



Family Court Committee

Wednesday, June 19, 2013 – 1:00 pm
Committee Room No. 2
City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Councillor Betty McIntosh | - Chair |
| Gertrude Gaviola | - Community Member |
| Molly Jeschke | - Community Member |
| Paul Johanssen | - Community Member |
| Silvana McNulty | - Community Member |
| Dorothy Shiu | - Community Member |
| Ronne Sun | - Family Justice Centre |

REGRETS:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Sarah Barone | - NW Law Courts |
| Brian Fiddler | - NW Victim Assistance |
| Lisa Graham | - School Board Trustee |
| Sanda Turner | - Community Member |
| Scott White | - Community Member |

STAFF:

- | | |
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| Donna Martin | - Committee Clerk |
| Ruby Campbell | - Parks, Culture and Recreation Department |

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- 1.1** A member requested the addition of “Children at Risk” to the Agenda. This item was added under New Business - Item 5.2

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of April 24, 2013**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Family Court Committee meeting held on April 24, 2013 be received and adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Family Justice Services Division Impacts of the Family Law Act – Ronne Sun

Ronne Sun, Manager Family Justice Centre, explained that a Family Justice Services counsellor acts as the impartial third party to protect the best interests of the child. Counselling services are provided to low to mid income families at no charge and all information is confidential with the exception of information relating to child abuse and criminal activity.

Parents involved in a Provincial Court or Supreme Court process or those who are not going through the court system may seek the assistance of a Family Justice Services counsellor. A counsellor will meet with the parents individually if they are willing.

Family Justice Services provides the following:

- Dispute resolution options;
- Information regarding family law;
- Screening for violence;
- Legal and community resources; and
- Reports for court expressing the view of family.

Mediation services available:

- For children to be involved in mediation both parents and the child (over 8 years old) must agree
- Helps parents work things out rather than waiting for a court decision
- Keeps children out of the conflict

Mediation is not appropriate when:

- One parent does not participate;
- One parent feels unsafe; or
- There is a history of abuse.

Ms. Sun reported on changes to the Family Leave Act highlighting the language changes address relocation, definition of a spouse for spousal support and the promotion of cooperation between parents and different ways of settling issues without going to court. (See October 2012 Elan Electronic Legal Aid News [Guide to the New BC Family Law Act](#).)

Molly Jeschke announced she is conducting four two hour workshops for men and women who are transitioning from being part of a couple to being single. She may be contacted at molly66@shaw.ca or by calling 604-521-6200.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Family Day Update

Ruby Campbell reported that she and Councillor McIntosh had a preliminary meeting with Fraser River Discovery Centre (FRDC) and River Market to discuss Family Day 2014. The FRDC indicated they may not have as much space available for the 2014 event. However, River Market may be able to provide more space than last year with some activities to be set up between the two places. Another planning meeting will be held in August.

The Committee discussed what did and did not work this year. Things to consider for the 2014 event:

- Magician to be booked;
- Mike's Critters to be booked;
- Tickets for some entertainment venues;
- Limit theatre activities to 50 people;
- Gather a volunteer group to assist on the day of the event;
- Print program so attendees know where and when things are going to happen;
- Name tags;
- Stroller parking;
- Roving entertainment;
- River Market to have a "kid's lunch menu" available;
- Have fire truck attend;
- More police participation if possible;
- Drum circle outside;
- Include Samson V in event;
- Cross promote event with Canada Games Pool, Queens Park and other groups;
- Offer suggestions as to how Residents Associations can participate;
- Contact chairs of early and middle school committees, Janet Gant and Betina Ali.

Funding from Council has been secured. The subcommittee will meet on August 8, 2013 at River Market at 1:00 p.m.

5.2 Children at Risk

Paul Johansen expressed concern that the School District 40 budget cuts are going to leave the most vulnerable students more vulnerable. It was suggested a letter be written to

the Office of the Attorney General to inform them of the Family Court Committee's concern.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT a letter be sent to the Office of the Attorney General (with copies to relevant parties) expressing concern for the drastic budget cuts in School District 40 in reference to the Supreme Court ruling regarding the Moore v. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of British Columbia as represented by the Ministry of Education and the Board and the Board of Education School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) and how it will affect the students with special needs in the public school system.

CARRIED.

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

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 CERA

No report at this time.

6.2 Member's Reports

Paul Johansen reported due to a casino incident last week in Queensborough, the middle school took the students into the school whereas, the elementary school children were sent home. At the School District meeting last evening DPAC made a motion requesting the policy, written rules and procedures the School District has in place for emergency incidents and that the District to conduct a gap analysis to review what policies and practices can be improved.

Mr. Johansen expressed concern as to how special needs students are currently being handled when they are out of control and questioned how the staff cuts will affect these students.

Councillor McIntosh announced she had attended the FCM Conference in Vancouver including a study tours on the sustainability using cement and also Port Metro Vancouver.

The overpass to Pier Park is scheduled to be completed this fall.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 NEXT MEETING

September 25, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. – Committee Room 2, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned 3:00 at p.m.

Councillor Betty McIntosh
Chair

Donna Martin
Committee Clerk