

**MINUTES
SAFER NANAIMO ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD 2012-DEC-11 AT 2:00 PM
437 WESLEY STREET, NANAIMO, BC**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fred Pattje, Chair
Diane Brennan
Jim Kipp
Gord Fuller
Marg Fraser
Janet James
Laraine Ashpole

STAFF:

Randy Churchill, Bylaw Services
Rod Davidson, Bylaw Services
Sheryl Armstrong, RCMP
Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

John Horn, Community Planning
Gord Nixon, Bylaw Services
Dave Laberge, RCMP

DELEGATIONS:

Jason Harrison

CALL TO ORDER:

Councillor Pattje called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- a) New Parking Manager:
R. Churchill introduced R. Davidson, Manager of Parking Services

- b) Public Washroom Downtown:
J. Kipp requested that staff investigate why the public washroom downtown was removed from the 2013 budget.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was adopted as presented.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

The 2012-Jun-21 minutes were adopted as presented.

WESLEY STREET UPDATE (J. HARRISON):

J. Harrison reported the following:

- tenants started moving into the building in October
 - there is almost full occupancy; two single and one double-occupancy room is still available
 - To date, only one client has been evicted due to violence and aggression
 - there is continuing engagement with other teams (Balmoral, ACT, etc.)
 - tenants have access only to their floor and room by way of elevator keys and are expected to sign in any guests.

B. Carter arrived at 2:09 pm.

D. Laberge reported that the RCMP noticed a reduction in the homeless street presence.

R. Churchill reported only one minor complaint was received from one of the surrounding buildings which was dealt with immediately.

It was suggested another building tour be organized once action gears up at the Uplands and Dufferin sites. There may be concerns raised from these neighbourhoods who can then tour the building.

M. Fraser and J. James arrived at 2:20 pm.

HOUSING PROJECTS UPDATES (J. Horn):

J. Horn reported:

- operators of the Dufferin and Uplands sites have come forward with their preliminary building designs
- operators will go to the Design Advisory Panel for a Development Permit and will then apply for a City of Nanaimo building permit.

In regard to the Dufferin site, the City has been working with Bob Wall, owner of the adjacent property, who plans to build medical offices on the site. The design of both the housing and medical offices will set the tone and design for the rest of the area. One of the neighbourhood concerns was that property values would decrease due to the proximity of supportive housing. Surprisingly, the adjacent property sold for more than the asking price, proving that the proximity to the housing project does not reduce property values.

TERMINAL PARK/BRECHIN AREA (D. Laberge)

D. Laberge reported:

- a meeting was held with the Newcastle neighbourhood association (Joy Bremner) to identify safety issues in the neighbourhood and around Terminal Park Mall
- issues identified included theft, vandalism, trespassing, public intoxication, outdoor camping, etc.
- the RCMP will monitor the neighbourhood over the summer and report back
- the RCMP tried to communicate to the association the importance of working with them, not for them
- the area was patrolled over the summer and “hot spots”, “hot routes”, potential nuisance properties, and seasonal homeless camps were identified
- most complaints stemmed from the mall (high volume of theft, no security)

S.. Armstrong arrived at 2:34 pm.

DRINK PRICES/COVER CHARGES (BAR WATCH) (D. Laberge):

D. Laberge reported:

- Nanaimo's barwatch program is one of the most effective and consistent in the province
- there has been a shift from neighbourhood pubs to club style restaurants
- many of the restaurants offer low price drink specials and are attracting more business than neighbourhood pubs
- many liquor-primary downtown establishments take issue as customers are arriving intoxicated from the restaurants already intoxicated. The club-style restaurants are operating as liquor-primary establishments without the liquor-primary licensing and regulations.
- a review of the Liquor Control Strategy (2002) should be completed.
- may need to include a higher sense of scrutiny and oversight to club-style restaurants.
- the City has a bylaw which sets the minimum drink price at \$3.00. Many restaurants are noticing a drop in sales. It was suggested that the minimum drink cost be reviewed.

It was moved and seconded that a recommendation be made to Council to begin a consultation process with the hospitality industry regarding drink prices and cover charges..

The motion carried.

D. Laberge noted that current Good Neighbour Agreements are 10 years old and my need to be revisited based on the security regulations, issues being dealt with, etc.

Many of the club-style restaurants are operating as liquor-primary but there are no Good Neighbour Agreements. The present Good Neighbour Agreement document may have to be revised to apply to club-style restaurants.

DERELICT BUILDINGS – DEMO/UPGRADES (R. Churchill):

R. Churchill:

- The City deals with derelict buildings through Sections of the Community Charter
- The Community Charter gives municipality the authority to order that a building be removed if the Building Inspector considers that the building has been devalued by 75% of its assessed worth
- One or two of these properties are forwarded to Council for action per year
- Some municipalities have inspection and registration fees for derelict buildings. If the building is vacant for 60 days or more, the owner must either re-occupy the building or demolish it.

It was moved and seconded that a recommendation be made to Council to explore the possibility of dealing with derelict buildings through a registration and fee system.

The motion carried.

OPERATION OF THE NEW PSYCH WARD (M. Fraser):

F. Pattje thanked M. Fraser for all her time and commitment to the SAFER Committee and presented her with flowers. She said she is grateful for being included in the group and introduced Janet James who will attend in her place until a new person is hired.

M. Fraser reported:

- the new psych ward and emergency centre are now operating and doing well.
- the new facility provides a new experience for those suffering with mental illness who enter the emergency room
- crisis response reported that the new ward freed up 40% of their time
- will continue to monitor the impact of this new ward on other social services.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE/SEX TRADE (J. Horn):

J. Horn reported:

- this year applications for funding from the civil forfeiture/proceeds of crime fund will include applications focused on human trafficking and sexual exploitation
- has met with Haven Society regarding their application for proceeds of crime funding
- Haven Society is seeking to create a community advisory team which would advise on resources and systems that impact women engaged in the sex trade
- a group of sex trade workers has been formed with the purpose of creating a way to report "bad dates" or violent encounters or to determine if one of their peers has gone missing.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for 2013-Jan-16 at 9:00 am in the Service and Resource Centre (SARC) boardroom.

The purpose of the meeting is to create a 2013 work plan and review the status of continuing issues. There will be a discussion of which items from the RCMP's strategic plan can be addressed in 2013. D. Brennan suggested the missing women's task force report be reviewed to see if any of the recommendations fit our mandate.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm.

Chairman