

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2021 April 20

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 2410 20
Reference: Social Planning Committee

SUBJECT: SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN FOR 2021-22

PURPOSE: To outline the activities of the Social Planning Committee for 2019-20 and identify work plan initiatives for 2021 and 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Social Planning Committee approve the work plan for 2021-22, as outlined in *Section 4.0* of this report.
2. **THAT** this report be advanced to Council for information.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

As identified in the Terms of Reference for the Social Planning Committee, the Social Planning Committee (SPC) will advise on a variety of social issues including, but not limited to: leasing space at the City's Community Resource Centres, the needs of seniors, youth, families, ethnic groups, LGBTQ2S+, persons with disability, and socio-economic equity issues. The SPC will also be responsible for making recommendations regarding inclusivity initiatives as they relate to the aforementioned groups.¹

This report provides information on the activities of the SPC in 2019-2020 and outlines key social planning initiatives planned for 2021 and 2022.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

The activities and initiatives of the SPC align directly with the vision, goals and strategic priorities of the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy (2011) and in particular, its three main goals:

¹ See Boards, Committees and Commissions Directory, July 2020
<https://www.burnaby.ca/Assets/our+city+hall/mayor+and+council/boards+and+committees/Board+and+Committee+Descriptions.pdf>

- **Community Inclusion:** Burnaby will be an inclusive community.
- **Community Liveability:** Burnaby will continue to be liveable for those who live, work, learn, play and visit.
- **Community Resilience:** Burnaby will be a resilient community, able to adapt and thrive in times of change.

The activities and initiatives also align with the policy objectives of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing Final Report (2019), the Corporate Strategic Plan (2017), the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016), the Economic Development Strategy (2007) and the Official Community Plan (1998).

3.0 OVERVIEW OF RECENT SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE INITIATIVES

3.1 Access and Inclusion

Burnaby Access Advisory Committee and Access Improvements to Civic Facilities

The SPC regularly received correspondence on the activities of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee (BAAC). The BAAC was established in 1988 and provides advice to the City on access and inclusion issues including access improvements to City facilities. In 2019 and 2020, the BAAC provided recommendations to the Financial Management Committee, and copied the SPC, on a number of access-related improvements to City facilities. The BAAC also provided input on the design of new civic facilities and as appropriate, identified public realm improvements such as curb cuts, audible pedestrian signals, parks trails, and sidewalk improvements.

Inclusive Signage

The SPC received correspondence from Council on a proposed interior and way-finding inclusive signage program for civic facilities. This program has since advanced, and implementation has begun in civic facilities. The aim of the program is to create a more inclusive and welcoming experience for patrons of all genders and identities at civic facilities.

3.2 Children and Child Care

The SPC considered and approved the 2019 and 2020 work plans of the Child Care Resources Group (CCRG), an advisory body to the City on child care matters. The CCRG's work plans included its support for the development of a Burnaby Child Care Action Plan to provide direction for the City and community partners to meet child care needs over the next ten years. The City was successful in receiving a UBCM grant of \$25,000 to support this work.

3.3 Community and Civic Engagement

Local Government Awareness Week (LGAW) is an annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) initiative held in May to educate the public about the roles and responsibilities of local government, and to encourage public participation in local government processes. The SPC approved a

recommendation on 2019 LGAW activities that focused on the Your Voice, Your Home theme to encourage public participation in the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing process.

3.4 Equity

All on Board Campaign

The SPC approved a recommendation to forward a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) that called upon the Provincial government to investigate providing free or further subsidized transit passes to people receiving income or disability assistance. The resolution was prompted by a delegation to Council from the All on Board campaign, an initiative of BC Poverty Reduction and others.

Update of the City's Equity Policy

The SPC reviewed and proposed amendments to the City's Equity Policy as part of the process to update the Policy. The Policy, first adopted in 1994, was updated in 2020 to better reflect contemporary understandings of diversity and equity.

3.5 Homelessness

The SPC received correspondence from Council on the City's 2020-2021 homeless response. The response recommended that the City support BC Housing's request to erect an Emergency Response Centre (ERC)/temporary shelter until 2021 June 30 in the parking lot at 3860 Sperling Avenue as a response to COVID-19. The ERC provides 45 beds, on a 24 hours a day/seven days a week basis that allows homeless individuals to socially distance and isolate should they become ill. The operator of the facility also connects patrons to services, supports and long term housing options. The report also noted BC Housing's proposal to construct an additional 45 units of supportive housing at 3986 Norland Avenue. The completion of the new units would be timed to coincide with the closure of the ERC, allowing for a transition of ERC patrons to the new supportive housing project.

3.6 Food Security

In 2020 November, the SPC approved a report recommending that staff be authorized to re-examine the feasibility and advisability of permitting the keeping of backyard chickens. The report noted that as a result of COVID-19, there has been increased interest in food security issues. The report also noted that staff would prepare a separate report outlining further recommendations to facilitate the creation of community gardens.

3.7 Inter-culturalism and Diversity

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action

The SPC received correspondence from Council in 2019 and 2020 that provided an update on the City's efforts to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action for local government. This correspondence included a framework for further actions to implement

the Truth and Reconciliations Calls to Action including initiating Government to Government relationships, building organizational cultural competency and creating a staff position to oversee this work program. This work has begun with Council holding its first joint Council meeting with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation in 2020 November.

In 2020 September, the SPC also approved a report recommending that Council write to the Federal government recommending that September 30 be formally recognized as Orange Shirt Day. Orange Shirt Day is observed to raise awareness, acknowledge and maintain open discussion about the legacy of residential schools in Canada and the truth and reconciliation process. The September 30 date represents the time of year when Indigenous children were removed from their homes and taken to residential school.

The SPC also received correspondence from Council recommending an archaeological policy in keeping with the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action for local government. This work has begun, including initiation of a fulsome Archaeological Overview Assessment of Barnet Marine Park.

United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent

In 2020 September, the SPC approved a report recommending that staff be authorized to work with community partners to develop an action plan related to the United Nations International Decade for Persons of African Descent. On 2017 February 7, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent citing the need to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent, and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

3.8 Seniors

In 2019, the City received a \$25,000 UBCM grant to develop a community-based seniors' services network and plan for seniors' services in Burnaby. The aim of the network is to bring together non-government and government agencies that serve Burnaby seniors to better coordinate service delivery and address seniors' isolation. The SPC approved recommendations on the process to develop the network in 2019 and received a report on the outcomes of the process in 2020.

3.9 Social Sustainability Strategy

In 2019 September, the Committee received a presentation on the progress of the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy, adopted in 2011. Staff informed the Committee that the Social Sustainability Strategy is a living, strategic document that continues to inform the work of the City and community partners. Since 2011, a number of strategies and initiatives have been implemented or are in progress that align with the Strategy's goals and strategic priorities including the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing, Burnaby Transportation Plan, Child Care Needs Assessment and Action Plan, Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan, and the Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership. Social planning staff and staff from other City departments also participate in and support a number of community-led initiatives that align with the Strategy (e.g.

Burnaby Early Childhood Development Table, Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table, Community Action Team on the Overdose Crisis, among others).

3.10 Youth

The SPC received correspondence from Council providing an update on the activities of the Burnaby-New Westminster Task Force on Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth. The Task Force is a multi-sectoral coalition with representatives from the Cities of Burnaby and New Westminster, the Burnaby and New Westminster School Districts, Fraser Health, Ministry of Children and Family Development and non-profit community service providers. Over 2020-2021, the Task Force has focused on education and awareness of youth sexual exploitation among the general public, youth and the business community, and on capacity-building of the service provider sector that work with at-risk youth.

4.0 2021-2022 PROPOSED WORK PLAN

The following section provides information on social planning activities planned for the next two years (2021-22). The creation of a work plan helps the City to allocate staff time and resources to priority projects. It should be noted that reports on some of the activities listed below may be directed to other Committees of Council initially (e.g. Financial Management Committee, Executive Committee) but will be copied to the Social Planning Committee. For an overview of the Social Planning work plan, see *Attachment 1*.

4.1 Access and Inclusion

Burnaby Access Advisory Committee

As in previous years, City staff will continue to work with the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee (BAAC) to identify accessibility improvements to City facilities as part of the City's annual access improvement program. Staff will also work with BAAC to plan access awareness events and identify the need for public realm improvements, as appropriate, such as curb cuts, audible pedestrian signals, and sidewalk improvements. Staff will also work with BAAC to monitor the development of new, anticipated Provincial accessibility legislation, and its impact upon local government. Staff will keep the SPC informed as needed.

4.2 Child Care

The SPC will review and provide recommendations to Council on the City's draft Child Care Action Plan. The Action Plan identifies key child care issues in Burnaby and actions to help the City and community partners address the community's child care needs over the next ten years. Once approved by Council, the SPC will be forwarded progress reports on the implementation of the Action Plan. Implementation of the Child Care Action Plan will be guided by the Child Care Resources Group, an advisory body to the City on child care matters. The CCRG submits an annual work plan to the SPC and Council for approval.

The SPC will also continue to receive updates on the progress of the City and School District Child Care Facilities Memorandum of Agreement to create new child care spaces on school sites throughout the community.

4.3 Food Security

In 2021 January, the SPC approved the framework and approach to develop a Food Systems Strategy for Burnaby. A completed Food Systems Strategy will outline the current context for access to food and articulate actions for enhancements including protecting agricultural land and bringing more land into active production, expanding urban opportunities for food growing, protecting manufacturing and industrial land (for food processing), zoning review for the protection of cultural food assets², and further support for food-related community capacity building (e.g. community kitchens). The SPC will receive progress reports on the Strategy's development.

In addition, the SPC will receive a report on the advisability and feasibility of permitting the keeping backyard chickens and a report on a revised community garden policy. Work undertaken for the Food Systems Strategy, the keeping of backyard chickens and community garden policy review will be mutually reinforcing.

4.4 Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership/Health Related Initiatives

The Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership (HCP) is a partnership of the City of Burnaby, Burnaby School District 41, Fraser Health, the Division of Family Practice and the Burnaby Inter-Agency Council. It aims to promote a healthier community through collaboration among those who shape the places where residents live, work, learn and play. During the COVID-19 pandemic, HCP partners having been working to address the various social and health needs that have emerged during the pandemic, particularly those experienced by vulnerable populations. In 2021, the SPC will receive an update of the activities of the HCP over the last two years and its plans for the next two years.

In addition to supporting the work of the HCP, staff will continue to participate in and support the work of the Burnaby Community Action Team on the Overdose Crisis.

4.5 Homelessness

At its meeting on 2021 April 12, Council approved a preliminary draft of HOME: Burnaby's Housing and Homelessness Strategy. The Strategy is a comprehensive policy document addressing the entire housing systems including the following strategies to address homelessness: Strategy 21: Prevent pathways into homelessness, Strategy 22: Support pathways out of homelessness, and Strategy 23: Contribute to continued collaboration and coordination among homeless serving partners. The Social Planning program will support the implementation of the HOME Strategy and the actions to address homelessness.

² Cultural food assets are defined as the resources, facilities, services or spaces which provide access to fresh, often local, culturally appropriate food for particular cultural groups, while also providing spaces that support the maintenance and transmission of culture (e.g. halal/kosher butchers).

4.6 Inclusion and Diversity

UN International Decade for People of African Descent

In 2020 September, the SPC and Council approved a report proposing that community-based research be undertaken to better understand the experiences of people of African descent in Burnaby, as a first step in recognizing the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent. As a subsequent step, Council proclaimed the decade at its meeting on 2021 March.

In 2021 February, the SPC and Council received a report providing an update on the research project. In 2021-22, Social Planning will continue to be part of the leadership structure for this project, which is being undertaken with community partners. The City is also a contributing funder to the project in addition to Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Family Life, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and the Provincial Immigration Policy and Integration Branch. A funding applications to Canadian Heritage (Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program) is still outstanding. Staff will continue to keep the SPC apprised of the project at key milestones, including updates of how Committee members can be involved directly.

Support Transition/Expansion of Truth and Reconciliation Portfolio

In 2021 January, the City's first Indigenous Relations Manager was hired. With the advent of this position, the work program has expanded and Social Planning staff remain involved with a variety of related projects and initiatives, particularly those related to the protection of archaeological resources. The SPC will be kept apprised of related work items.

Further Mobilization of LGBTQIA2S+ Community Programs/Supports

In partnership with Burnaby Pride, of which the City (Social Planning) was a founding member, staff will be undertaking a community based process of dialogue and discovery to determine the partnerships, programs and supports need to more comprehensively support Burnaby's LGBTQIA2S+³ community. Staff will keep the SPC informed as needed throughout this process. This work is currently in the scoping stage.

4.7 Seniors

In 2021-22, staff will continue to support the work of the Community-Based Seniors Services Network in Burnaby. The main focus of the network will be to address seniors' isolation, and in particular, the challenges that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

4.8 Youth

Staff will continue to support the work plan of the Burnaby-New Westminster Taskforce on Sexually Exploited Youth and At-Risk Youth. The Taskforce's 2020-21 work plan objectives

³ LGBTQIA2S+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexual, Asexual, Two-Spirited and 'other'.

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include empowering at-risk youth through engagement, coordinating awareness activities and supporting service provider capacity.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the activities of the Social Planning program over the last two years and highlights key activities planned for 2021-22. These activities align directly with the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy and will support and advance the health and well-being of Burnaby residents.

Key activities will include:

- implementation of the 2021 and 2022 Access Improvement Program for City facilities;
- completion and implementation of the Burnaby Child Care Action Plan;
- development of a Food System Strategy for Burnaby;
- support for the implementation of HOME: Burnaby's Housing and Homelessness Strategy;
- support for community research and actions to recognize the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent; and
- support for the transition of Truth and Reconciliation related work to the City's new Indigenous Relations Manager position including work to develop and streamline City processes to improve the protection of archaeological resources.

As in the past, the City will continue to work in partnership with other levels of government, non-profit agencies and associations, community organizations, and other partners to advance this work.

It is recommended that the Social Planning Committee approve the work plan for 2021-22, as outlined in *Section 4.0* of this report.

It is further recommended that this report be advanced to Council for information.


E.W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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Attachment

Copied to: Acting City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
City Clerk

Social Planning Work Plan 2021-2022

Accessibility

- Monitor new Provincial accessibility legislation.
- Coordinate activities of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee including access improvements to civic facilities.

Child Care

- Complete and implement of the Burnaby Child Care Action Plan.
- Continue to implement the City and Burnaby School District Memorandum of Agreement on Child Care Facilities.
- Facilitate the creation of new child care centres in civic facilities.

Community Resource Centres

- Oversee process to allocate space at new and existing community resource centres.
- Implement the annual lease grant program for space at community resources centres.

Food Security

- Develop a food system strategy for Burnaby.
- Review the keeping of backyard chickens.
- Review the City's community garden policy.

Healthy Communities

- Support the work program of the Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership.
- Support the work of the Burnaby Community Action Team (CAT) on the Overdose Crisis.

Homelessness

- Support the development and implementation of HOME: Burnaby's Housing + Homelessness Strategy including a supportive housing and shelter strategy.

Inter-culturalism and Diversity

- Support the transition/expansion of Truth and Reconciliation related work to the new Indigenous Relations Manager position including work to improve protection of archaeological resources.
- Support community research to recognize the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent.
- Support community-based dialogue to determine the partnerships, programs and supports need to more comprehensively support Burnaby's LGBTQIA2S+¹ community.

¹ LGBTQIA2S+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexual, Asexual, Two-Spirited and 'other'.

Seniors

- Support the work of the Burnaby Community-Based Seniors Services Network.

Social Sustainability Strategy

- Review master plans for alignment with the Social Sustainability Strategy.

Youth

- Support the work of the Burnaby-New Westminster Taskforce on Sexually-Exploited and At-Risk Youth.

Engagement with Community-Based Committees Including:

Burnaby Inter Agency Council and local inter agencies (Norburn, Northeast, Eastburn and Metrotown)

Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table

Burnaby Together Organizing Against Racism and Hate

Burnaby Food First/PCN Food Security working group

Burnaby Pride

Intergovernmental Committee on Settlement

Taskforce to End Homelessness in Burnaby/PCN Homeless Response working group

Task Force on Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth

Community Action Team on the Overdose Crisis

District Community Schools Advisory Committee

Burnaby Early Childhood Development Community Table

Burnaby Community-based Seniors Services Network/Voices of Burnaby Seniors

Burnaby Primary Care Network Steering Committee