



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

**COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES
COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday March 6, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, Committee Room #2**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair, Council Member
Dee Beattie	- Community Member (exited at 6:40 p.m.)
Chinu Das	- Community Member
Wesley Everaars	- Community Member
John Hooker	- Community Member
Maggie House	- Community Member
Sukhdeep Jassar	- Fraser Health Representative
Simka Marshall	- Community Member (exited at 7:28 p.m.)

VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:

Tasha Henderson	- Community Member
Ramya Hosak	- Community Member
Vanessa Woznow	- Community Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager, Recreation Services & Facilities
John Stark	- Acting Manager of Planning
Debbie Johnstone	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 2018 Committee Orientation

Debbie Johnstone, Committee Clerk, provided the Commission with a brief Committee Orientation. The following items were addressed:

- Role of Advisory Committee and Terms of Reference;
- Orientation Package Overview;
- Committee Attendance & Quorum;
- Meeting Conduct: Rules of Order, Motions, Discussion, Voting; and,
- City Policies & Freedom of Information.

1.2 Oath of Office

Debbie Johnstone, Committee Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the Commission members.

1.3 Appointment of Alternate Chair

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Maggie House be selected as the Alternate Chair for the 2018 Community and Social Issues Committee Term.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no items.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of December 5, 2017

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the December 5, 2017 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 Canada Games Pool

Steve Kellock, Senior Manager, Recreation Services & Facilities, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Canada Games Pool replacement project.

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

- The website for the Canada Game Pool and Centennial Community Centre replacement project would be available throughout the duration of the project;
- Estimated timeline for the completion of this project would be 2023;
- Glass would be implemented throughout the facility to address Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED);

- Play features would be incorporated throughout the pool; however, at this time a slide and high diving board have not been included in the design plans; and,
- Some level of spectator seating would be included in the gym areas.

With regards to the overall plans for the facility, Mr. Kellock requested feedback on the following questions:

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the aquatic needs and priorities of New West?

- It was noted that cultural sensitivity needs to be built into the design of the pool. For example, the facility should accommodate the City's Muslim population, as women are unable to swim/bathe around men;
- It was stressed that social principles should drive the design of the pool;
- Language sensitivity should be included in the welcome center; and,
- Implementing unassisted multipoint access areas for those with disabilities was encouraged.

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the fitness needs and priorities of New Westminster?

- Maintaining the current level of free form fitness was encouraged;
- Adaptable and inclusive equipment in the fitness area would be a big improvement over the facility; and,
- Providing an orientation and targeted classes for beginners was suggested in order to reduce intimidation for novice community members.

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the community centre and social needs and priorities of New Westminster?

- An accessible community kitchen with classes on healthy eating and cooking could be considered; and,
- With respect to the café/cafeteria, it was suggested that contracting the space out to a private company could result in issues, as they may not adhere to the living wage policy, and may not be unionized positions with pay equality.

Mr. Kellock provided the Committee with the draft Social Sustainability Objectives for the project.

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

- The term ‘Safe Shelter’ has been used to incorporate the safe harbour training all employees receive with respect to assisting people in need. Also, it aims to acknowledge the area as a group lodging facility for the emergency community response plan;
- Reducing income barriers for the facility would be obtained through a formal subsidy program. Community members would be able to qualify for a significant proration of the services; and,
- With respect to the Truth and Reconciliation process, it was noted that First Nations representatives would be included in the naming process for the new facility.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- The term ‘Safe Shelter’ could be changed to ‘Safe Harbour,’ as safe shelter is a term commonly used for immigrants coming into the City;
- Including an explanation of what ‘safe harbour’ means, and what that provides for the community was suggested. Alternatively, stating that the facility would provide a ‘welcoming and safe environment’ could be considered; and,
- Changes to the following statement were suggested:
“The design of the new Aquatic and Community Facility should seek to reduce barriers to users, including:
 Language;
 Sex/Gender/Gender Identity/Gender Expression;
 Income;
 Age;
 Culture;
 Religion;
 Race;
 Access, including physical challenges and perceptual challenges.”

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy, Chair and Council representative, reiterated that the specifics in these statements are important. Ensuring that inclusive social objectives and requirements are utilized to drive the structure and design of the facility would be crucial for its success.

Procedural note: Dee Beattie exited the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Rental Replacement / Inclusionary Zoning Policy Update

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, summarized the on-table report dated January 8, 2018 regarding the proposed work plan and consultation process for the Rental Replacement Policy and Inclusionary Housing Policy.

The following additional information was provided:

- Council has requested for the development of the Rental Replacement Policy and the Inclusionary Housing Policy to address concerns regarding the lack of affordable housing ;
- Market Rental housing stock was built in the 1960s and 1970s, and Council is committed to retaining these homes;
- The Inclusionary Housing Policy would address new developments within the City to ensure the availability of some affordable, rental and/or special needs housing by offering additional density to developers as an incentive;
- The Rental Replacement Policy would work to address issues with increased rent amounts for aging rental buildings being replaced or renovated;
- Consultation with a Land Economist with regards to both policies would take place;
- Consultation would also take place with non-profit housing providers to see if there would be an interest in operating these types of non-market units, and what the minimum number of units would be to accommodate this;
- Findings from the Land Economist and additional information would be provided to the Committee at their next meeting; and,
- The City has a tight timeline of two to three months for this work plan.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Defining affordability can be challenging, as it should adequately reflect the incomes of people within the community and not a number slightly below market value;
- Working with BC Housing to help subsidize units was encouraged;
- Appreciation was expressed to the City for their commitment to maintain and increase rental units in the city; and,
- A focus on seniors, and senior housing was encouraged with respect to market friendly housing.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark reported that both the Rental Replacement and Inclusionary Housing Policy would need to work with the

City's current Family Friendly Policy. It was noted that non-market units need to be inclusive and affordable for all, not just studio and one bedroom units.

With regard to affordable housing rates, Mr. Stark reported that the City is currently using the Housing Income Limits (HILS) rate.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Possible Modular Housing Projects

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, summarized the Council report dated February 19, 2018 regarding possible modular housing projects for 838 Ewen Avenue and 231 Twelfth Street.

The following additional information was provided:

- There are limited land holdings in New Westminster. Four potential sites were explored; however, due to size constraints only 838 Ewen Avenue and 231 Twelfth Street are considered to be usable;
- The site would be looking to fit forty to fifty units of modular housing, three to four storeys high;
- Units would be targeted towards the homeless, or those at extreme risk or transitioning out of homelessness;
- A staffing model would be associated with the implementation of these units, including an integrated health management team;
- BC Housing is currently exploring the site at 838 Ewen Avenue to determine if it could be an adequate location for the modular housing project;
- Early discussions suggested that the Queensborough site may be targeted towards women, however additional discussions regarding this would take place;
- The close proximity to Queensborough Community Centre, park space, and public transportation have all been identified as positive attributes for the site; and,
- Ownership, contamination, and remediation issues at the site of 231 Twelfth Street are being discussed prior to any additional exploration of the site being considered.

The Committee suggested that the Queensborough location could be problematic, as transit and social resources could be perceived to be more easily accessible in central New Westminster.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark reported that BC Housing is looking for a minimum of forty units; therefore, implementing a smaller grouping of units in central New Westminster would not be possible. Purchasing additional land for the project would also not be feasible, as reserve funding in the City would not accommodate current market prices.

6.2 Proposed Housing and Social Services Pilot Project Update

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, summarized an on table handout regarding a possible pilot project for a temporary Housing and Social Services Coordinator. The position would be created to work with other non-profit organizations within the community, and could help address funding cuts and a lack of opportunities for outreach services. It is proposed that funding for this position would be provided by a senior level of government, or other external funding resource.

Procedural Note: Simka Marshall exited the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

7.1 Newcomers Festival and Information Fair

This item was provided to the Committee for their information.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Committee Room #2, City Hall

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

Certified Correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED
Debbie Johnstone
Committee Clerk