

Present:

Chairperson - Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor LeFranc
Councillor Martin
Councillor Starchuk
Councillor Woods
Mayor Hepner

Absent:

Councillor Steele

Staff Present:

City Manager
City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance & Technology
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Human Resources

A. DELEGATIONS**1. David Gaskin, YMCA Board Member, YMCA of Greater Vancouver**

File: 8000-01; 0550-20-10

Note: See Corporate Report 2016-R167 of the Regular Council – Public Hearing Agenda.

In attendance before Council to present on the proposed YMCA in City Centre and how it will build a healthier community.

The following comments were made:

- The Agreement in Principle represents a 3 year process that has led to this important milestone;
- YMCA Board conveys its support for the project and YMCA's enduring commitment to the City of Surrey in supporting its families, children and youth;
- In terms of history, the first YMCA operated in the Whalley community in 1967 supporting youth employment and training at the time;
- Today there are over 100 YMCA programs throughout the City serving some 44,000 people;
- That work takes the form of childcare, youth leadership programs, support for new Canadians, camping and outdoor education, including a variety of programs related to chronic disease,
- Back in 1998, City and YMCA leaders worked together and explored the development of a new YMCA facility, resulting in the Tom Louie YMCA on Highway 10, a vibrant hub for children and families of Surrey;
- Back then the City and the YMCA demonstrated teamwork, vision and mutual respect to achieve a great family centre;

- It is the same spirit of collaboration and desire to build needed social infrastructure that has led to the proposed new YMCA in City Centre;
- The new YMCA will be an important tool in response to the growing needs of a community in transition, with the universal focus being on prevention;
- Three key focus areas for new location will be:
 - Helping children and families thrive by prioritizing programs;
 - Promoting healthy living by addressing various health issues;
 - Fostering the longing and connection in the effort to overcome the social challenges associated with isolation, disconnection and loneliness.
- YMCA takes great pride in the relationships it has established with various organizations in Surrey and expects the relations to further grow with the new proposed YMCA;
- Approval of the Agreement in Principle by Council will move this project from concept to implementation;
- Appreciation was extended to City staff who have been instrumental in advancing the development process to this stage;
- City Centre is evolving as a dynamic, regional centre which will over the next decade experience a remarkable transformation; and
- The Agreement in Principle is reflective of what can be accomplished with collaboration when the community is placed first.

2. **Elizabeth Model, CEO, Downtown Surrey BIA and Bob Dominic, Chair, Downtown Surrey BIA (DSBIA)**

File: 0250-20

In attendance before Council to discuss the potential location of another Homeless Shelter in Downtown Surrey.

The following comments were made:

- The Downtown Surrey BIA (DSBIA) is here on behalf of the 1500 businesses that are represented speaking about the outfall of the clustering of services that has impacted the entire area;
- The Downtown Surrey BIA (DSBIA) has expressed concerns for the clustering of services on 135A since BIA's formation;
- With the proposal of a new Winter Shelter in City Centre, the DSBIA is concerned about the further expansion of 135A into the City Centre core;
- Maps were presented highlighting the proliferation of services along 135A Street by the following categories:

- Food Services
 - Health Services
 - Social Services
 - Pharmacies
 - Pawn Shops and Cheque Cashing
 - Transitional and Supportive Housing
 - Shelters
- In terms of food services, there are often long line ups for free food service, this does not include “pop-up food services” or groups/people feeding from vans;
 - There are a number of health clinics and health service providers catering to the requirements of the homeless population, this does not include the Care Bus or “pop-up services”;
 - Although the City passed a bylaw not allowing new small scale pharmacies within 400 metres of each other, there are a number of pharmacies currently dispensing methadone within the DSBIA area;
 - With regards to pawn shops and cheque cashing services in the area, studies have shown that cheque cashing locations and pawn shops tend to attract negative activity to an area;
 - There is a high number of transitional and supportive housing projects in the DSBIA area, which does not include the number of non-licensed recovery homes or housing projects that do not publish their addresses in order to protect their residents safety;
 - There are three shelters in the DSBIA area:
 - Gateway Shelter – 135A Street
 - Boulevard Shelter – Whalley Boulevard
 - Extreme Weather Shelter at Surrey Urban Mission – King George Boulevard
 - DSBIA is not against shelters or assisting people requiring need, however, there is a proliferation of services in the relatively small area, as businesses contact our office daily with complaints;
 - Adding another shelter operating 24/7 to our area would add an additional service to our overburdened area;
 - The importance of small business to the economic vitality and prosperity of our Downtown and the City is vital;
 - The more services that are added increases the area’s attractiveness to a very specific population;
 - The DSBIA is trying to build a City Centre that is inclusive, integrative and adaptive for all citizens, and as such the DSBIA does not support the proposed 135A location.

During discussion the following comments were provided:

- Homelessness is a growing issue locally, regionally and provincially and it is imperative that permanent solutions be undertaken, however provincial support and funding is required;
- Lobbying and advocacy efforts must be strengthened further towards obtaining the necessary funds required for the long-term solution; and,
- It is a difficult task to find a suitable location but a further shelter is needed and Council needs to work with the DSBIA collaboratively towards a permanent, sustainable solution.

Council expressed appreciation for the progressive work undertaken by the DSBIA.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Mayor Hepner

Seconded by Councillor Hayne

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Villeneuve, Chairperson