



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

**Thursday, March 21, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, Committee Room #2**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaime McEvoy	- Chair, City Council Member
Norah Andrew	- Community Member
Dee Beattie	- Community Member
Giuliana Graves	- Community Member
Meredith Haaf	- Community Member
Tasha Henderson	- Community Member
John Hooker	- Community Member
Alex McGowan	- Community Member
Nadine Nakagawa	- Community Member

VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:

Pam Ralston	- Community Member
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GUESTS PRESENT:

Melissa Goodman	- New West Tours
Kay Johnson	- New West Hospice Society
Wendy Johnson	- New West Hospice Society
Lorrie Wasyliw	- WINGS

STAFF PRESENT:

John Stark	- Community and Social Planner
JoAnn Tosh	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Committee Orientation

JoAnn Tosh, Committee Clerk, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Committee Orientation. Ms. Tosh provided an overview of the Rules of Conduct, Respectful Workplace and Human Rights Policy, and the Social Media Policy.

1.2 Oath of Office

JoAnn Tosh, Committee Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the Committee members.

1.3 Appointment of Vice-Chair

Jaimie McEvoy, Chair, requested volunteers to serve as the Vice-Chair for the 2017 Committee term.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Community and Social Issues Committee appoints Nadine Nakagawa to be Vice-Chair for the 2017 term.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of October 4, 2016

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the October 4, 2016 Community and Social Issues Committee meeting minutes be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Compassionate City Update and Partnership

Wendy Johnson and Kay Johnson, New West Hospice Society, summarized three On-Table documents regarding the New West Hospice Society and the Compassionate City Partnership.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. K. Johnson provided the following information:

- That the New West Hospice has started to create relationships with organizations, boards, and groups throughout the City to help embrace the Compassionate City Charter;
- The 13 social changes on the Charter are a benchmark for the Charter and other initiatives can be added;
- The City's responsibility in partnering with New West Hospice could be to connect with the various groups and annually check that policies are being developed and events are being held; and,
- The City is not obligated to fulfil all 13 of the social changes on the Charter and that all items are negotiable.

John Stark, Community and Social Planner, noted that the proposal could likely be endorsed in principle and that the City could review the specific provisions before determining what they can contribute to the partnership.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Community and Social Issues Committee recommends that Council designate New Westminster as a Compassionate City and, in partnership with the New West Hospice Society, work towards the commitments under this designation.

CARRIED.

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

4.2 New West Tours

Melissa Goodman, New West Tours, provided an On-Table PowerPoint presentation regarding the New West Tour Initiative.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Goodman advised that the project has received backing from various New Westminster organizations, including Aunt Leah's Places, The New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society and Lookout Society who are willing to write letters of support and assist with the project moving forward. Ms. Goodman also noted that she plans to contact the Purpose Society who could recommend formerly homeless youth who may be interested in leading the guides.

Discussion ensued and the Committee suggested that Ms. Goodman contact The United Way as they have had programs designed to financially help start-up projects in the first year of conception. The Committee also recommended that Ms. Goodman partner with a local non-profit organization who could assist with the application process for funding through the Vancouver Foundation as well as provide support and expertise.

The Committee felt that before passing a motion of support they would like to see a commitment from at least one organization that is willing to partner with Ms. Goodman as well as explicit support from other local non-profit organizations to ensure that this project could be beneficial to them.

4.3 WINGS Affordable Housing Project

John Stark, Community and Social Planner, advised that the Mayor's Housing Affordability Task Force wanted to move forward with two sites that would be designated as demonstration projects for affordable housing; the two sites are 43 Hastings Street and 630 Ewen Avenue. Mr. Stark advised that the City received seven expressions of interest and awarded WINGS the 630 Ewen Avenue location. Mr. Stark also noted that the site will go through an Official Community Plan Review and a Rezoning application that is anticipated to go to a Public Hearing in June 2017.

Lorrie Wasyliw, Executive Director, WINGS, provided an On-Table PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Wasyliw advised that WINGS is working with BC Housing and will enter in to a lease and operating agreement with the City which will ensure that the building at 630 Ewen Avenue is rent controlled according to the existing rules and regulations.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Wasyliw provided the following information:

- It is anticipated that construction on the development will begin in late summer to early fall of 2017;
- WINGS plans to send vacancy notices to local transition homes where interested families could apply for residency;
- The units are intended for long term use; it is anticipated that families will sign a one year lease that could be extended upon completion of a review process to ensure the family is still in need;
- The Units are approximately 775 square feet each with space for two cars to be shared by the five units;
- A main bus stop is located within walking distance to the development; and,
- WINGS is open to discussion regarding accepting families with pets;

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Community and Social Issues Committee supports the affordable housing project at 630 Ewen Avenue.

CARRIED.

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

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Child Care Subsidy Eligibility Letter

John Stark, Community and Social Planner, summarized an On-Table document regarding the Child Care Strategy and Gap Analysis.

Mr. Stark advised that Council has endorsed a ten dollar a day child care plan and recommended that staff work with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to enhance access to the child care subsidy including access for medium and moderate income families.

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

- There are currently 11 non-profit child care operators, however, several operate multiple sites bringing the total of facilities to approximately 24;
- The child care subsidy is income based;
- There has been recent changes regarding the outdoor space child care facilities are requirements to have; the standard has been changed from seven to six square meter per child;
- The City is becoming more flexible from a licensing standpoint and offers various options to child care providers, including the use of city parks.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Community and Social Issues Committee recognizes cost as a significant barrier to accessing child care and in support of the child care strategy action, calling for enhance eligibility to and amounts for the child care subsidy, including for medium and moderate income families.

CARRIED.

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

6.2 Fentanyl Crisis and Municipal Responses

John Stark, Community and Social Planner, provided an On-Table document for members of the Committee to review in preparation for the next meeting.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

9.0 NEXT MEETING

May 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, Committee Room #2

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Jaime McEvoy
Chair

JoAnn Tosh
Committee Clerk