



MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUES., 2012-APR-03, 4:45 PM
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Val Alcock-Carter
Suzanne Andre
Terre Flower
Zeni Maartman
Ralph Meyerhoff
John Neville

George Anderson
Diane Brennan
Elizabeth Forrester
Linda McCandless
Dot Neary
Angelika Valchar

STAFF PRESENT:

John Horn, Social Planner
David Stewart, Planner, Current Planning

Deborah Jensen, Community Development Planner
Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jack Anderson, Anderson Greenplan Ltd.
Katelyn McDougall
Paul Arthur

Dean Gaudry, Gaudry Consulting Ltd.
Leslie Puska

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

SPAC members and City staff introduced themselves to new members, Suzanne Andre and Angelika Valchar.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was moved and seconded that T. Flower be appointed Chair. The motion was carried.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Relocation of Windward Liquor Store – Anderson Greenplan Ltd.
- Research Proposal - K. McDougall
- Stand Up Speak Out Youth Against Hate Event – L. Puska

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes from 2012-Mar-06 be adopted. The motion was carried.

6. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

J. Horn advised that the Mandate and Objectives document for SPAC will be going to Council in the near future for adoption.

7. DELEGATIONS

a) Anderson Greenplan Ltd. - RA291/OCP65 – 1850 and 1860 Dufferin Crescent

D. Stewart, Planner, Current Planning introduced this application to rezone property from High Tech Industrial (I3) to Community Corridor (COR3) and to amend the COR3 zone to add 'Liquor Store' as a site specific use. The applicant is proposing to relocate the existing liquor retail store (LRS) from 1588 Boundary Crescent to 1850 and 1860 Dufferin Crescent. A concurrent Official Community Plan amendment application has also been received in order to redesignate the property from Industrial to Corridor within the OCP.

J. Anderson, Anderson Greenplan Ltd. provided some of the owner's rationale for wanting to relocate the Windward Liquor Store:

- The size of the present store is small compared to recently built LRS's.
- Large delivery trucks will be moved away from the hospital area to an urban arterial (Bowen Road) and will be accessed off of the Boxwood industrial road.
- The new building will be built using green principles.
- They will share a parking lot with Country Grocer.
- Because the Corridor designation encourages mixed use, the owners are planning to provide a community meeting room within the facility that will be made available for use by non-profit and community groups, and in particular those groups who promote sustainable activities in keeping with the green theme of the proposed LRS building.

D. Gaudry, Gaudry Consulting Ltd. provided background information regarding provincial LRS regulations being moved to municipalities. When the Windward Liquor Store was built, it was required to be linked with the Windward Pub. The proposed application is a move to ensure their business has long-term viability, and "going green" will provide a competitive advantage. The building will not be energy intensive like other LRS's, and they hope to pass along what they save on energy to the customers.

In response to questions from the Committee the applicants advised:

- Only the Windward Liquor Store will move, not the Windward Pub.
- A kitchen is planned for the proposed meeting room.
- The meeting room may also be used by the store a few times a week for wine testing and education events.

Committee members expressed concern with regard to removing property from an industrial designation when there is a perceived shortage of industrial land. It was noted, however, that the High Tech Industrial zone in question is not for heavy industrial use.

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

b) K. McDougall - Research Proposal – Articulated Concerns: Neighbourhood Perception and the Influence of Social Housing

K. McDougall provided background information on how the current proposal evolved. If approved, public meeting notes and staff emails regarding the three proposed sites (Dufferin Crescent, Wesley Street & Uplands Drive) will be analyzed and key participants interviewed in order to determine what the concerns are. Those will be summarized into a report. A survey structure will be constructed to use in the future to ascertain whether residents' concerns did become visible in the neighbourhoods, or whether their concerns had changed over time and the reasons why they had changed. \$5,000 is being requested to complete both the research and survey template.

In response to a question from the Committee, K. McDougall advised the purpose of the proposal is to document the issues. The information would go to SPAC prior to being made public. J. Horn added that staff have received at least 1,000 emails, and the issues have never been compiled. The future survey would assist staff in determining whether the issues materialized. The research proposal would create a template for evaluating similar projects in the future. Funding would come out of gaming funds, not grant funds.

The Committee requested that the surveys be done three years after completion of the projects.

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

c) Leslie Puska & Paul Arthur - Stand Up Speak Out Youth Against Hate Event

Leslie Puska and Paul Arthur provided information on an upcoming youth-led event on racism which will include a voice exhibit and deconstructing workshop to assist them in creating a community charter on this issue.

The Committee noted that although there have been no hate crimes reported in Nanaimo, that "subtle" racism is prevalent. People may not be reporting hate crimes because of peer pressure and because they are unaware of recourse available to them. Also, the RCMP may not be categorizing complaints as hate crimes.

L. Puska commented that they hope to have approximately 60 youth attend the event and are advertising via website and radio spots as well as by providing information to organizations such as SPAC and religious groups. A Committee member suggested they contact the Neutral Zone at Tillicum Lelum.

L. Puska advised that after they have compiled the results from the workshop, they would like to come back to SPAC for feedback. In response to a question from the Committee, she advised the idea of the workshop came about after the CVIM applied for a grant with assistance from students, and when they were advised that they were successful in receiving the grant funds, the students were asked to participate.

It was moved and seconded to receive the delegation. The motion was carried.

- d) D. Stewart, Planner, Current Planning - What's Building in My Neighbourhood Program

D. Stewart introduced this new program on the City's website which shows active development applications. (Completed projects will be kept on the website for two years.) He provided a demonstration on how to search, and how to sign up for email updates.

It was moved and seconded to receive the delegation. The motion was carried.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter dated 2012-Mar-11 from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church advising how their 2011 Community Service grant was utilized.

It was moved and seconded to receive the correspondence. The motion was carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Relocation of LRS (liquor retail store) from 1588 Boundary Crescent to 1850/1860 Dufferin Crescent (see Item 7A of Minutes)

It was moved and seconded that SPAC support the proposed LRS relocation.

Discussion on the Motion

- Opposed to any expansion of liquor outlets in our community.
- There is a shortage of industrial land. This proposal would remove the ability to have industrial zoning there. High tech industrial property needs to be preserved.
- This is not an expansion of liquor outlets; it is moving an outlet from one location to another.
- Major manufacturing would not occur on this land because it is for high tech industry.
- The increase in size of the store would make it an expansion; it is a departure from what a local liquor store is about.
- Although more square footage is proposed, it would be moving the LRS out of an area where residents expressed concerns about liquor in their neighbourhood.
- Having it as an example of a green building is great.
- Any addition to meeting space is also good.
- Taking the loading trucks away from the present location removes a safety hazard.
- What value does the small area required for the proposal have to industrial?
- Should have procedural fairness; approving some LRS's but not others is not fair.
- The proposed relocation would support redevelopment of Beaufort Centre

The motion was carried.

b) Social Housing Research Proposal (Item 7B of Minutes)

J. Horn advised that the purpose of the research proposal is to enable staff in three years to be able to look up what residents' concerns were prior to construction of the three supportive housing projects to determine whether they had come true.

Some of the Committee's comments were:

- Would be a fortuitous opportunity as it would give students an opportunity to do research work and to produce inexpensive data for the City that in future would allow them to measure how successful or otherwise the complexes are.
- Do not understand what the purpose of the proposal is. If someone feels that something is negatively affecting them, they will continue to do so.
- Would recommend that the proponent submit a one-page document setting out what the goals and objectives of the proposal are.
- It is important that the research be done as this is such a contentious issue. It would be a way to give credibility to the concerns.
- Likes that the survey structure would be prepared prior to the complexes being constructed.
- Concerned about the quality of the product. Will the students doing the proposal be working under the direction of a professor at the university?

It was moved and seconded that the research proposal be approved, subject to the proponent submitting a one-page document setting out the goals, objectives and purpose of the proposal, prior to any funds being released. The motion was carried.

G. Anderson left the meeting.

c) Funding Information Session and Strategic Planning Workshop held 2012-Mar-27

J. Horn provided a synopsis of the workshop:

- Everyone was happy with the process of soliciting grant applications. It is appropriate to the scale of the grants.
- One complaint was that grant application forms on the City's website are not fillable.
- The requirement for a volunteer component needs further discussion. Does it serve a purpose?

J. Neville left the meeting.

- People liked having a letter of intent stage in the Social Development grant process.
- The criteria is sometimes difficult to understand. Having broader priorities is better, but use weight in the wording; i.e. tell them what is more important.
- Appreciated not having to attach financial statements to the Community Service Grant application.
- Should check with other community funders to determine whether the City's intent is meshed with theirs. SPAC's role could be to determine where the gaps are.

- Don't put restrictions on how the grant funds are spent. Recipients should be doing innovative things.
- If you fund something no one else funds, it gives enormous clout to applicants when they apply for grants from other funders.
- Some said the criteria is too loose. SPAC should list its strategic priorities and let the applicants submit applications against those priorities.
- Partnerships are important. It makes the community more cohesive if you do that.
- The Community Service grants give more opportunities to smaller groups.

J. Horn reported on the other question asked of the social service providers as to what SPAC should focus on in the next three years. Results of a dot exercise done at the workshop indicated:

- 'Poverty / Addictions / Mental Health' was the highest priority with 24 dots. Workshop attendee comments were:
 - projects that will reduce the generational transfer of life in poverty
 - poverty law issues
 - poverty as the root of other issues or the symptom
 - support for marginally housed: mental health; addictions; health; legal issues; family
 - mental health; stigma; homelessness; addictions
 - poverty (2)
 - intergenerational poverty leading to family breakdown
 - homelessness: parts 2 & 3 of plan
 - addiction services
 - health & wellness; poverty reduction; special needs; early intervention; community connections
- 'Social Exclusion / Isolation' was the next priority with 16 dots. Comments were:
 - most marginalized not fully engaging with government services; i.e. urban aboriginal women & families
 - transportation & accessibility
 - poverty → health, mental & physical → seclusion
 - community engagement across different groups
 - seniors: alone; low pensions; meeting everyday needs
 - people with disabilities: isolation (inclusion); peer support – community involvement; information / self advocacy
 - accessibility / disenfranchised: physical; mental; economic; technological; legal
 - youth & young families: support & development services for same

The next two categories tied with 15 dots:

- 'Partnerships / Resource, Sharing, Innovate'. Comments were:
 - building community relationships (involvement)
 - resource sharing & community partnerships (2)
 - enhancing community partnerships among groups who work on poverty issues particularly food issues
 - collaborative effort involved
 - sustainability (fiscally, environmentally & community relationships)
 - medically disabled needs: isolation; transportation
 - innovative start-up with potential for growth

- 'Food'. Comments were:
 - food
 - food & shelter
 - food security and sustainable local food systems: horticulture therapy; health – physical activity; diet; poverty relief; local food system; education; community building; sustainability

The last priority with 5 dots was:

- 'Education'. Comments were:
 - education on developing cooking skills for healthy eating on a limited budget
 - education such as essential life skills, low-cost cooking lessons & adult computer skills

d) Choose criteria for first round of 2012 Community Service grants - Deferred to next meeting.

e) Meeting Accessibility – Review of options - Deferred to next meeting.

f) Bullying – Deferred to next meeting.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. COMMITTEE UPDATES / COUNCIL UPDATE / INFO ITEMS

a) Grants Advisory Committee – Deferred to next meeting.

b) Safer Nanaimo Working Group – Deferred to next meeting.

c) Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness – Deferred to next meeting.

d) Council Updates – Deferred to next meeting.

12. STRATEGIC PLANNING

None.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2012-May-01 at 4:45 pm in the Nanaimo Ice Centre Lounge.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.