

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AHCCAC)

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

**Meeting held Electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020 and
Open to public attendance in Meeting Room G, Lower Floor, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Tanis Anderson
Brian Curry
Stephanie Erdelyi
Jennifer Fane
Briana Harris
Hortensia Moreno
Jayne Ogundehinde
Iulia Sincaian
Andii Stephens
Betina Wheeler

- Chair, City Council Member
- Representative, School District 40
- Community Member
- Representative, Child Care Advocacy Organization
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Representative, Homelessness Coalition Society

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Justin Byers
Wes Everaars
Blaine Kane

- Representative, BC Housing
- Community Member
- Representative, Indigenous Advocacy or Social Service Organization

STAFF PRESENT:

Claudia Freire
Anur Mehdi
Nicole Ludwig

- Housing / Social Planner
- Housing / Child Care Planning Analyst
- Assistant City Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions and/or deletions to the agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Affordable Housing and Child Care Advisory Committee of June 8, 2021

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the June 8, 2021, Affordable Housing and Child Care Advisory Committee be adopted.

CARRIED.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.
(Briana Harris and Hortensia Moreno absent for the vote)

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Meeting Presentation of the September 7, 2021 AHCCAC

Anur Mehdic, Development Services, provided an overview of the agenda for the evening.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Integrated Seniors Support Pilot Project and the Hey Neighbour Collective

Anur Mehdic Housing/Child Care Planning Analyst, provided a presentation on emergency preparedness and social connectedness for seniors, including the integrated seniors support pilot project and the Hey Neighbour Collective.

In discussion, Committee members noted the following:

- Would like information on Parks and Recreation programming and whether anything will be done with the raised bed gardens; and,
- It would be beneficial to have shuttle pick up and drop off points for seniors to help them access food from community gardens.

5.2 Overview of Funding Received to Support Vulnerable Populations

Claudia Freire, Housing/Social Planner, provided an overview of funding received to support vulnerable populations. She noted there will be a report to Council on September 13, 2021, which will be shared with committee members when available.

5.3 Sanctuary City Policy and Implementation

Claudia Freire, Housing/Social Planner, provided a presentation on the Sanctuary City Policy, and provided a summary on its implementation.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Freire and Anur Mehdić, Housing/Child Care Planning Analyst, provided the following information:

- The New Westminster Police Department is working on their policy through the fall of 2021 and it is expected to go to the Police Board for approval before year end;
- She will send a link to the website for the Sanctuary City Policy;
- The brochure being created will be translated and information will be shared with non-profit organizations; and,
- The policy also guides the actions of non-profit organizations receiving City grants, contractors, and other organizations who do business with the City.

Committee members expressed enthusiasm about the policy and Ms. Freire also agreed to distribute her contact information for any questions and offers of assistance.

5.4 Welcome Centre Update

Claudia Freire, Housing/Social Planner, provided an update on the Welcome Centre, noting it will include a reception area, a resource library, space for Qayqayt First Nation, flex offices, and multi-purpose spaces. She advised there would be an Opening Celebration on Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

5.5 On the Road to Significant Child Care Change in BC: Update and Discussion

Anur Mehdić, Housing/Child Care Planning Analyst, advised there is currently a large amount of discussion about child care, and provided a presentation on the importance of affordable and accessible early learning and child care (ELCC), and reviewed the child care agreement between the Federal government and the provinces.

In discussion, Committee members noted:

- Child care, particularly after-school care, can be difficult to find;
- It would be ideal to have after-school care take place at schools;
- The cost of child care is significant, particularly for women and minorities and could be a barrier to being in the workforce;
- The current plan and path to \$10 per day daycare is what child care advocates have wanted; even if only a few pieces come together it will be an improvement over the current situation;

- Low wages for Early Learning and Childhood Educators (ELC Educators) can make it an unattractive career path; increasing wages should be a priority to draw people to the profession;
- The School District has been trying to add before and after care to schools; part of the difficulty is having people work split shifts;
- The school schedule often does not work well with the labour market; child care is needed at all hours; right now care out of hours is being provided by unlicensed daycares because they are the only ones who will do it; and
- Children with exceptionalities or disabilities, as well as parents who do shiftwork, do not seem to be included in the roadmap.

Mr. Mehdic advised he would be taking these comments back to the working group.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 COVID-19 At-Risk and Vulnerable Populations Task Force Budget Reallocation Request for the Seniors Integrated Support Pilot Project and Enhanced Personal Identification Services (in relation to item 5.1).

See section 5.1 for minutes.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Certified correct,

COUNCILLOR JAIMIE MCEVOY
CHAIR

NICOLE LUDWIG
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK