

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** held in the Conference Room of the Municipal Hall, 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 commencing at 3:02 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Ted Adlem  
Councillor Tony Luck  
Councillor Jenny Stevens  
Councillor Nelson Tilbury

Council Members Absent: Councillor Dave Hensman  
Councillor Jeff Jewell  
Councillor Larry Nundal

Staff Members Present: Ken Bjorgaard, Chief Administrative Officer  
Kirsten Hargreaves, Manager of Social Development  
Christine Brough, Executive Assistant

Invited Guests Present: Dorothy Henneveld, Executive Director, Women's  
Resource Society of the Fraser Valley, and Social  
Development Commission (SDC) member  
Maria Masuch, District Supervisor, Ministry of Housing  
and Social Development and Social Innovation,  
and SDC member  
Marilyn Meek, SDC Member at large  
Keith Pattinson, 40 Developmental Assets Keynote  
Speaker  
Judith Ray, SDC Member at large  
Elizabeth Thomas, SDC Member at large  
Laura Wilson, Mission Early Childhood Development  
Committee Coordinator for the Ministry of Family  
and Children Development, SDC member  
Anne Todd, Community Health Specialist for Fraser  
Health

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

## 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Tilbury, seconded by Councillor Stevens, and

RESOLVED: That the agenda of the Special Meeting of Council held on May 21, 2014 be adopted.

CARRIED

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

SC14/0015  
MAY 21/14

#### **Social Development Commission Workshop**

##### Introduction and Agenda Review

The Manager of Social Development provided an overview of the workshop agenda and brief introductions were made.

##### 40 Developmental Assets as a Foundation for Community Development

The Manager of Social Development provided background information on the work of the 40 Development Assets Committee in Mission and explained that the "40 Developmental Assets" is a framework that identifies basic building blocks of human development. She noted that, in 2008, 2188 Mission teens were surveyed and reported an average of 16.8 assets per person, which fell slightly below the provincial average.

Mr. Pattison, author of *What Every Kid Needs – And Money Can't Buy*, spoke on the importance of providing young people the support and the tools that they need to succeed in life. He made the following summarized observations:

- Young people need time and attention, and the quality of their relationships with role models both inside and out of the family will impact their development.
- As adults, we need to be available to and interested in the youth of our community and we need to be authentic and model the behaviour that we say we value.
- It matters how children are treated in the community.
- 40 Development Assets is a philosophy. The underlying assumption is that children do best when they have support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, constructive use of time, commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies and a positive identity.
- Assets have the power to promote success. The more developmental assets that a young person has, the more likely s/he will have positive attitudes and behaviours (succeed in school, value diversity, maintain good health, delay gratification, etc.)
- Assets have the power to protect. Youths with more assets are less likely than youth with fewer assets to engage in a number of risky behaviours, including tobacco use, gambling, shoplifting, problem alcohol use, illicit drug use, sexual activity, and violence.

General discussion ensued on how to include young people in the fabric of the community, forge ties between youth and seniors, and address behavioural concerns in proactive ways.

Mr. Pattison left the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

##### Mission Community Profile

The Manager of Social Development explained that it is important to measure and track the social determinants of health (income, employment, education, access to housing, food security, early childhood development, community belonging and social cohesion) because approximately 60 percent of what makes us sick is related to

social, economic and environmental factors. She outlined and expanded upon a number of concerning trends in Mission and across the country, including:

- rising income assistance rates;
  - a shortage in affordable housing;
  - increasing demand on food banks, drop in meal programs and school breakfast programs;
  - increasing childhood vulnerability/poverty;
  - increasing language and cultural barriers; and
- 
- community belonging / social isolation as the largest risk factor for mental illness and dysfunction.

#### How Are Mission's Children Doing?

Laura Wilson explained that early childhood development is important because it influences lifelong learning and sets the basis for the rest of one's life. Ms. Wilson provided a brief overview of the Early Development Instrument (EDI), noting that the EDI is used as a tool for understanding children's development at the local level and measures how well a community has supported its youth. It identifies disparities within the community and specifically measures the following: language and cognitive development, communications skills, emotional maturity, social competence, and physical health and well-being.

It was noted that Mission has participated in EDI data gathering 5 times over 10 years and that the information has proven invaluable for planning early childhood investment, policy and program development. Ms. Wilson informed Council that a one-time donation of \$1500 is being sought for completion of a Middle Development Instrument (MDI) to gather information from Mission's grade 4 students on social and emotional development, connectedness, school experiences, physical health and well-being, and the constructive use of time.

Discussion ensued and it was:

Moved by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Tilbury, and

RESOLVED: That the Municipal Enhancement Grants committee be asked to consider an application for a grant to the Social Development Commission for the implementation of a "Middle Development Instrument" (MDI) in Mission

CARRIED

The meeting recessed at 4:50 p.m. and reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

#### Housing, Women and Harm Reduction Distribution Program

Dorothy Henneveld provided an overview of the work done by the Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley (WRSFV) and outlined risk factors in our local population, stating that, according to 2012 statistics, Abbotsford/Mission and Kelowna have the highest rates of reported domestic abuse in British Columbia. She also noted that Mission's drug overdose rates are far higher in Mission than in many other communities. She spoke to the issue of homelessness among women and children

and noted that homeless women between the ages of 18-44 are statistically ten times more likely to die than women in the general population.

Ms. Henneveld identified the following top three recommendations from the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness:

1. Communities should develop and implement clear plans to end homelessness, supported by all levels of government.
2. All levels of government must work to increase the supply of affordable housing.
3. Communities and all levels of government should embrace *Housing First*.

Discussion ensued on next steps and the various forms that harm reduction can take. Ms. Henneveld stressed the importance of meeting and assisting people where they are in life which led to a brief discussion on the validity of a District of Mission bylaw that bans the dispensing of needles.

#### Reacting and Adapting in 2014

The Manager of Social Development provided an update on the Social Development Commission (SDC) and its working groups, and outlined a variety of future plans and initiatives. She also informed Council of a number of recent grants and noted the following:

- the SDC has fulfilled its original mandate;
- the Social Development plan is now launched and evolving;
- the SDC is not utilized in an advisory capacity to Council;
- the SDC working groups are a successful model; and
- there is much overlap between the SDC and the Mission Healthy Community Council (MHCC).

Discussion ensued over the merits of merging the SDC with the MHCC, and it was suggested that a merger would:

- lessen volunteer and meeting burnout;
- increase movement to blend the social sphere and the health sphere;
- align political and community will and energy; and
- eliminate overlap (as scattered and duplicated priorities decrease overall effectiveness).

Council considered the best way to utilize staff and community resources, and it was:

Moved by Councillor Luck, seconded by Councillor Stevens, and

RESOLVED: That Council supports the merger of the Social Development Commission with the Mission Healthy Community Council, in principal, based on feedback from both groups and that, after consultation has taken place, a staff report outlining the mandate, membership and Terms of Reference for a merged group be provided for Council's consideration.

CARRIED

SC14/0018  
MAY 21/14

**Social Development Commission Recommendations to Council**

A report dated May 21, 2014 from the Manager of Social Development containing background on SDC's recommendations to Council was provided for Council's information. These recommendations were considered during the workshop, as per Special Council resolutions SC14/0016 and SC14/0017.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

SC14/019  
MAY 21/14

Moved by Councillor Luck, seconded by Councillor Stevens, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.



WALTER (TED) ADLEM  
MAYOR



KEN BJORGAARD  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
(Interim Corporate Officer)