

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER
Regular meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee
Held in City Hall, Conference Room 'A'
On Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mary Tasi, Chair
Steve Tornes, Vice Chair
Cassandra Buckley
Arash Ehteshami
Jasreen Janjua
Joanna Linsangan
Heather Urquhart

ABSENT:

Holly Back, Councillor

STAFF:

Heather Evans, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk

GUESTS:

Trina Prior, Vancouver Foundation
Heather Cowie, Alzheimer Society of BC
Kristina Gawdin, UBC Student

9 members – quorum = 5
1 Councillor (non-voting) 2 staff (non-voting)

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2016 were adopted as circulated.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Vital Signs – Trina Prior, Manager, Grants & Community Initiatives, Vancouver Foundation

T. Prior gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Vancouver Foundations' Vital Signs program. Vital Signs is a national program with Community Foundations of Canada which measures the quality of life in communities around Canada. It is produced as a resource for Community Foundations and to help Vancouver Foundation better understand the communities they serve.

Key Points:

- Vital Signs was a province wide, 10 minute online survey that was completed by over 7,100 people.
- The survey had 4 main focus areas: Community Assets, Issues Areas, Sense of Belonging and Community Involvement and Community Foundation Specific Questions.

- North Vancouver was part of the Sea to Sky community for the survey but for purposes of this presentation, North Vancouver (which includes both the District and the City) statistics were broken out.
- When asked what we love about our community, North Vancouver had high percentages in scenery and overall quality of life.
- The top three issues in North Vancouver are housing (26%), transportation (22%) and safety (11%).
- When asked the most important priority for improving housing options in the community, North Vancouver ranked “Affordability of rental housing” the highest at 59%.
- Questions regarding Belonging and Connections had the most interesting answers from all over the province. This has always been a focus in all Vital Signs reports.
- In North Vancouver, there is a strong sense of belonging; people are happier and trusting of their neighbours.
- Another interesting statistic that came up is that 36% of people in North Vancouver receive community information from the newspaper versus 16% from social media.

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- How was the survey available to people?
 - Presenter: The Mustel Group (a market research company) handled most it; people also signed up for a panel, 30% were pushed out through Community Foundations. Mustel weighted responses.
- Which community rated highest on being welcoming?
 - Presenter: The Sunshine Coast and one of the eastern northern regions.
- We have a large First Nations community in North Vancouver and they are not traditionally ones to do survey; can you say that they would have been somehow represented?
 - Presenter: We do have demographic information but for privacy reasons do not report it. We were concerned about this and did reach out to various Friendship Centres. Mustel didn't feel it was significantly lower.
- This is good information but we it has to be put in context; statistics can be skewed.
 - Presenter: The Vancouver Foundation is very careful with how we present data, we never say something is an issue, rather it's a concern. We can't say if something IS a problem, what we can say is, of people responded, people were concerned. We try to keep the language neutral and are careful how it is presented.
- Were questions asked that looked at children and elementary schools?
 - Presenter: We did ask questions around children and youth and also education questions, however, we didn't get a high response so there was not enough information to report out on.
- Is this information going to be presented to Mayor and Council?
 - Staff: We thought this would be interesting to SPAC because of our role in reviewing grants and social issues; we weren't thinking of bringing it forward to Council at this point in time. Census information will be released shortly so we will likely bring together multiple sources of information to bring to Council.

6:50pm – 6:55pm - 5 minute break

Dementia-Friendly Communities, Heather Cowie, Provincial Coordinator, Alzheimer Society of BC

The Alzheimer Society of BC's Dementia-Friendly Communities initiative is to help create inviting and supportive communities where people who are living with dementia in the community can feel comfortable and safe walking, shopping and getting around.

A *dementia-friendly community* focuses on stigma reduction and the inclusion of people with dementia. People are educated about dementia and know that a person with dementia may sometimes experience the world differently. In a dementia-friendly community, people living with dementia feel supported by their community members when they are out in the community.

Key Points:

- The Alzheimer Society's motto is Help for today, hope for tomorrow. Dementia-friendly is the bridging point between help and hope.
- There are many types of dementia; it is an umbrella term for anything that affects the brain. There are approximately 160 types that one could have and each type has different effects on each person.
- Dementia not a normal part of aging; risk factor is aging but that does not mean you will get dementia. Genetics play a small role but no defined genetic link has been found other than younger onset dementia.
- Dementia is progressive and is experienced in stages.
- The Dementia-Friendly Communities initiative started in Japan and then moved to the UK, Europe, Australia then to the US and Canada.
- The purpose of Dementia-Friendly Communities is to create awareness about dementia and to support people with dementia to participate in their communities to the fullest extent possible.
- The Alzheimer Society's initiative is to offer tools and support to public and groups to move toward a Dementia-Friendly province through an approach of People, Policy, and Practice.
- On the Policy piece, the Society works with municipal governments, community planning and bylaws. New West first to become dementia friendly; they were the first Council to endorse a Dementia-Friendly action plan.
- UBCM funding has been received to create a Dementia-Friendly action plan for the District of North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver.

Questions/Comments from SPAC:

- The video of Jim's Story, the gentleman living with dementia is very good. It was very well done.
- How dementia-friendly is North Vancouver?
 - Presenter: A survey was done in the fall; we haven't looked at the results thoroughly, but we know there is always room to grow. It is critical to have people with dementia on stakeholder groups.
 - Staff: There were 137 responses to the survey on the North Shore; roughly 60 – 70 were caregivers that felt that there are not adequate supports in the community, they provided examples about how the communities could help loved ones.

4. UPDATES

a. Councillor – Unavailable.

b. Staff –

- An event called “School the City” is coming up on February 9. This will involve 50 high school students coming to City Hall, meeting with staff and Councillors and brainstorming a public art project.
- February 9 is also the launch of the Foundry. The Foundry is a youth services hub set to open May 1 which will house a variety of services including mental health, sexual health, vocational assistance, youth workers, substance abuse and more.
- The call for nominations for Youth Awards and applications for the Youth Centennial Scholarship will be going out mid-February. We have updated the names of the awards and some of the criteria to make the nomination process more clear. The awards will be held at City Hall on May 3.
- A new auxiliary staff person will be starting soon to assist with implementing the City’s Placemaking program and to assist with events.
- Will be presenting “Unsquare the Square” to Council in mid-February. This is the Jack Loucks Court/Rogers plaza revitalization project.
- The presentation from Lookout Housing Society and Wendy Tse’s report are included in the information folder. The City has asked the Districts of North Vancouver and West Vancouver to consider matching contributions that the CNV has been making towards homelessness initiatives. Both Districts are considering doing this in their 2017 budget process.
- The City’s Housing Action Plan was adopted in October 2016; we are now looking at implementation projects. A bylaw amendment under consideration is to permit both a coach house and secondary suite on single detached lots if requirements are met. A Public Hearing is set for February.
- North Shore Community Resources is holding an event on March 2 regarding housing diversity and affordability. They are hoping to particularly get input from people 45 years of age and younger. Details will be sent to SPAC members via email.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) M. Tasi advised that at the next meeting there will be elections for chair and vice chair. We will also discuss goals for the committee for the year, and our work plan. Community Grant applications will be handed out to the small groups and some time will be provided in the agenda for members to discuss a strategy.
- b) H. Urquhart inquired about conflicts of interest that may arise during the grant review process. It was noted that the Advisory Body Procedures state:

“A conflict of interest exists where:

- *a committee member is a director, member or employee of an organization seeking a benefit from the City of North Vancouver upon which the committee will make a recommendation;*

- *the committee member has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the outcome of committee deliberations.*

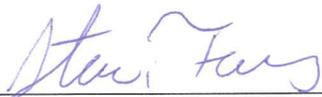
Where a conflict of interest exists, committee members:

- *are not entitled to participate in the discussion of the matter or to vote on a question in respect of the matter;*
- *must declare to the committee that a conflict exists; and specify the nature of the conflict;*
- *must absent themselves from the meeting during consideration of the issue to which the conflict relates.”*

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 22, 2017



Chair



Date