



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

PRESENT:

Zeni Maartman, Chair
George Anderson
Diane Brennan
Terre Flower
Ralph Meyerhoff
John Neville

Val Alcock-Carter
Bev Barton
Janet Cowling
Elizabeth Forrester
Dot Neary

REGRETS:

Judy Lekisch

Linda McCandless

STAFF:

John Horn, Social Planner

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:50 pm. Councillors Diane Brennan and George Anderson were welcomed to the Committee and introductions were made.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by G. Anderson, SECONDED by V. Alcock-Carter that the Minutes from 2011-Dec-06 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

J. Horn advised that SPAC's Reports to Council regarding 2012 Social Development Grants and Healthy Community Grants will be going to Council on 2012-Jan-09.

5. DELEGATIONS

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Potential Areas of Work for SPAC in 2012

The Committee discussed possible topic areas for SPAC to address in 2012.

J. Horn advised that his department has applied for two grants to research issues facing older immigrants moving to Nanaimo, and to do a food strategy for the City of Nanaimo. If the City is successful in receiving the grants, SPAC may wish to assist in the projects. The Committee can also consider emergent issues when choosing their priorities for 2012.

Some of the Committee's comments were:

- With respect to the proposal regarding older immigrants, if we want our community to grow, attracting and retaining immigrants will be a key driver for our prosperity because for every person born here, two people die.
- Although retirees are not typically economic drivers and need to be balanced with younger people, immigrant seniors bring with them families, including ones in the fastest growing age group - under 25. Assisting senior immigrants to become part of the community will be the key to the City's economic strategy.
- Seniors groups in the community need to be more welcoming to new residents.
- Nanaimo is a large enough community to offset seniors' issues such as care and hospitalization.
- Council has not planned for the growth of seniors. If SPAC considers this an issue, they should recommend that Council also recognize it as a priority and address it accordingly.
- SPAC could suggest to Council that they need a plan regarding seniors, and that SPAC requires a budget to assist in formulating it.
- SPAC could also investigate using the \$30,000 portion of the gaming funds that is set aside for research to assist in the grant proposals noted above.
- SPAC's annual workplan that is sent to Council for approval should contain these items.
- SPAC will also receive suggestions from social service providers at the upcoming workshop on items to focus on in 2012.
- Aboriginals are not really included in seniors' groups. There were a staggering amount of aboriginals, including elders, in the hamper programs.
- Regarding the issue of food production, there is not a general collective understanding on what a strategy should look like, i.e. consumers or producers of food?
- The issue of homelessness has not been solved because poverty is still the No. 1 issue in Nanaimo.
- SPAC needs a plan on how they choose their work before they develop a work plan.
- That was why a Social Status Report update was done; however, it turned out to be insubstantial.

MOVED by J. Cowling, SECONDED by D. Brennan that a facilitated visioning process be held with the newly appointed SPAC members in April, and that out of that process a workplan be developed for the year. CARRIED.

Committee members can also submit ideas for the workplan to J. Horn.

Dot Neary arrived at the meeting and introductions were made. (She will be replacing Sharon Welch as the new School Board representative.)

8. OLD BUSINESS

None.

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 reported the Working Group held Christmas dinners for the homeless. They also placed an ad in the newspaper in support of the supportive housing projects planned for Nanaimo, and extended an invitation to concerned citizens of Nanaimo to help them do grass root work. J. Neville, chair of the Working Group, advised the group is less of a political body and more a working group, putting on activities, acting as an advocate, and doing hands-on work. They will be preparing a strategic plan for 2012. J. Horn noted that the Working Group does not have a budget per se. The City provides meeting space and refreshments, and \$10,000 of funds received from VIHA for 'Capacity Building for Ending Homelessness' were made available to the Committee. The remainder of those funds were allocated out in grants. In response to a question from the Committee, J. Horn advised that the Working Group would be eligible for Community Service grants and Social Development grants if they met the criteria, and although they are not a legal entity, they could find a sponsor.

e) Council Update – No report.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

a) Emergency Food Group Meeting - J. Horn advised that food providers have been invited to a meeting on 2012-Jan-12 to review the current status of food distribution.

In response to a question regarding what the School District does regarding food distribution, D. Neary advised that she will invite the appropriate School District representative to the meeting on January 12.

J. Horn will report back on the food providers meeting at the next SPAC meeting.

- b) Social Service Providers Workshop – J. Horn advised that one of the purposes of the proposed workshop is to provide information to social service agencies on how to fill out the applications for Social Service grants and Community Service grants, and specifically, what SPAC looks for in the applications. SPAC will also be looking for feedback on how the application forms can be made clearer. Agencies will be given the opportunity to inform SPAC on what their organization does, and what they see as emerging issues in 2012. Agencies who have received grant money can advise how the funds were utilized, and whether there are any gaps in criteria.

The Committee discussed possible dates for the workshop, and whether it should be before or after the spring allocation of Community Service grants, and the appointment of new members to the Committee.

MOVED by T. Flower, SECONDED by J. Cowling that the Social Service Providers Workshop be held on Tuesday, 2012-Mar-27. CARRIED.

Information obtained at the workshop will be passed along to newly appointed committee members at the April SPAC meeting.

A SPAC sub-committee consisting of E. Forrester, T. Flower and R. Meyerhoff will meet and clarify details of the workshop including its purpose, location and time, invitation list, and agenda.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2012-Feb-07.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.