



**MINUTES**  
**SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2012-SEP-04, 4:45 PM**  
**IN THE NANAIMO AQUATIC CENTRE, 741 THIRD STREET**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Terre Flower, Chair  
George Anderson  
Diane Brennan  
Zeni Maartman  
Dot Neary

Val Alcock  
Suzanne Andre  
Elizabeth Forrester  
Ralph Meyerhoff  
John Neville

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Linda McCandless  
Angelika Valchar

Jan Tatlock

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Horn, Social Planner

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

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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-Jul-03 be adopted. The motion was carried.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) It was moved and seconded that the item "Budget Line for Food Provision" from the 2012-Jul-03 Minutes be deferred to the 2012-Oct-02 meeting. The motion was carried.

b) Welcoming Reception for New Immigrants – D. Brennan reported that she and T. Flower met with Hilde Schlossar and Sam Latourno from the Multicultural Society. They have indicated they would like to assist in arranging the reception. Possible dates for the event are Saturday, 2013-Jan-19 or Saturday, 2013-Jan-26. The Immigrant Settlement Society will provide the names of new immigrants and will assist in sending out the invitations. The Mayor and Council will be invited to welcome the immigrants, and City departments will be asked if they would like to set up information booths regarding City services. The preferred venue is the Conference Centre, and light refreshments will be served taking into consideration any dietary restrictions the immigrants may have.

5. DELEGATIONS

None.

6. STRATEGIC PLANNING

- a) The Committee participated in a priority setting session. Some of the comments on possible priorities were:

***Community building / Partnerships***

- Could be the overarching priority of SPAC, with the others falling under it.
- Grant applications considered by SPAC would receive a higher priority if they showed evidence of participating in partnerships.
- This mirrors Council's directive in their Strategic Plan regarding community partnerships.
- Community partnerships is a philosophical framework. It needs to be content-driven and have a practical focus, such as bringing social service providers together every three months; and circulation of an information flyer on the internet.

***Food***

- The organization Food Link does not appear to be functioning as the umbrella organization that it was originally set up to be.
- Coordination of a providers network including information sharing with the public would be beneficial.
- Other priorities regarding food are:
  - Emergency food provision
  - Production
  - Infrastructure ( including a facility to house the food, trucks to pick up food from grocery stores, and better facilitation of movement of food)
  - Geography of food

***Housing***

- SPAC could advise Council on the type of housing to address next.
- The City of Nanaimo does not have the same kind of authority that the City of Vancouver has with regard to density bonusing.
- SPAC should do some research on what the City of Nanaimo can ask of developers. A staff member from the Planning Department could be invited to a SPAC meeting to provide such information.
- Focus on hard to house and the working poor.
- Other issues regarding housing are:
  - Home ownership costs – people don't make enough money to buy houses
  - Rental cost
  - Crowded households

***Social Supports***

- Those needing social supports include:
  - Seniors living alone
  - Single, young, broke, aspiring persons

- New immigrants / newcomers
- Lone parents
- Vulnerable groups
- People vulnerable to suicide
- Pre school children requiring social development
- Need education on where the gaps are.
- Need to bring together groups that know where to reach out to, and those who don't.

SPAC members voted on suggested priorities and recommended the following be their priorities for the remainder of their term:

### **Food**

- Emergency food provision (including groceries and hot meals)
- Provider's network – coordination and sharing information with the public
- Infrastructure
- Production
- Preparation (education)
- Geography

### **Housing**

- Recommendations to Council re housing policy
- Affordable housing
- Emergency shelter
- Supportive housing
- Home ownership for working poor

### **Social Supports**

- Social isolation
- EDI – pre-school readiness
- Single, vulnerable youth/adults
- Lone parents
- Immigrants/newcomers
- Seniors
- Suicide

It was moved and seconded that SPAC's priority list be approved. The motion was carried.

J. Horn will prepare a report for the next meeting on the Committee's chosen priorities and issues, retaining the order of priority set out by the Committee.

## 7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## 8. **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. COMMITTEE UPDATES / COUNCIL UPDATE / INFO ITEMS

- a) Grants Committee – J. Neville reported that the Grants Committee recommended that Council award Permissive Tax Exemptions to the Nanaimo Squash Club and Habitat for Humanity; and award an Other Grant to Citizens on Patrol. Council subsequently concurred with the recommendations except the Squash Club recommendation, which they denied.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2012-Oct-02 in Jack Little Rm. B at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.