



MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUES., 2011-SEP-06, 4:45 PM
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

PRESENT:

Zeni Maartman, Chair
Bev Barton
Elizabeth Forrester
Ralph Meyerhoff

Val Alcock-Carter
Terre Flower
Judy Lekisch
John Neville

REGRETS:

Janet Cowling
Linda McCandless
John Horn

Jim Kipp
Sharon Welch

STAFF:

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

OTHERS:

Councillor Fred Pattje
Lynne Brown, United Way Central and Northern V.I.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by J. Neville that the Minutes from 2011-Jul-05 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

5. DELEGATIONS

- a) Lynne Brown, United Way Central and Northern V.I. discussed the 2011 Social Status Update with the Committee, and commended SPAC for initiating the process.

The Committee inquired why there was such a low number of responses to the questionnaire sent out by the consultant. L. Brown advised that there is fear amongst charities related to the ability to obtain funding, and they are therefore reluctant to share information, even though such information gathered would assist them in their grant applications.

The Committee asked why only 300 questionnaires were sent out compared to the 500+ sent out in 2003. L. Brown replied that there have been decreases in organizations; some have closed or amalgamated. Questionnaires were sent out to

agencies, large organizations such as VIHA and the United Way, service clubs, and the faith community, and were followed up upon with a second email.

The Committee questioned the validity of the responses because depending on the areas of expertise of the respondents, the responses could be skewed. Also, how valid is a low percentage of a low number of responses, in regard to answers to questions?

Another concern by the Committee was that the email in which the questionnaire was sent out was not incisive. L. Brown advised that it would have been too costly for the consultant to personally meet with 200 people.

In response to a request, L. Brown will provide John Horn with a copy of the questionnaire to forward to the Committee for their information.

The Committee and L. Brown then discussed the problem of social agencies that provide similar services competing for funding, when they could be working together. They discussed the possibility of holding a get-together for social agencies to share what they do, in order to determine where there are duplication of services.

L. Brown advised that the United Way have also been discussing duplication of services and the need for an all agency forum to be held in order to map the agencies services. They have also discussed having a funders table to bring together all of the organizations that provide grants, in order to see what kinds of services they fund.

The Committee also noted the need for small agencies to share office space rather than having separate offices with all of the associated costs.

The Chair requested that this issue be brought back at the October meeting for further discussion in order to start planning such a forum for social agencies, with a goal of either late November or early January.

Regarding the Social Status Report Update, the Committee voiced their concern about the document's validity, in light of the fact that funders may base their allocations on the information it contains, and policy decisions may be influenced by it. Discussion on the Update will continue at the next meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Committee received correspondence dated 2011-Aug-08 from Nanaimo Community Kitchens Society regarding how the Social Development grant they received in 2010 was used to help the community.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) The Committee reviewed applications received for the second round of 2011 Community Service Grants.

Councillor Pattje left the meeting.

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by T. Flower to recommend that Council allocate the following Community Service grants:

Applicant	Purpose	\$ Amount Requested	\$ Amount Recommended
Harewood Neighbourhood Association	To run an Adult computer skills program and a Family free gym drop-in program.	920.	920.
Nanaimo 7-10 Club Society	To provide local produce and eggs in its community breakfast and bag lunch program.	3,000.	3,000.
Nanaimo Community Gardens Society	Gleaning program.	3,000.	1,000.
Nanaimo Community Kitchens	Cooking on a Budget program.	4,000.	1,100.
Nanaimo Family Life Association	Seniors Wellness program.	580.	580.
Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre	Family Crisis Support Services program.	5,000.	2,500.
Nanaimo Region John Howard Society	To provide a free breakfast one weekend per month in September and October to individuals in need.	1,600.	1,600.
Nanaimo Women's Resources Society	Drop-in Support Services program.	10,000.	2,500.
Street Legal Nanaimo	Community support and legal advocacy and education for low income people dealing with debt issues.	3,500.	2,000.
The Salvation Army-Nanaimo Ministries	Haircuts for homeless and low income men, women and children.	3,200.	1,600.
Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre	Doula Service program for single mothers.	5,000.	2,000.
Nanaimo Citizens on Patrol	To provide additional patrols in areas most susceptible to crime.	2,500.	0
Nanaimo Community Hospice Society	Operational support.	2,550.	0
Nanaimo Foodshare Society	To offer Good Food Boxes free of charge to vulnerable families.	10,000.	0
Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation	To purchase a Salad Bar Kit for use in schools once per month.	2,557.	0
Total		57,407	18,800

The motion CARRIED.

The Committee directed that if the grants are approved by Council and applicants are notified: that Nanaimo Community Gardens Society be advised that their grant is to be used for their gleaning program; and that Street Legal Nanaimo be advised that their grant is to be used for volunteer training and drop-in clinics (and not for website enhancement).

The Committee also requested clarification on whether The Salvation Army had ever approached the hairdressing program at VIU about possibly providing free haircuts to the homeless.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None.

9. COMMITTEE UPDATES / COUNCIL UPDATE / INFO ITEMS

- a) PNAC – R. Meyerhoff – No report.
- b) Grants Advisory Committee – J. Neville advised that Council endorsed the report from the Grants Advisory Committee in which it was recommended that “financial need” be removed from the evaluation criteria, and that the practice of providing cash grants for property taxes in the year before their permissive tax exemption comes into effect, be eliminated.
- c) Safer Nanaimo Working Group – J. Horn – No report.
- d) Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness – J. Horn – No report.
- e) Council Updates – 2011-Jul-11 – E. Forrester advised that the water treatment issue was discussed, as well as front yard fence regulations.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

None.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2011-Oct-04.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.