



**MINUTES**  
**SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING HELD TUES., 2012-MAR-06, 4:45 PM**  
**BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Zeni Maartman, Chair  
George Anderson  
Terre Flower  
Linda McCandless  
Dot Neary

Val Alcock-Carter  
Diane Brennan  
Elizabeth Forrester  
Ralph Meyerhoff  
John Neville

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Bev Barton  
Judy Lekisch

Janet Cowling

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Horn, Social Planner

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS:**

Katelyn McDougall and her associate

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Correspondence dated 2012-Feb-21 from Nanaimo Community Kitchens reporting on how their 2011 Social Development Grant was utilized.
- Discussion re meeting accessibility.
- Local Health Area Profile Nanaimo (68) dated July 2011 prepared by Planning and Community Engagement, VIHA.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes from 2012-Jan-03 be adopted, and the Notes from 2012-Feb-07 be received. The motion was carried.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

5. DELEGATIONS

- a) Katelyn McDougall presented a research proposal entitled 'The Influence of Affordable Housing on Neighbourhood Perception: Dufferin Crescent – Wesley Street – Uplands Drive'. The survey she did on the Bowen/Meredith affordable housing project indicated that many concerns the area residents had prior to construction did not materialize. Ms. McDougall wrote the research proposal regarding the supportive housing projects proposed for Dufferin Crescent, Wesley Street and Uplands Drive with the idea of determining pre and post concerns of residents. Discussion followed:

- The second part of the proposal would start two to five years after the supportive housing projects are built.
- The format would be similar to the Bowen/Meredith survey with content being formulated in consultation with J. Horn.
- There is the question of whether the supportive housing controversy has “already muddied the water”.
- The Bowen/Meredith project also had paranoia prior to construction, but had a large contrast afterwards.
- If we’re looking for what actually changes in the Dufferin Crescent, Wesley Street and Uplands Drive neighbourhoods, then the results would not be entirely accurate.
- A better method might be to take a “snapshot” now about how the residents feel about their neighbourhoods, then compare that to how they feel afterwards.
- Having a sample area where a supportive housing project is not planned might be useful. Then we could see if crime got better or worse in the city in general.

K. McDougall and her associate left the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Correspondence dated 2012-Feb-21 from Nanaimo Community Kitchens reporting on how their 2011 Social Development Grant was utilized.

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Choose criteria for the first round of Community Service grants

The Committee discussed whether to proceed with choosing the criteria for the first round of Community Service grants, or to wait until after the March 27 workshop with social development groups. Part of the workshop will be to discuss emerging issues in the community, and how the criteria can be articulated more clearly.

G. Anderson arrived at 5:25 pm.

It was moved and seconded that SPAC choose the criteria for the first round of Community Services grants at their next meeting. The motion was carried.

- b) Review draft SPAC Mandate & Objectives

J. Horn advised that a standard set of Terms of Reference were prepared in 2010 for the use of all advisory committees. In addition, each committee were to prepare its own Mandate and Objectives specific to their purpose. Traditionally, SPAC's membership included representatives from the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission and the School Board. He asked the committee to consider whether those seats are still required on a full-time basis, or whether those organizations could instead be invited to meetings with issues pertinent to them. Discussion followed:

- Having a School Board representative is important as so much of what SPAC deals with is about children.
- The School Board also feel it is a useful conduit as it provides another point of contact to cross reference what happens in the whole jurisdiction.
- As the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission are already part of the City, not having a representative on SPAC would not necessarily alienate them from social planning.
- Having a SPAC member sit on the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission might be more useful.
- With regard to a suggestion of having a representative from the Schools Foundation on SPAC, this might overload the Committee with youth interests. Seniors are actually a larger target population.
- Why isn't VIHA represented on the Committee?

It was moved and seconded that the Mandate and Objectives for SPAC be amended to eliminate the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission representative seat, and to replace it with a community at-large seat. The motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that when Council fill the community at-large seats, they be encouraged to reflect the diversity of the community; in particular the following segments of the community that have historically been under-represented: youth; aboriginal; and recent immigrants. The motion was defeated.

It was moved and seconded to recommend that the Mandate and Objectives for SPAC be adopted as amended. The motion was carried.

c) Meeting Accessibility

It was moved and seconded that staff determine an appropriate and accessible location for SPAC meetings. The motion was carried.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a) Social Status Report Update

It was moved and seconded that because it is current and inclusive, the Local Health Area Profile Nanaimo (68) dated July 2011 prepared by Planning and Community Engagement VIHA, be used as an update to the Social Status Report if permitted. The motion was carried.

b) Emergency Food Group meeting held 2012-Jan-12

J. Horn reported that food providers, and faith groups who work on food provision, attended the meeting and advised the Food4U initiative is working well and is able to continue on at the present time without further grants. He suggested that Council be apprised of the good work being done in food provision in the city.

A committee member stated that the message to Council should be that it is a travesty that we have so many people in our community that can't get adequate nutrition and that we are relying on volunteers, and that this cannot be a sustainable solution.

J. Horn stated that Council could be requested to make a motion to senior levels of government on that stance.

9. COMMITTEE UPDATES / COUNCIL UPDATE / INFO ITEMS

- a) PNAC – R. Meyerhoff. – No report.
- b) Grants Advisory Committee – J. Neville. – No report.
- c) Safer Nanaimo Working Group – J. Horn. – No report.
- d) Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness – J. Horn advised that VIHA have allotted further funding (approx. \$75,000) to support homelessness. The funds will devolve to the Working Group for disbursement.
- e) Council Update – Feb. 27 – T. Flower advised that Dr. Paul Hasselback, Medical Health Officer for Central V.I. spoke about the importance of Council being engaged in the issues noted in the 'Local Health Area Profile Nanaimo (67)' document, and that they be accountable in the issues, and take a leadership role. As health is a social policy issue, Dr. Hasselback inquired where health was on the list of Council priorities.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

- a) Social Service Providers workshop to be held 2012-Mar-27

Whether there is a need for an ad as well as an email invitation was discussed. It was decided that an ad should be placed but worded more as an announcement rather than an invitation.

The committee requested that the 'Local Health Area Profile Nanaimo (68)' document be shared at the workshop.

11. DISCUSSION RE DELEGATION PROPOSAL

The Committee discussed the proposal presented earlier in the meeting by Katelyn McDougall. J. Horn advised that funding could be utilized from the City's Social Development Grant fund.

It was moved and seconded to proceed with the research project as presented and that \$10,000 be utilized from the Social Development Grant fund. The motion was defeated.

The Committee suggested that Ms. McDougall be asked how much it would cost for her to analyze documentation the City currently has on the proposed supportive housing sites, abstract what peoples' fears are regarding this issue, and in a few years compare them to the current situation. J. Horn will present SPAC's proposal to Ms. McDougall and advise of her reply at the next meeting.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2012-Apr-03.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.