



MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUES., 2012-NOV-06, 4:45 PM
AT 437 WESLEY STREET

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Terre Flower, Chair
George Anderson
Diane Brennan
Linda McCandless
Dot Neary

Val Alcock-Carter
Suzanne Andre
Elizabeth Forrester
Ralph Meyerhoff
Angelika Valchar

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Neville

Jan Tatlock

STAFF PRESENT:

John Horn, Social Planner

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gord Fuller, 7-10 Club
Peter Sinclair, Loaves & Fishes Food Bank
Rob Anderson, Salvation Army

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:50 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes from 2012-Oct-02 be adopted. The motion was carried.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- a) Welcoming Reception for New Immigrants – T. Flower advised that 300 invitations will be sent out for this event. The Mayor will be asked to give the welcoming address, and various City departments will be asked to provide displays of services the City offers to its residents. It was noted that the event will be a City of Nanaimo event, and therefore will not have federal government representation.

It was moved and seconded that City Council be consulted on whether the School District's public schools should be represented with a display at the reception. The motion was carried.

5. DELEGATIONS6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- a) Food Security Infrastructure – J. Horn advised that in response to SPAC's decision at their last meeting to have 'food security infrastructure' as their priority focus for the next 12 months, Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank, 7-10 Club, Nanaimo Foodshare, and Salvation Army were invited to this meeting to provide information on what assistance they require to enable them to distribute food more efficiently. SPAC could then consider using the 2013 Social Development grant funds for that purpose.

Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank

Peter Sinclair, Executive Director, distributed information regarding Loaves & Fishes' 'Food 4U Food Recover Program' outlining current infrastructure, results accomplished by having that infrastructure, what is planned for the future, and what their infrastructure requirements would be to facilitate the expansion of the Food 4U program (copy attached). The system being suggested is presently used in Kamloops, and they provide food to 30 agencies. It is estimated that Nanaimo also has 30-40 agencies that could be assisted by such a program.

The Committee inquired whether Loaves & Fishes could accomplish their future goals with their present infrastructure. P. Sinclair replied they could not. They want to increase their ability to deliver to more agencies that have the expertise in collecting and sorting food, and to do that they would require a larger, refrigerated truck. This would also enable them to load directly from loading bays and pick up from more grocery stores.

He advised that Loaves & Fishes' other two priorities are to purchase a bread slicer which would allow them to increase the volume of bread they can distribute to agencies for their sandwich programs, and to purchase a refrigerated shipping container to increase their cooler storage and be forklift accessible.

In response to a question about costs to maintain this equipment, P. Sinclair advised that funds saved by reducing the amount of food they purchase, could be used to pay a driver and maintain the truck used to pick up at an increased number of grocery stores.

He added that a priority of the Loaves & Fishes' board is to make investments in other social agencies that help people reduce their need to utilize the food banks. Their main goal of distributing food is a way to leverage other agencies in the work they do.

7 to 10 Club

G. Fuller, Chair of the 7-10 board concurred that quick distribution of recovered food is very important. The 7-10 Club does not use much unclaimed food, but if they do need something, they contact Loaves & Fishes.

They do not have a very large budget so are working with the Rotary Club to acquire a new stove. They would also like to obtain more coolers (refrigerators with sliding doors), which are very important to their operation, an example of which is storing food cooked the previous day.

He noted the 7-10 Club serves approximately 80,000 meals per year, which helps to alleviate food bank usage.

When asked if he would still pick up from stores if the Loaves & Fishes' distribution system expands, he advised that he would consider the logistics and where that might lead.

The Salvation Army

Rob Anderson, a director with the Nanaimo Ministry, advised that they presently operate an emergency food program and a meal program. People in need are able to access the hamper program four times per year through a case worker, which assists them in determining the root cause of their need. Since they recently reduced their staff by 30 percent, they are unable to spend as much time on these assessments. They are now feeding more people with less financial resources, so are increasing their volunteer program.

The meal program is struggling with their equipment. Rather than continuing to cook soup in pots, a steamer and soup kettle would decrease preparation time and costs.

As they do not have a refrigerated van, they recently had to turn down a large donation of meat out of Victoria. They change their menus to tie in with donations.

When asked if the Salvation Army would be interested in participating in the expanded Food 4U program being put forward by Loaves & Fishes, R. Anderson replied they would be. P. Sinclair will contact R. Anderson to find out what the Salvation Army's needs are.

G. Fuller noted that trucking companies that travel to Victoria to make deliveries and then return empty could be contacted to see if the empty truck could be used on the return trip.

An inquiry was made on whether there would be value in having food production somewhere that would feed into the system, such as a greenhouse at Harmac heated by the steam. P. Sinclair replied that it would depend on the volume, as the volume they need requires serious production. J. Horn will contact Nanaimo Foodshare about this proposal.

R. Anderson suggested looking to the local farmers, and then supplementing at other times of the year with a commercial enterprise.

A concern was raised that the food recovery system being proposed may become too large for Loaves & Fishes to manage in addition to managing their present activities. Organizations interested in participating in the food recovery system should work together.

R. Anderson stated that cooperation and trust amongst organizations has improved immensely in the last five years. Infrastructure now needs to be improved step by step.

A Committee member noted that Community Gardens previously had gardens at the sewage plant that produced an immense amount of produce, and could be a good resource on food production.

Another comment was that distribution is the main priority, and if that can be harnessed, it will greatly free up resources.

P. Sinclair, G. Fuller, and R. Anderson were thanked for their input and they left the meeting.

The Committee deliberated on disposition of the 2013 Social Development grant funds. Some of their comments were:

- It appears that the leadership role of food distribution, which was missing in the past, has been taken on. The board of Loaves & Fishes will have to decide whether they want the Food 4U program expanded community-wide.
- This leadership job needs to be a paid job, and not just "off the side of someone's desk".
- Loaves & Fishes has an executive director and distribution manager, so this leadership role would be a paid job. The board's priority is to not have food wasted.
- J. Horn looked into whether SPAC could recommend disposition of the 2013 Social Development grant funds without going through an application process, and was advised by senior City staff that it could be done that way if Council approved SPAC's recommendation.
- SPAC could consider providing a grant to an organization that demonstrated they would provide the most benefit to the community.
- A large, refrigerated truck being suggested by Loaves & Fishes for an expanded Food 4U program appears to be the key.
- Other agencies will "come on board" if someone is heading the program and the board of Loaves & Fishes is backing it.
- Maybe consider having a board of directors or an agreement amongst the participating agencies that each one would sign agreeing with the structure.
- Organizations do not have time for another level of structure and another board.

It was moved and seconded that Loaves & Fishes be asked to prepare a proposal for a capital project for the balance of the 2012 Community Service grant fund and the 2013 Social Development grant fund. The motion was carried. (E. Forrester abstained from voting due to a possible conflict of interest.)

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Age Friendly Initiative – J. Horn advised that a grant in the amount of \$20,000 has been received from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for a project that focuses on isolated, immigrant seniors. Consultants have been retained who will meet with agencies who interact with seniors. They will provide a report including recommendations on their findings regarding the barriers of social isolation. A concern was noted regarding the ability to locate seniors who are “off the radar”. John advised that the consultant is knowledgeable on how to address that issue. The City may make a further application for funding to implement the findings of the study.
- b) D. Brennan reported on a meeting she had attended with the Joint Leadership Team of the Early Years Partnership, regarding early learning partnerships.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. COMMITTEE UPDATES / COUNCIL UPDATE / INFO ITEMS

- a) Grants Advisory Committee – No report.
- b) Safer Nanaimo Working Group – No report.
- c) Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness – No report.
- d) Council Meeting Update from 2012-Oct-15 – L. McCandless reported the following:
- Community Service grants were approved.
 - The Nanaimo Squash Club was included in the Property Exemption bylaw, except the portion of the property occupied by the lounge. Council encouraged agencies to become more self-supporting.
 - A presentation was given by the CEO of the Nanaimo Port Authority on the proposed marina development project.

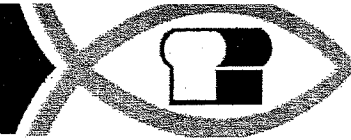
11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2012-Dec-04, at 5:00 pm. This will be SPAC's Christmas social at the Longwood Brew Pub restaurant, 5775 Turner Road, Nanaimo.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank



Food 4U Food Recover Program

Food recovery is the process where by edible food that grocery stores, restaurants, food wholesalers and transportation companies have traditionally disposed of in the landfill is diverted for use in the community.

Where We Are Today

Over the last 2 years Loaves and Fishes has made significant investments in infrastructure to begin recovering food. These improvements in infrastructure include:

- 588 square foot warehouse facility



- 2500 kg capacity Fork Lift (Donated by Pacific West Forklift. Value \$15,000)



- 512 cubic foot Walk in Cooler
- 7 day a week truck schedule
- 7 day a week pick up of perishable food items (dairy, produce and meat) from two local grocery stores. See appendix 1.

- 40 large industrial grade perishable food donation bins (Funded by Rotary Club of Nanaimo. \$2000 value)



- Dozens of volunteers who sort perishable food donations Monday to Friday
- 10 different weekly food bank distribution times
- Regularly providing food to 7 other Community Agencies.
- Regularly providing bread to 6 Schools
- 100 small industrial grade perishable food donation bins on order (Funded by Kraft Foods Canada. \$2000 value)
- Commercial grade bin washing station currently being installed (Funded by Kraft Foods Canada. \$5000 value)



Food 4U Food Recover Program

The Results

Since September 1, 2012

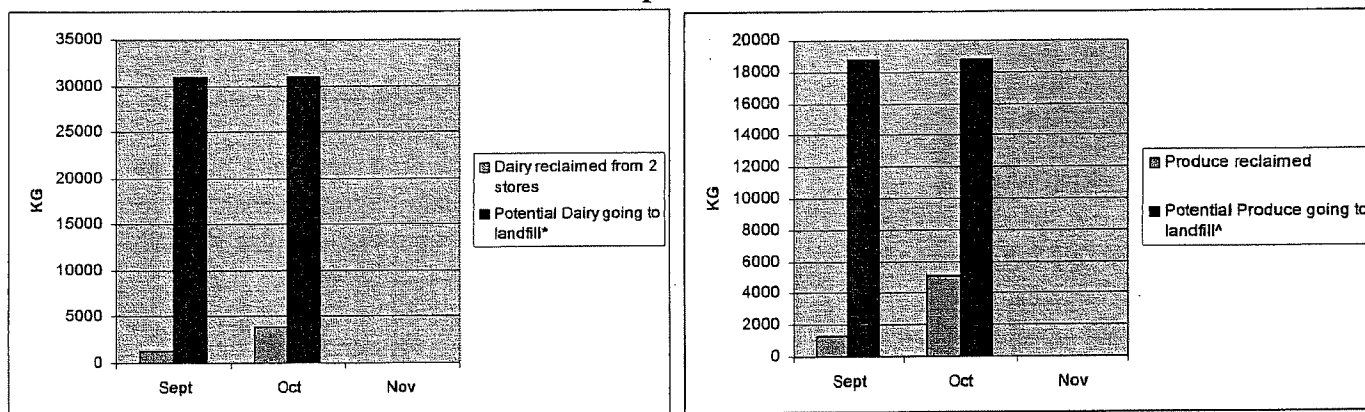
- 6229 kg of food from two local grocery stores
- 590 kg of food from one restaurant
- 2340 kg of food from one trucking company
- 2821 kg of food from one food wholesaler
- **11980 kg of food total diverted from the landfill and back to the community. Total value \$65,890**
- 2671 kg provided to 8 community agencies. Value \$14,690 (Nanaimo Food Share, 7-10 Club, Salvation Army, Women's Resource Centre, Boys and Girls Club, Nanaimo Community Kitchen, Vancouver Island Therapeutic Society.) Not all food provided to other agencies was recovered food through Food 4 U.
- ****The above figures do not include bread recovered. 25 banana boxes of bread provided to 6 schools.****

The Future

Loaves and Fishes is planning to aggressively expand the operations of Food 4 U over the next 12 months through the following means:

- Offer food recovery services to additional grocery stores. Stores will be approached individually and added to the Food 4U program as our capacity and infrastructure is able to accommodate additional contributions.

Current Recovered Food Compared to Potential Recovered Food



- Build protocols with partner agencies to streamline ordering and delivery of food. Appendix 2
- Offer food to more partner agencies.



Food 4U Food Recover Program

Infrastructure Requirements

To facilitate the expansion of the Food 4U program Loaves and Fishes requires some strategic investments in our infrastructure. In order of urgency these improvements are:

- **Refrigerated 5 Ton Truck, value \$40,000 to \$80,000. Time Frame: 6 months.** Currently we are using a non refrigerated 1 ton truck and a mini van. These vehicles are barely adequate for our current needs.
Benefits of a Refrigerated 5 Ton Truck:
 - Perishable donations are kept cool while being collected and distributed. This will help ensure food is of the highest quality for our clients and the third party agencies we serve.
 - Increased space will mean more efficient Truck scheduling by having fewer return trips to our warehouse.
 - Ability to load directly in grocery store loading bays.
 - Ability to expand collection recovered food to additional grocery stores
- **Bread Slicer, Value \$2,000 to \$5,000. Time Frame 6 Months.** There is an abundance of bread in Nanaimo. A lot of the bread we receive was baked the day before, so it is very fresh. This bread is difficult to distribute because it is unsliced. If we were able to slice this bread we could provide it to 3rd party Agencies for their sandwich programs (7-10 Club, St Andrew's Community Lunch)
- **20 Foot Refrigerated Shipping Container, Value, \$10000 to \$30,000. Time Frame 12 to 36 Months.** As Food 4U expands we will need to consider additional warehouse and refrigeration space. A refrigerated shipping container would accomplish both of these goals. We could remove our current walk in cooler from our ware house and use this space for additional pallet storage. A 20 foot container would offer increased cooler storage and would be forklift accessible.