

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: UPDATE ON FAMILY SERVICES FACILITIES IN METROTOWN

RECOMMENDATION:

1. *THAT* Council receive the *attached* report for information.

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 1999 March 24, received and adopted the *attached* report providing new information on the establishment of a facility for the provision of services to families in the Metrotown area.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston,
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow,
Vice Chair

:COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR FINANCE
- DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING
- OIC, RCMP

TO: COMMUNITY ISSUES AND
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE 1999 MARCH 17

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 17.230

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON FAMILY SERVICES FACILITIES IN METROTOWN

PURPOSE: To provide the Committee with new information on the establishment of a facility for the provision of services to families in the Metrotown area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information.

R E P O R T

1. BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1998 November 25, the Committee considered a staff report on the establishment of a neighbourhood family services centre in the Metrotown area. The report recommended that Council be requested to give support in principle to the efforts of the Metrotown Neighbourhood Services Planning Committee to establish such a centre. It also recommended that Council authorize staff to explore, with private developers, opportunities for the provision of purpose-designed space for a neighbourhood service centre/neighbourhood house type of facility in Metrotown. The Committee adopted the recommendations and forwarded the report to Council.

At its meeting of 1999 January 11, Council adopted the Committee's recommendations, but referred the matter of the neighbourhood family services centre back to the Committee for further review. Council expressed concerns about the proposed location for a temporary centre in the West Burnaby United Church. Council requested information on options for facilitating the development of a more appropriately-located temporary or permanent neighbourhood services centre.

This report responds to that request.

2. PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES CENTRE AT WEST BURNABY UNITED CHURCH

As noted above, the Metrotown Neighbourhood Services Planning Committee (since renamed the Metrotown Interagency Council or MIAC) was interested in pursuing the potential lease of the ground floor of the West Burnaby United Church hall at 6050 Sussex

Avenue to establish the Metrotown Neighbourhood Family Services Centre. However, about \$160,000 worth of renovations and equipment were required before the space could function in the desired capacity. MIAC was seeking City support for raising the required funds and assistance with zoning and other building-related matters.

Staff have recently been informed that the two lead agencies in pursuing the church space, the Burnaby Multicultural Society and Burnaby Family Life Institute, have decided not to proceed with a proposed capital campaign to raise the renovation funds. The church itself is not planning to undertake the renovations required to tailor the space for the proposed use. Therefore, the initiative to renovate the space at West Burnaby United Church is at a standstill. Some of the service agencies involved in MIAC will continue to use space at the church on an ad hoc basis. However, the concept of an integrated neighbourhood family services centre at that location will not be realized at this time. Nevertheless, members of MIAC have advised staff that they still desire City assistance as they pursue a purpose-designed, permanent space for the proposed service centre.

3. OTHER POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR LOCATING A NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICE FACILITY IN METROTOWN

As noted above, MIAC has requested that its needs for a purpose-designed, permanent space for the Metrotown Neighbourhood Family Services Centre be represented in the City's future negotiations with developers of projects in Metrotown. A recommendation to that effect in the previous staff report was approved by both the Committee and Council. Staff will continue to pursue community amenity spaces as opportunities present themselves.

Staff are aware of two already negotiated amenity spaces in the Metrotown area which have not yet been constructed. The first, a 2,000 square foot office space in the Central Park Hotel at Kingsway and McKay Avenue, has been allocated to the Burnaby Chamber of Commerce. While the Chamber recently temporarily moved to new office space, it is still interested in the Central Park Hotel office space when the project comes on stream.

The other negotiated space consists of 2,500 square feet at 4755 Kingsway (at McKercher Avenue). Initially considered as a location for the Southwest District Community Police Station, the space has not yet been earmarked for any particular purpose. It will be owned by the City. The current timetable for the project would have construction begin in 1999 June, with occupancy in January 2001. The 2,500 square foot space could, potentially, meet the needs of the MIAC for a neighbourhood service centre. At this point, the question as to who would cover the cost of designing and building the interior space to suit the needs of the occupant has not been addressed.

4. SOUTH BURNABY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

The South Burnaby Neighbourhood House Society (SBNHS) has been seeking to establish a neighbourhood house in South Burnaby for some time. Initially, the Society was focused on the Edmonds area; more recently, its attention has turned to the Metrotown area and the unmet needs of the immigrant and single-parent families living in the Maywood apartment area.

SBNHS has recently rented a small space at 6768 Jubilee Avenue to begin operations as a drop-in facility for the Metrotown community. Members of SBNHS believe that the opportunity for people to meet neighbours, develop a mutual support system and receive referrals to other community resources should help to eliminate feelings of loneliness and isolation which many of the immigrant and single-parent families in the area experience. SBNHS will also be collaborating with other local agencies and organizations, such as Maywood Community School, Burnaby Association for the Mentally Handicapped and the Edmonds Youth Resources Centre, on needed programs and fundraising. Their space will be available to other groups to use for programming. The Society expects the drop-in facility to be operational in 1999 April.

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

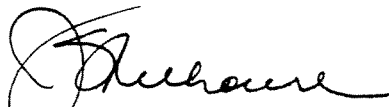
The method by which needed services can be delivered to immigrant and single-parent families in the Maywood area seems to have undergone a change in the recent past. An initiative, spearheaded by Metrotown Interagency Council, to raise funds to renovate the hall at West Burnaby United Church to establish the Metrotown Neighbourhood Family Services Centre seems to have reached a standstill. While some service agencies will continue to provide programs out of the church on an ad hoc basis, the vision of an integrated, neighbourhood-based centre at 6050 Sussex Avenue will not be realized at this time.

In the meantime, the South Burnaby Neighbourhood House Society has rented a small space on Jubilee Avenue to begin operating as a neighbourhood drop-in centre in April 1999. The Society will also collaborate with local agencies on programs and fundraising. As its programs mature and its membership grows, it is expected that SBNHS will, in future, pursue a larger, appropriately-located permanent space.

The City has negotiated a 2,500 square foot amenity space in a project at 4755 Kingsway (at McKercher Avenue). At this time, the developer believes the space will be ready for occupancy in January, 2001. At an appropriate time, staff will undertake a process to

advertise the availability of the amenity space to community organizations and provide the Committee and Council with recommendations regarding occupancy. The Metrotown Interagency Council and/or the South Burnaby Neighbourhood House could be interested in occupying the space. They will be informed of the availability of the space when the process to select an occupant commences. The City has made no commitment to design and construct the space to suit the needs of a particular occupant.

This report is for the information of the Committee.



D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

JS/yr

cc: City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
OIC-RCMP

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