

Family Court Committee

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 – 1:00 pm
Committee Room #2
City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Betty McIntosh	- Chair
Sarah Barone	- NW Law Courts Representative
Bruce Clark	- Community Member
John Gaipman	- School District #40 Representative
Mychael Gleeson	- Community Member
Molly Jeschke	- Community Member
Paul Johansen	- Community Member
Silvana McNulty	- Community Member
Dorothy Shiu	- Community Member
Ronne Sun	- Family Justice Centre Representative

REGRETS:

Brian Fiddler	- NW Victim Assistance Representative
Alana McIntyre	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Michael Thompson	- Community Member
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STAFF:

Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 26, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the February 26, 2014 Family Court Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Introductions: Superintendent Gaipman

Councillor Betty McIntosh, Chair, provided an introduction for John Gaipman, Superintendent, School District #40.

Superintendent Gaipman reviewed his professional background, and expressed enthusiasm with respect to his appointment as the School District #40 representative on the Family Court Committee.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Family Day 2015

Councillor Betty McIntosh, Chair, summarized the role of the Committee with respect to Family Day and reported that a \$5000 grant for Family Day 2015 has been approved by Council.

Councillor McIntosh advised that Parks, Culture and Recreation is planning to host an event at Century House on Family Day 2015 to include residents of Uptown.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

7.0 MEMBERS' REPORTS

Councillor Betty McIntosh, Chair, reported on the following items:

- Reviewed the City's position regarding the Pattullo bridge; and,
- Discussed the Bailey Street and Queensborough bridge, the Quay to Queensborough pedestrian bridge and access to Westminster Pier Park.

Bruce Clark, Community Member, suggested that a joint presentation could be provided by the Citizen Advisory Committee and Metro Vancouver East Community Corrections.

The Committee discussed the role of social services and parole officers in the community.

Mychael Gleeson, Community Member, reported that she is currently assisting individuals with mental health issues complete their income taxes.

The Committee discussed the stigma associated with mental health, as well as the role of mental health services in the community and highlighted effective practices.

Dr. Gleeson discussed her role with respect to suspended students, and requested that communication between herself and the School Board be encouraged. John Gapitman, School District #40 representative, reviewed privacy issues regarding suspension issues and advised Dr. Gleeson to discuss her requests with the custodial guardian of the suspended child, as well as the school Principal.

Ronne Sun, Family Justice Centre representative, advised that the Family Justice Centre will be closed April 28, and have reduced hours April 29 through May 1.

Silvana McNulty, Community Member, requested information and expressed concerns for fires due to marijuana grow operations in residential homes.

Sarah Barone, New Westminster Law Courts representative, reviewed the role of the Family Court.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Family Court Committee Letter to Minister of Education re: School Suspensions

John Gaipman, School District #40 representative, spoke to letter that was sent to the Minister of Education, and reported the following information:

- All information regarding school suspensions is copied to the superintendent;
- Suspensions are cross referenced via school and cause (i.e.: drug use, violence);
- It was suggested that suspensions are ineffective at conveying consequences for actions and do not provide the necessary support for students;

- A suspended student must be provided with an educational program during their suspension;
- Students that are removed from class are placed in the supervision of an adult;
- First time offenders generally do not receive suspensions; and,
- Suspension letters indicate the manner in which homework is to be picked up, and who is to be contacted for additional information;

Superintendent Gaipman advised that he could provide the Committee with a shell suspension letter at the next meeting.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

June 18, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. – Committee Room #2, City Hall

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor Betty McIntosh
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk