



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE (CSI)

**April 2, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room 2, City Hall**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Co-Chair, Council Member
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa	- Co-Chair, Council Member
Norah Andrew	- Community Member
Kevin Chan	- Community Member
Wesley Everaars	- Community Member
Halim Habibi	- Community Member
Sukhdeep Jassar	- Fraser Health Representative
Savannah Mak	- Community Member
Sebastien Muncaster	- Community Member
Elaine Su	- Community Member
Delaney Sullivan	- Community Member
Vanessa Woznow	- Community Member

VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:

Quirina Gamblen	- SD40 Representative
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GUESTS:

Courtney Pankratz	- CAT Project Coordinator
Amanda Staller	- CAT Project Coordinator (?)

STAFF PRESENT:

Claudia Freire	- Housing/Social Planner
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Item 5.4: City Renter Policy was added to the agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of December 4, 2018

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the December 4, 2018 Community and Social Issues Committee meeting minutes be adopted with the following changes:

- 1. Item 3.2 – Social Equity Policy, first point be amended to read:
“Fraser Health has developed a document ‘Community Planning Tool: Applying a Healthy Equity Lens to Program Planning.’ This was developed in consultation with the City of Surrey Healthy Communities Department and may be a helpful tool when implementing a social equity policy as it provides process guidance.” and;*
- 2. Item 6.1 – New West Community Action Team Opioid Response Update, the word “now” be removed from the third bullet point.*

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATION

Procedural Note: Item 3.1 was addressed prior to Item 1.1.

3.1 Orientation and Oath – Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, led a round of introductions and provided a PowerPoint orientation presentation, reviewing the following documents:

- Community Heritage Commission (CHC) Terms of Reference;
- Committee Rules of Conduct;
- City of New Westminster (CNW) Respectful Workplace Policy;
- CNW Social Media Policy; and,
- Freedom of Information Permission Forms.

Ms. Corbett administered the Oath of Office to all members of the CSI Committee present.

The Committee discussed some topics of interests to address during the year, including the following:

- Supporting Council decisions and participating in the priorities of the City;
- Ensuring diversity and representation in the City’s activities;
- Welcoming newcomers and addressing issues of racism and islamophobia;
- Mental health issues, social isolation and increasing social connections;

- Housing crisis, and allowing renters to have a bigger voice; and,
- The opioid and overdose crisis.

Councillor Nakagawa reminded the Committee of friendly and respectful ways to work together as a group and invited the members to bring up any issues that would make all members feel welcome. The Committee noted the following comments:

- Request for the maintenance of a scent-free meeting environment;
- Allow opportunities for all committee members to be heard and involved;
- Be respectful of members' choices of personal pronouns;
- Be aware of the use of jargon and acronyms, side conversations and hearing issues; and,
- Ensure a meeting environment where babies and children are welcomed.

Procedural Note: Item 3.2 was discussed prior to Item 3.1.

3.2 New Westminster Overdose Community Action Team (NWOCAT)

Courtney Pankratz, NWOCAT Project Coordinator, presented a snapshot of the initial findings of the public input into the NWOCAT project, indicating the assets and gaps identified on both a high level and local level.

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

- The projects that have been identified as a result of the public input include a peer-network and an anti-stigma campaign;
- The action plan would likely be released in the end of August, 2019;

In response to questions from Ms. Pankratz, the Committee noted the following:

- Ensure representation from ethnic groups and First Nations is present in the findings, as well as culturally sensitive materials are produced, if possible;
- Involving the WINS Local Immigration Partnership may be worthwhile;
- It may be worthwhile to investigate cross-coordination with the School District to gather input from their point of view;
- It would be worthwhile to ensure widespread education and training, and adequate communication to the public of the findings of the study, as level of knowledge of the topic may be quite low in comparison to neighbouring cities;
- Opportunities for education of the public could include festivals, at educational institutions (i.e. Douglas College) and among a variety of backgrounds; and,

- More statistics on the impact of overdoses within the New Westminster community would be helpful for context.

3.3 Renovictions Update – Rental Housing Revitalization Program

Claudia Freire, Housing/Social Planner provided a PowerPoint presentation on the City's rental housing revitalization program, including the following information:

- The City's rental housing status;
- Renovictions and its effects in the City;
- Details on the rental housing revitalization program, with the aim of discouraging renovictions;
- Information on a potential incentive program for landlords to maintain their buildings;
- Communication and consultation initiatives with tenants and rental building owners; and,
- Next steps, including reporting back to Council in summer 2019.

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

- The City is investigating an incentive program in response to feedback and concerns from Landlord BC and rental building owners;
- A potential property tax exemption incentive is still in development and more info would be brought forward to Council and CSI in summer 2019;
- Staff are investigating an informational mail-out to tenants, possibly as a direct mail.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Hey Neighbour Collective

Claudia Freire, Housing/Social Planner provided the Committee with an update on the Hey Neighbour Collective, noting that Council endorsed both of the Committee's recommendations.

Ms. Freire noted that the Collective is currently in fundraising mode, and further updates would be provided to the Committee as details are received.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Alternate Chair

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Vanessa Woznow be appointed as the Alternate Chair for the 2019 Community and Social Issues Committee term.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Committee Representative on Healthier Community Partnership Committee

Sukhdeep Jassar, Community Health Specialist, Fraser Health, provided the Committee with information on the Healthier Community Partnership Committee (HCP), which aims to encourage strategic ways to promote healthy living in the community, through special projects and initiatives. Ms. Jassar noted that a representative from the CSI Committee is invited to join the committee.

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

- The HCP meets four times per year, during the hours of 2-4pm;
- The focus of the Committee has been on healthy living, social connectedness and physical literacy, including increasing movement and using active transportation;
- Two examples of projects initiated by the HCP are the Walking challenge (jointly with Burnaby) and the provision of play boxes in the community; and,
- Representation from the City includes staff from Planning, Parks & Recreation and Transportation;

Wes Everaars volunteered to join the Healthier Community Partnership Committee on behalf of CSI.

5.3 Compassionate City Charter

Claudia Freire, Housing/Social Planner, provided some background on the New Westminster Hospice Society's proposal for a Compassionate City Charter, which includes events and initiatives around the topic of loss and grieving. The New West Hospice Society will be invited to present at the next CSI meeting to provide more information about their work and the Compassionate City Charter.

5.4 City Renters Policy

Councillor McEvoy provided some information on a City policy which had recently come before Council, but had been returned to the Neighbourhood Traffic Advisory Committee to get more input from renters' point-of-view. Councillor McEvoy noted that there are many issues which may benefit from the point-of-view of renters; however an avenue does not always present itself for such consideration.

Committee members noted the following:

- Barriers to renting, such as credit checks, tend to create stress to newcomers in the community; and,
- It may be worthwhile to engage with settlement agencies to explore other barriers people experience when renting.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Community and Social Issues Committee recommend that Council direct staff to review City policies and practices to ensure equity and participation for renters.

CARRIED.

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

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 FAQs – Business Regulations and Licensing (Rental Units) Amendment Bylaw No. 8085, 2019

6.2 Hey Neighbour Collective – Report to Council, February 25, 2019

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. – Committee Room 2, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
Co-Chair

Original Signed
Heather Corbett
Committee Clerk