



Family Court Committee

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 – 3:30 p.m.

Council Chamber

City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Bruce Clark
Mychael Gleeson
Terry Hewitt
Alana McIntyre
Silvana McNulty
Dorothy Shiu
Kim Williams

- Chair
- Community Member
- Community Member
- NW Victim Assistance Association Representative
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member

REGRETS:

Beverly Eustis
Wesley Everaars
John Gaipman
Ronne Sun

- NW Law Courts Representative
- Community Member
- School District #40 Representative
- Family Justice Centre Representative

GUESTS:

Gurinder Mann

- Executive Director, CERA

STAFF:

Lauren Blake

- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Item 7.2 – New Westminster Parole Open House Invitation be added to the agenda.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 17, 2015

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the February 17, 2015 Family Court Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Family Day 2016

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Chair, provided the following report regarding Family Day 2016:

- The City would likely be able to use the majority of the Anvil Centre for the event;
- The curators of the New Media Gallery will ensure that there is overlap with the next exhibition;
- Council has requested a less prescriptive policy regarding performers and pay scales to provide the City with the ability to create the best events for the lowest possible cost;
- Family Day would continue to utilize volunteer performers, and could consider providing an honorarium or *per diem*; and,
- Sponsorship for the event would be sought, including complimentary advertising in local newspapers.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Puchmayr advised that the issues regarding the sound system at the Anvil Centre have been identified and addressed. Councillor Puchmayr further advised that external catering cannot be imported into the Anvil Centre due to an existing contract with Truffles catering.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Review of 2014 Family Court Committee Annual Report to the Minister of Justice

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Chair, requested that the Committee provide feedback regarding the Annual Report to the Ministry of Justice. The Committee suggested that the report be amended to reflect the presentations provided by Dr. Mychael Gleeson

regarding her paper “Give My Life Back”, as well as the presentation received by Correction Services Canada.

With respect to future Family Court Committee meetings, the Committee suggested that Dr. Gleeson and Correction Services Canada provide additional presentations, and that a presentation be received from Officer Carmel Kennan regarding her work in School District #40, as it was noted that she would be retiring from her position as School Liaison.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the 2014 Family Court Committee Annual Report to the Minister of Justice be received as amended.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Funding for Legal Aid

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Chair, suggested that the Committee compile and forward an argument for additional legal aid funding to Council and the Provincial government.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- The Public Commission on Legal Aid provided recommendations, however, there is no funding to enact the recommendations;
- The final report from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry is difficult to obtain and did not reflect the unavailability of legal aid;
- Legal aid provides services required for a family court case, such as reports or background information, at a reduced fee;
- There is a lack of services available to provide a complete legal experience for low-income individuals; and,
- It was suggested that the Committee receive a presentation or additional information regarding the short falls of legal aid funding.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Family Court Update

This item was deferred to the September 19, 2015 Family Court Committee meeting.

6.2 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA)

Gurinder Mann, Executive Director, CERA, advised that he has met with New Westminister Police Chief Dave Jones to discuss how to increase the teamwork between the New Westminister Police Department and CERA. Mr. Mann has suggested implementing interoffice hours at the police station so that he is available to officers to

answer questions and discuss particular cases. Mr. Mann advised that restorative justice has been implemented within School District #40.

Mr. Mann outlined the invitation to the CERA hosted forum regarding parental education with respect to restorative justice that was distributed to Committee members via email. Mr. Mann advised that he has been discussing the event with organizations that work with parents of issue children.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Mann advised that approximately 50% of cases involve youth from immigrant families.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following suggestions:

- That there could be language or cultural barriers preventing immigrants from attending events such as this, and it could be beneficial to request assistance from the Multicultural Advisory Committee;
- That minor crimes have the ability to evolve to larger and more complex crimes that can compromise community safety; and,
- That alternative approaches could be utilized to engage the community in discussions with the Police department.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Family Day Thank You Letters

This item was for information.

7.2 New Westminster Parole Office Open House Invitation

Bruce Clark, Community Member, advised that there are security issues to consider for this event, and suggested that attendees can request his assistance for entry.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

September 15, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. – Council Chamber, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Certified correct,

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk