



Family Court Committee

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 – 3:30 p.m.
Council Chamber
City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair
Bruce Clark	- Community Member
Wesley Everaars	- Community Member
Mychael Gleeson	- Community Member
Alana McIntyre	- Community Member
Silvana McNulty	- Community Member
Dorothy Shiu	- Community Member
Ronne Sun	- Family Justice Centre Representative

REGRETS:

Beverly Eustis	- NW Law Courts Representative
John Gaipman	- School District #40 Representative
Terry Hewitt	- NW Victim Assistance Representative
Kim Williams	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Gurinder Mann	- Executive Director, CERA
Michael Thompson	- Community Member

STAFF:

Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m.

1.0 ANNUAL HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Orientation

Lauren Blake, Committee Clerk, distributed and reviewed the following documents with the Committee members:

- Rules of Conduct: Advisory Committees & Bodies of Council
- Social Media Policy
- Terms of Reference

- Permission Forms

Members are to contact Ms. Blake regarding attendance at each meeting. If a member is unable to fulfill their duties, they are asked to notify staff as soon as possible so the position can be refilled.

1.2 Committee Oaths

Lauren Blake, Committee Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the Committee members.

1.3 Introductions

Committee members provided an introduction and brief overview of their history.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of October 29, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the October 29, 2014 meeting of the Family Court Committee be amending by correcting the spelling of Bruce Clark's name under Item 4.1; and,

THAT the minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Family Day Review

Ruby Campbell, Community Projects Coordinator, provided an overview of the Family Day event held on February 9, 2015 and reported the following information:

- It was estimated that over 4000 people attended the event;

- There is a surplus budget of \$6800;
- It was noted that the budget did not include all of the costs associated with the Anvil Centre;
- There are limits with respect to providing additional activities at next year's event due to space restrictions; and,
- There is an opportunity for the event to become a regional draw due to the City's event spaces and accessibility to transit.

Ms. Campbell advised that the feedback received from the Fraser River Discovery Centre, the River Market, Westminster Savings and emails from the community regarding the event has been overall positive. With respect to improving the event for 2016, the following suggestions have been received:

- That additional signage be provided outside of the event;
- That additional activities be provided for kids aged nine and older; and,
- That the event be scheduled from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

In response to suggestions from the Committee, it was noted that volunteers will be provided vests to wear at future City events.

Silvana McNulty, Community Member, provided a written report summarizing the entertainment of the event.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT thank-you letters be sent to the Peter Julian, MP, Judy Darcy, MLA and Chief Rhonda Larrabee for their involvement with Family Day 2015.

CARRIED.

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

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

7.1 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA)

Gurinder Mann, Executive Director, CERA, provided the following report regarding CERA:

- Trends regarding crime are reviewed annually to determine where staff time and resources should be allocated;
- Youth crime is lower than recent years, and suggested reasons for the decline in youth crime could include:

- Police are utilizing restorative justice as they have a better understanding of the *Youth Criminal Act*;
- Technology and social media have made youth crime more difficult to detect;
- Police departments have additional issues to address, and youth crime could become a lower priority;
- It was suggested that the decrease in youth crime could be artificial;
- Approximately 60-70% of police files are related to mental health issues due to a lack of social services; and,
- Anti-bullying policies require collaboration between various organizations to address the issue in the most efficient way.

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

- CERA's goal is to work with students from Grade One and up, as prevention is an important tool with respect to bullying and social media education;
- The majority of youth crime Crown files are multiple offenders with severe offenses, such as assault;
- Mental health issues are not generally referred to CERA; and,
- CERA will work with individuals that have Fetal Alcohol Syndrome if they are able to demonstrate appropriate comprehension.

Discussion ensued and it was noted that the New Westminster Police Department has hired an officer with a mental health background, and is in the process of hiring an additional officer with the same qualifications.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

May 19, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. – Council Chamber, City Hall

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk