



MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUES., 2011-JUN-07, 4:45 PM
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

PRESENT:

Zeni Maartman, Chair
Bev Barton
Terre Flower
Judy Lekisch
Ralph Meyerhoff

Val Alcock-Carter
Janet Cowling
Elizabeth Forrester
Linda McCandless
John Neville

REGRETS:

Jim Kipp

Sharon Welch

STAFF:

John Horn, Social Planner

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

OTHERS:

Diane Brennan
Kim Slater
Rob Hutchins
Anita McLeod
Fred Pattje

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

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by E. Forrester that the Minutes from 2011-May-03 be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

5. DELEGATIONS

a) Diane Brennan and Kim Slater, Seniors Health Information Project Nanaimo

D. Brennan advised that she and Mr. Slater are working on the Seniors Health Information Project Nanaimo, which provides sessions to teach seniors and

caregivers what services for seniors are available locally, how to access care, roles and responsibilities of the health care system, support for patients and caregivers, and if not happy with the system, how to advocate to make the system better.

K. Slater stated that this is a provincial issue that needs to be pushed onto the provincial agenda. He asked SPAC to consider the two resolutions crafted by he and Ms. Brennan, and if SPAC agrees with them, to recommend that City Council endorse them and forward them to UBCM.

He added that it is a goal of VIHA to provide services so that seniors can remain in their homes, but this is not happening to the extent that seniors need it to be. Seniors are subsequently flocking into acute care, which puts pressure on the residential care system. Simple outreach programs like respite provide seniors opportunities to socialize, and are very economical ways to help them age in place.

Mr. Slater advised that he became involved in seniors issues when his mother became a resident of Nanaimo Seniors Village and he became a member of the family council at that facility. Family councils are friends and families of seniors who try to advance care in seniors facilities. The Vancouver Island association of family councils networks from the north island to Victoria and find concerns are systemic, and could be alleviated by simple community programs.

D. Brennan noted that there have been successful pilot projects in the province, but they have remained small and not been generalized even though they were proven. Ministry employees are very receptive to moving them forward, but everyone has to buy in to change the system. Sending motions to UBCM is an attempt to gather community support. UBCM is a very powerful voice which the province pays attention to.

MOVED by V. Alcock-Carter, SECONDED by J. Neville that SPAC strongly support the following two motions, and recommend that Council endorse them and forward them to UBCM:

WHEREAS access to community-based care for BC's growing seniors population is vital to keeping seniors healthy in their own homes and communities, and controlling cost pressures in the broader health care system;

AND WHEREAS BC's Ombudsperson is nearing completion of an investigation into systemic issues in seniors care, and a number of independent reports and studies (including from the BC Medical Association and the UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research) document problems in timely access to appropriate care and inadequate coordination of services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to significantly enhance BC's system of community-based seniors care, in order to ensure timely access to the full range of public services that support seniors to age and die with dignity.

and

WHEREAS a significant capacity for maintaining the health and wellbeing of seniors exists at the municipal level through neighbourhood houses, seniors centres and community centres ;

AND WHEREAS limited funding for these services means they cannot meet the need for outreach programming to isolated seniors, information services on locally available social and health programs for seniors, social programming to keep seniors active and connected;

BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide funding for enhanced seniors outreach and health prevention programs (including information services, social networking, and age-appropriate exercise programs) and to support better coordination among existing services.

The motion CARRIED.

b) Mayor Rob Hutchins and Anita McLeod, City of Ladysmith

Mayor Hutchins and Ms. McLeod gave a PowerPoint presentation. Some of their comments were:

- The population of Ladysmith is approximately 8400, with a range of housing types.
- The community is very generous, in particular the service clubs and credit union.
- Ladysmith gives out 4 to 5 times as much in bursaries as Nanaimo.
- They have a vibrant business core, good partnerships, and a diverse economy. Two business parks have been created.
- Heritage is important to them and they have invested accordingly.
- They have community gardens that provide vegetables to the food bank.
- A live/work development in the community houses businesses and residential units above.
- As the community has many young children (0-6) with one or more vulnerability that require many services, the Town of Ladysmith sponsors a resource centre which gives health professionals the opportunity to diagnose the children, thereby providing early intervention. As the vulnerabilities are prenatal or post, and not genetic, the Town recognizes the bottom line as needing to help parents raise their children the best they can, as many don't have the capacity.
- The resource centre is a drop-in, is multi-generational, and houses social service agencies as well as a food program, as food security is a huge issue in that community. The Town hopes that over time the centre will help families have more resilient children, which will have less impact on the judicial and health systems.
- Regarding complex care, the Cowichan Valley has a two-month waiting list, but supports are provided to seniors where they are currently living. Only 4-1/2 % of seniors in the Cowichan Valley are expected to require complex care.
- The acute care hospital in Ladysmith was changed to a community health centre in 2004. Residents at first were upset about losing the surgery and acute care components, but with advocacy, people eventually accepted the change. A family practice clinic, urgent care and diagnostics are some of the services now available in the centre. Many factors affect health such as education and employment, so all parameters need to be considered, not just increasing beds.

- Ladysmith did not have a need for more affordable housing until 2003 when housing prices jumped, so they are just now starting to legalize suites.
- The Town's transit system consists of two trolley buses, which had 28,000 riders in their first year. \$212,000 was raised by the community for the buses, as government funds were not available. The trolley has proven very beneficial in getting people to and from the resource centre.
- The Town has a partnership with the local first nations band. who have very good services of their own.
- Even though Ladysmith has serious drug and mental health problems, homelessness does not yet seem to be evident.
- Unemployment is approximately 8%.

Mayor Hutchins and A. McLeod were thanked for their very informative presentation. Prior to them leaving, Ms. McLeod stated that attendance by a representative from the City of Nanaimo would be welcomed at their regional meetings.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Review Social Status Update

The Committee questioned the small number (39) of respondents, and asked how many people received the information.

MOVED by J. Lekisch, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the consultant (JL Pacifico Community Solutions) who prepared the Social Status Update, be invited to attend the September SPAC meeting. CARRIED.

Committee members should forward any comments/questions regarding the Social Status Update to J. Horn prior to the September meeting in order to give the consultant time to revise the document accordingly.

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. COMMITTEE UPDATES / COUNCIL UPDATE / INFO ITEMS

- a) PNAC – R. Meyerhoff advised that PNAC completed its review of the new draft Zoning Bylaw. He also noted his attendance at the recent Planning Institute of BC Conference, and that Nanaimo's planning staff did a very good job organizing the conference, and in their presentations.
- 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 – No report.
- e) Council Meeting Updates – J. Lekisch advised that some topics at the May 16 Council meeting were:
 - A safety award was presented to the City;
 - Concern by a resident re proposed lowering of the fence height regulation;

- Concern by the Ballroom Dance Society re the hardwood floor being removed at Beban Park, and the increased cost to rent Bowen Park facilities;
- A Service award was presented to Supt. Jeff Lott;
- Dedication of the Larry McNabb Sports Zone;
- Commercial Street winning "Great Streets" award;
- Nash Hardware building receiving façade grant;
- Continuation of "chicken and ducks" bylaw; and
- New appointments to SPAC.

Z. Maartman advised that at the May 30 Council meeting, Council adopted the zoning bylaw for the supportive housing project proposed for 1406 Bowen Road; however the building is not to be built under after the other buildings subject to the MOU with the province are completed and in operation, in order to determine the need. If it is determined that the building is not needed, the site is to be sold at market value.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2011-Jul-05.

It was requested that the City of Nanaimo's Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) be reviewed at the July meeting, as it appears to be presenting challenges regarding income thresholds.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.