

## **COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE (CSI)**

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

### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Co-Chair, Council Member
Norah Andrew	- Community Member
Wesley Everaars	- Community Member
Quirina Gamblen	- SD40 Representative
Halim Habibi	- Community Member
Sukhdeep Jassar	- Fraser Health Representative
Savannah Mak	- Community Member
Elaine Su	- Community Member
Delaney Sullivan	- Community Member
Vanessa Woznow	- Community Member

### **VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa	- Co-Chair, Council Member
Kevin Chan	- Community Member
Sebastien Muncaster	- Community Member

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Claudia Freire	- Housing and Social Planner
Anur Mehdic	- Housing and Child Care Planning Analyst
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:29 p.m.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of September 3, 2019**

#### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the September 3, 2019 Community and Social Issues Committee meeting minutes be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **3.0 PRESENTATION**

### **3.1 Separate and Shared Common Areas Policy**

Anur Mehdic, Housing and Child Care Planning Analyst, provided a presentation on the Shared Entrances and Common Areas Policy. Committee members received a worksheet related to the various opportunities and challenges with respect to shared entrances, lobby areas, elevators, and private indoor and outdoor amenity areas, and were asked to their provide input on the various aspects outlined.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Two separate entrances may lead to the same lobby area;
- The policy will strive to create inclusion throughout the entirety of buildings;
- Non-profits may support separate entrances and amenities so as to not incur extra operational costs;
- Creation of the policy originated from a development application that came forward at the same time staff were working on an inclusionary housing policy wherein developers are required to incorporate a specific number of below market and non-market units into their new builds;
- It is unclear whether or not fixtures in the rental units would be the same quality as those in the strata units; and,
- Staff will determine how to address any challenges that may be identified.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Lookout Housing and Health Society learned about the stigma of separate entrances based on what happened with the Woodward's building in Vancouver;
- Non-profit housing services for abused women and children who require extra support may be a challenge;
- If the developer receives a density bonus in exchange for social housing, it should be expected that the quality of fixtures would be the same for all units;

- The City will need to continue working closely with developers and non-profit housing providers as more of these types of housing opportunities come forward;
- Coming into a new culture is already a lonely venture for newcomers to Canada and integration will be hampered if neighbours are separated from each other; and,
- This philosophical and moral discussion should not be led in the direction that separation, even for logistical reasons, is appropriate, and the tables in the document seem set up to lead one to think in a certain way;

Councillor McEvoy shared that in New York City, the non-profit units must be spread throughout the building, adding that as developers may not be the best landlords, often other operators are sought to oversee property management.

Committee members received a handout regarding the open house being held on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at Century House which will allow staff to receive community feedback on shared and separated entrances. Everyone was encouraged to share the information with their peers, neighbours, etc., and advised that the event will be publicized on the City's website, Facebook, Instagram, and in the New Westminster Record.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Committee Review Update**

Councillor McEvoy provided an update on the City's Committee review and reminded Committee members that, while this is the last meeting of the Community and Social Issues Committee, there will be other civic committees addressing social issues in varying capacities. Committee members were encouraged to apply for some of the new committees.

### **4.2 Compassionate City Charter: Recommendation from the Community Social Issues Committee**

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, summarized the above-noted Council report dated October 28, 2019 which included the May 7, 2019 recommendation from the Committee as well as 13 social change actions, eight of which would involve other City departments. It was noted that Council also received a letter from the New West Hospice Society on October 28<sup>th</sup> clarifying their requests of the City. Ms. Freire shared that Council adopted the motion to support, in principle, the Compassionate City Charter and philosophy and directed staff to review the actions in the Charter and continue the discussion with the New West Hospice Society to clarify their priorities. To this end, staff will be meeting with the Society to see what actions the City can currently move forward with, including the implementation of a Mayor's award.

### 4.3 Opioid Epidemic

Ms. Freire shared that Council's recently adopted 2019-2022 Strategic Plan includes several key directions, one of these is that the City take a lead role in responding to the opioid epidemic. As a next step, an interdepartmental working group will be formed so that the various City departments can coordinate their actions. Dr. Amir Bharmal, Medical Health Officer with the Fraser Health Authority, has been invited to sit on the interdepartmental committee and City staff who are currently working with the New Westminster Overdose Community Action Team (NWOCAT) will remain doing so to maintain an effective crossover between the two groups.

### 5.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

### 6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

#### 6.1 Shared and Separate Community Areas: Policy Work Plan and Proposed Interim Guidelines, September 9, 2019 Report to Council

(See Item 3.1)

#### 6.2 Compassionate City Charter: Recommendation from the Community Social Issues Committee, October 28, 2019 Report to Council

(See Item 4.2)

### 7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

### 8.0 NEXT MEETING

**This is the final meeting of the Community and Social Issues Committee.**

### 9.0 ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Certified Correct,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor Jaimie McEvoy**  
**Co-Chair**

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**  
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**Carilyn Cook**  
**Committee Clerk**