



**MINUTES**  
**SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2013-JUL-02, 4:45 PM**  
**BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE, 411 DUNSMUIR STREET**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Linda McCandless, Acting Chair  
Bill Anderson  
Diane Brennan  
Helena Green  
Dot Neary

Val Alcock-Carter  
Suzanne Andre  
Elizabeth Forrester  
Ralph Meyerhoff

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

George Anderson  
Angelika Valchar

Terre Flower  
Jan Tatlock, ex officio

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Horn, Social Planner

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Deborah Hollins, Executive Director, Nanaimo Family Life Association

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the Regular Minutes and "In Camera" Minutes from 2013-May-07 be adopted. The motion was carried.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

5. DELEGATIONS

a) Nanaimo Family Life Association

D. Hollins distributed a list of facts about Nanaimo Family Life Association, and gave an overview of programs offered by the organization including the Senior Peer Counselling Program, Emerging Elders Program, and Beyond Blame groups. Each year, approximately 30 volunteers are trained to provide affordable counselling services. A new website has been created and a quarterly newsletter is published.

She is interested in talking to other non-profits about how they can build partnerships and be a more meaningful and cohesive group in order to identify gaps and direct services to those who need them the most. She inquired if there was a way the City could help with that process. The Committee stated that because the United Way is also working on how to avoiding duplication, that it would be a better vehicle to assist in this process rather than the City.

It was moved and seconded that the delegation be received. The motion was carried.

D. Hollins was thanked for her presentation and she left the meeting.

6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Review Grant Process

A new grant review process devised by H. Green was reviewed by the Committee. It will be put into place for the fall round of Community Service grants, and if effective, will be used for the Social Development grants also. Some of the comments regarding the process, and particularly the evaluation table were:

- 'First time application within 2 years' column – change wording to 'Is this the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year of receiving funding for this project?'
- Filter out any that are applying for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time before they get sent to the Committee, but advise the Committee which ones they were.
- 'Urgent and/or Vital' column' - consider where in the scale of important issues the application fits.
- 'Other source of income' – are they bringing anything else to the table? e.g. staff time, resources, etc.
- List applications alphabetically on the worksheet and when printing out the applications for the Committee members, put them in alphabetical order.
- Committee members are to submit worksheets to Community Planning prior to the SPAC meeting, so that scores can be tallied and worksheets replicated onto the white boards in the Board Room. (Give Committee members a deadline to return the worksheets to Community Planning.)
- Regarding 'Individual Factors', what would stop Committee members from scoring 10's on their favourite applications and 1's on the others?.
- The Committee has to go on the premise that there will be some subjectivity. They have to be open minded.
- 'Has other source of income' – change wording.
- There is nothing on the worksheet about financials.
- The Committee needs to figure out what they want to assess. Council would want to know there is some kind of financial responsibility.
- 'Experience and/or expertise' and 'Leadership and/or capacity' – those could indicate responsibility.
- Leadership doesn't necessarily mean good financial skills.
- A balance sheet would be helpful.

- The Committee should decide whether the applications meet the criteria, rather than asking staff to do that. They all deserve some discussion.
- 'Has other source of income' - ask if good value rather than if they have other contributors.
- 'Has other source of income' – change heading to 'Financial viability'.
- Let them know why they didn't meet the criteria. Tell them what their strengths and weaknesses were.
- More concise criteria is needed.
- Add column – 'Does it meet the criteria?'

The worksheet will be put on the September agenda for final review prior to its first use in the second round of Community Service grants for 2013.

Choosing criteria for the next round of Community Service grants will also be put on the September agenda

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

### a) Social Forums Update

A Summary of Comments from the forums held on June 4,5,6 was distributed. The consultant and J. Horn will meet to discuss next steps. Any further information will be forwarded to the Steering Committee for review.

J. Horn noted that with regard to the possible formation of a network, comments received at the forums indicated that a group that meets every couple of years would be preferred over one that meets monthly.

### b) Draft Report to Council re Child Poverty

A draft Report to Council regarding a poverty reduction strategy was distributed and reviewed. J. Horn noted that he had phoned the initiator of the request, and she had stated that she did not expect the City to prepare an anti-poverty strategy, but that the City should suggest that the Province do so. He asked her to attend the Council meeting when SPAC's report is considered, in order for her to advise Council on the problems and issues that need attention with respect to child poverty.

It was moved and seconded that the Report to Council be forwarded to a Council meeting in September 2013, and that the initiator of the request be invited to attend. The motion was carried.

## 10. COMMITTEE / COUNCIL REPORTS

### a) Grants Advisory Committee – No report.

### b) Safer Nanaimo Advisory Committee – J. Horn advised that a portable toilet will be constructed in Diana Krall square, and that a needle box will be relocated closer to the downtown.

He also advised that Council approved the allocation of \$7,000 to be used by the Community Action Team (CAT) to provide support and resources such as

emergency phones and bad date sheets, to sex trade workers in Nanaimo. The funds will be distributed by the Nanaimo Women's Resource Centre to CAT.

- c) Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness – J. Horn reported that the annual bbq for the homeless will be held on July 27 in the lower picnic shelter at Bowen Park. As many families attend, activities for children have been added to the format.
- d) City Council Meetings:  
June 10 – H. Green read out a letter submitted by MLA Doug Routley with respect to the proposed removal of the Colliery Dam. He advised he had contacted the Minister of Natural Resources asking them to re-visit the decision by the BC Dam Safety Branch that could lead to the Colliery Dams being removed. D. Brennan commented there is no reason to believe the permits will not be issued by the Dam Safety Branch as the Branch has advised it does not see any impediments.

June 24 – D. Neary reported:

- an MOU between the RDN and the City regarding a property transfer for a transportation exchange was announced;
- social development funding was approved for the sex trade worker safety initiative (CAT);
- an amended liquor license at the Mt. Benson branch of the Legion was approved;
- expansion of Nanaimo Art Gallery was discussed. Council requested staff to bring back a report on funding implications;
- approval was given to the borrowing of \$13.3 million from the Municipal Finance Authority for the water treatment plant;
- the Nanaimo Athletic Commission was disbanded;
- implementation of Shaw WiFi on City infrastructure was approved; and
- the Parks, Recreation and Culture fees and rental policy bylaw was adopted.

J. Horn advised that he had suggested to Parks, Recreation and Culture that they set aside a sum of money for recreation passes that SPAC could allocate to non-profit agencies that have clients attending the parks facilities on a regular basis. He is waiting to hear back from them on this proposal.

He also noted that a rezoning application from Samaritan House to expand their women's shelter is going to public hearing on July 4.

#### 11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2013-Sep-03. There will be no meeting in August.

#### 12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.