



**COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES
COMMITTEE**

**January 5, 2016 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room 2, City Hall**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Councillor Jaimie McEvoy | - Chair |
| Norah Andrew | - Community Member |
| Brynn Bourke | - Community Member |
| Jason Campbell | - Community Member (arrived at 5:36 p.m.) |
| John Hooker | - Community Member |
| Nadine Nakagawa | - Community Member (arrived at 5:36 p.m.) |
| Deanna Tan | - Fraser Health Representative (Alternate) |
| Ken Wilkinson | - Community Member |

REGRETS:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Tammy Dewar | - Community Member |
| Peter Nautenbach | - Community Member |

GUESTS:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Lisa Zetes-Zanatas | - Fraser Health |
| Susan Pinkney | - Fraser Health |

STAFF:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| John Stark | - Senior Social Planner |
| Tristan Johnson | - Planning Analyst |
| Lauren Blake | - 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 November 3, 2015

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the November 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 5210 Play Boxes

Susan Pinkney and Deanna Tan, Fraser Health, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 5210 Play Boxes program.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Pinkney and Ms. Tan provided the following information:

- The access code for the box would be distributed immediately after a completed registration form is received;
- The placement of the boxes and contents is adaptable to each community;
- Theft and vandalism have not been as much of an issue as anticipated and a budget to replenish lost or damaged equipment has been included;
- Families that have utilized the box have also expressed an interest in contributing to the program;
- The wraps that cover the play boxes can provide sponsorship and partnership opportunities;
- Surveys were distributed to families that signed up to utilize the boxes; and,
- Additional studies regarding the use of the boxes would be completed in the summer months.

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, suggested that the boxes could include information regarding the Parks and Recreation Subsidy Program and the Community Food Action Committee.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It was suggested that box be placed in urban hubs, near housing projects and in areas that are user friendly;
- The boxes could include messaging encouraging kids to play outdoors; and,
- The boxes could include information regarding access to fresh food, such as community gardens.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Syrian Refugee Resettlement

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, summarized the document title How To Help Refugees in New Westminster (Item 6.1).

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark advised that invitations would be directed to volunteers and mentors, and the event would not be open to the public.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Translation services could be provided at the event;
- It was suggested that private sponsors, such as faith organizations, be invited to the event; and,
- A venue for the public to provide donations could be established at the event.

4.2 Tenant Relocation Policy

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, summarized the report dated December 7, 2015 regarding the Tenant Relocation policy, noting that the Policy was endorsed by Council.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Bed Bug Infestations in Multi-Family Buildings

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, summarized the on-table document regarding bed bug infestations in multi-family buildings.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- An informational policy could be provided to tenants;
- As building managers may not be willing to admit to bed bug issues, it may not be appropriate to place responsibility to address the issue on building managers;
- It may be more cost effective to prevent as opposed to eliminate infestations;
- There could be less interest from the public to move into a building once it has been established that there have been bed bugs;
- The issue may need to be addressed on a regional basis due to the transient nature of bed bugs;
- It was suggested that information regarding bed bugs be provided to family doctors and walk-in clinics; and,
- There are specific actions required to remove bed bugs.

5.2 Expiring Operating Agreements for Non-Profit Housing Societies

Tristan Johnson, Planning Analyst, summarized the on-table document regarding expiring operating agreements for non-profit housing societies.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It was suggested that non-profit housing societies could contact the Provincial government, as there may be budget recommendations that provide an opportunity to transfer subsidies to BC Housing;
- It was suggested that the issue be brought forward to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), as this could be a national issue;
- The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation should provide funding for affordable housing;
- A National Housing Strategy was included as part of the federal election platform and could be considered a federal government issue;
- Non-profit housing societies should include funding for maintenance;
- Co-op housing projects are run by a Board that may not have specific education, and may rely on building managers for advise;
- Maintaining a building to Code could be costly;
- The more vulnerable tenants of a building may be evicted first; and,
- It was suggested that the City organize a meeting for New Westminster Co-op Housing Boards to meet and share information.

5.3 Health Fair

Deanna Tan, Fraser Health Authority Representative, advised that the Hyacks in Motion Run/Walk has been scheduled for May 7, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in Queen's Park. Ms. Tan noted that Fraser Health's Healthier Communities Partnership will also be providing a health fair at the event, to reach out to the community and expand the of what health includes.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 'Ways to Help' Syrian Refugees

This item was discussed as part of item 4.1.

6.2 Tenant Relocation Policy

This item was discussed as part of item 4.2.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

March 1, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in Committee Room 2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting concluded at 7:31 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk