

MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUES., 2015-JULY-07
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE, 411 DUNSMUIR STREET

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Linda McCandless, Chair
Suzanne Andre
Val Alcock-Carter
Elizabeth Forrester

Ralph Meyerhoff
Bill Anderson
Ian Kalina
Chris Beaton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mike Horn
Councilor Gord Fuller
Councilor Bill Yoachim

STAFF PRESENT:

John Horn, Social Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:48 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be adopted, motion carried unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the 2015-June-02 meeting be adopted.
The motion carried unanimously.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Correspondence to school board; John H indicated that a letter to the School Board requesting appointment to a seat on SPAC will be sent next week. Also, as requested by the committee, that a letter of appreciation will be sent to former SPAC members.

Delegations

No delegations today - Discussion on requesting a delegation to come and speak to SPAC, the Community Action Team (Sex trade cohort) was identified as a possible delegation as they have recently received a Community Service Grant from SPAC. John to follow up

5.

Liquor Application 117

Correspondence from applicant requesting a move of a liquor primary license from 489 Wallace to 75 Front Street.

Discussion ensued; the move will likely generate more noise for residents of Pacifica and other residential projects in the vicinity of 75 Front Street. Recent changes to

provincial legislation governing the sale of liquor may have an impact on the operation? Need for an update to the liquor strategy, discussion of good neighbor agreements between liquor establishments and neighbors.

Motion; That SPAC recommends Council support the application (LA117) and further recommend that the applicant meet with neighbors potentially affected by noise to open lines of communication prior to the commencement of business should the application be successful. SPAC also recommends to Council that an update of Nanaimo's Liquor Strategy be undertaken.

Moved by Chris B, seconded by Val A, motion passed unanimously.

6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Review of SPAC Grant Application Criteria

Review of previous criteria for SPAC Social Development grants, discussion on those grants aimed at Food Security and the effectiveness of the approach taken (Food 4 You and L&F warehouse). A similar approach was taken to recent grant allocations re; Mental Health.

The group discussed how we best leverage our money and support NGO's in achieving impact.

Discussion of education as a possible focus

Question is does SPAC try to do what no one else is doing or do we try to add value to the work of organizations, i.e. Island Health.

Chris; maybe our role should be to bring together different elements of a sector and facilitate the development of strategic cohesion?

Ralph; Mental Health should still be a focus but also like education

Bill – one problem is that NGO's come together in collaboration then quickly revert to their silos.

John H; sometimes SPAC supports initiatives that can be framed as "community wellness" and other times we support projects that address 'dysfunction' – maybe we should split our granting; Community Service grants (\$25,000) towards community wellness initiatives like the little libraries project, and the Social Development grants (\$60,000) towards more serious issues like mental health, addictions etc.

Chris; like the Vancouver foundation can we use our money to support the development of a strategy? i.e. education strategy?

John H; yes we can, and we can also use the \$30,000 annual allocation to Social Planning from the Casino gaming revenue, though this would preclude the use of that money to undertake initiatives arising from other community tables such as the enhanced needle drop box program.

Ian; we should leave a legacy – Child Poverty, Education, Housing? What are our priorities?

Val – we shouldn't bite off more than we can chew

Suzanne – need to narrow our focus so we are not scattered.

Suggestion that Dr Paul Hasselback be asked to come and present on the data around children

Chris provided more detail on the subject of an education strategy – looking to have in our community a continuum of support from pre-natal to post secondary, need a strategy that has buy in from all relevant sectors, a good role for SPAC to play is bringing everyone together in the development of an education strategy.

Suzanne – is this about child poverty?

Chris – not necessarily – our education system is not performing well enough to attract people here.

Ian – we need to work with those willing to have a collective impact – maybe the school district can't do that right now.

Agreement to ask Dr Hasselback to attend in September and speak to the State of the Child report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Summer Schedule

A request was made of SPAC to hold an August meeting so as to review a liquor license application in a timely manner, SPAC agreed to meet in August to review the application – meeting date is August 4th. The liquor license application will be on the agenda, as will a presentation by Dr Hasselback.

b) CODE Clinic

Bill brought forward the CODE dental clinic (SPAC supported its creation and ongoing operations) and indicated that there are some difficulties keeping it going – recently the main dentist at CODE had to pull out for personal reasons and there is not enough money to pay a replacement. (John Howard Society operates the clinic and Bill is a board member at JHS.)

Suzanne – could VIU participate? Jh – they already do

Ralph – is the general public aware? is Council aware? Should we be asking them to ask Island Health to provide sustainable funding to the clinic?

Ian- what's the best way to do this? Are we an advocacy group and is this part of our strategic focus?

Linda – how do we prioritize our efforts in the absence of an overall idea of what we are doing?

Motion: to request that Council send correspondence to Island Health asking that they support the efforts of the CODE not-for-profit dental clinic to achieve financial sustainability. Motion moved by Ralph and seconded by Elizabeth, motion passed, all in favour.

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. COMMITTEE / COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS

a) City Council

The recommendations put forward by the SPAC regarding the 2015 Community Service grant applications were approved June 22nd, \$10,500 provided to the Ending Poverty Coalition and \$2,000 to Community Kitchens.

Council also directed staff to develop an affordable housing strategy and to support the application by Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre to develop the 1406 Bowen Road site.

Suzanne; is there an ask from the developers for affordable housing? JH – There is a per door contribution requested from developments over a certain size, approx \$1,000 per door. JH will keep SPAC informed on progress on an affordable housing strategy.

b) Review of SAFER Nanaimo's Sex trade task force and action plan.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held 2015-AUG-07 at 4:45 at 411 Dunsmuir Street.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.