Preliminary Report.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Concerns were expressed regarding the 5% increase of homeless individuals under the age of 25 in New Westminster;
- Statistics show that homeless youth are reluctant to utilize services that are targeted at adults; and,
- School District #40 employs outreach workers that provide services for at-risk youth.

4.2 Child and Youth Friendly Community Strategy Consultation Results

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, and Tristan Johnson, Planning Analyst, reviewed the results of the Child and Youth Friendly Community Strategy consultation survey, noting that 590 surveys have been received to date.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Funding Reductions for Homeless and Seniors Services

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, summarized the report dated April 14, 2014 regarding loss in funding to programs serving homeless people and seniors.

5.2 Official Community Plan – Individual and Community Wellbeing

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, advised that the Committee will be consulted throughout the development of the Individual and Community Wellbeing section in the New Westminster Official Community Plan (OCP).

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 2014 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count Preliminary Report

6.2 Housing the Homeless Costs the Same as Leaving Them in Cold

6.3 Loss in Funding to Programs Serving Homeless People and Seniors

6.4 Family Day Dotmocracy Exercise – February 10, 2014

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

June 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Committee Room #2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 7:50 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor J. McEvoy
Chair

Alison Worsfold
Recording Clerk