



MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUES., 2011-FEB-01, 4:45 PM
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

PRESENT:

Z. Maartman, Chair
E. Forrester
V. Alcock-Carter
R. Meyerhoff

J. Cowling
J. Templeman
B. Barton
J. Kipp

REGRETS:

A. Evans
J. Lekisch

S. Welch
J. Neville

STAFF:

J. Horn, Social Planner

R. Tubbs, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:52 pm.

Z. Maartman welcomed students from VIU's Business and Government Relations class, who were attending the meeting as part of a class assignment. Introductions were made.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented. J. Horn noted that next month's meeting will include selection of criteria for the first round of 2011 Community Service Grants (\$12,500 to be allocated). Members were requested to come with ideas.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by E. Forrester, that the 2010-DEC-07 Minutes be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

MOVED by E. Forrester, SECONDED by Z. Maartman, that the 2011-JAN-04 Minutes be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

5. DELEGATIONS

a) Nanaimo Community Kitchens Society

Kathy Torhjem thanked SPAC for the numerous grants awarded to Community Kitchens in the past, which have allowed the Society to expand their programs.

Anita Smith, Executive Director of Community Kitchens, gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Society's history, as well as the many group cooking programs that they offer which include:

- Community
- Seniors
- Snuneymuxw
- Supportive Apartment Living
- Vegetarian

Other programs include:

- Low Cost Cooking for Health
- Low Cost Cooking at Brechin
- Bellies to Babies and Beyond
- Cooking out of the Box

SPAC inquired whether Community Kitchens have noticed any trends in the use of their services, and if there was anything SPAC should be aware of for the future.

A. Smith replied that Tillicum has been making more requests for cooking programs.

SPAC asked how the services offered by Community Kitchens differ from the services offered by other groups, such as the food bank. A. Smith explained that food banks distribute food, while Community Kitchens teaches people how to make healthier meals for their family. Community Kitchens strictly offer cooking programs, while other groups offer services such as skill building and youth employment.

On behalf of SPAC, Z. Maartman thanked K. Torhjem and A. Smith for their presentation, as well as their good work in helping to feed the community.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2011 Social Development Award Program

J. Horn advised that Social Development Awards are presented every two years in conjunction with awards given by the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission, Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, and the Design Advisory Panel.

He noted that in previous years, the Social Development Awards included a variety of award categories, but are now one general category, as some categories tended to not receive nominations. A general set of criteria will allow for a broader range of nominations for SPAC to choose potential recipients from to recommend to City Council.

SPAC directed that "service clubs" be added to the list of possible candidates.

The application form will be available online, at various City facilities, and in the Community Planning Section at City Hall Annex.

J. Kipp arrived at 5:26 pm.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None.

9. COMMITTEE UPDATES / COUNCIL UPDATE / INFO ITEMS

- a) PNAC – R. Meyerhoff advised that he did not attend the last PNAC meeting, but the main topic of discussion at that meeting was opposition to the Newcastle + Brechin Neighbourhood Plan by some neighbourhood residents.
- b) Grants Advisory Committee – No report.
- c) Safer Nanaimo Working Group – J. Horn noted that the group will meet with the RCMP's head of communications regarding a training video being filmed in Nanaimo on handling public disorder in the downtown core. The RCMP chose Nanaimo as they believed the city had one of the best approaches in BC to handling the problem of public disorder. The training video will be used for all RCMP members trained in Canada.
- d) Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness – J. Kipp advised that he is getting several e-mails each day regarding the proposed supportive housing projects, and the neighbourhoods' safety concerns for children, home values, etc. He believes that Council will hold strong on the issue if it comes down to making any decision. [Note: SPAC sent a letter to City Council on 2011-Jan-04 in support of Nanaimo's "Response to Homelessness Action Plan" and the low barrier apartments being developed by the City and its partners to implement that plan.]
- e) Council Update – J. Kipp noted that Council has recently seen many proposals for high-density infill housing projects (one and two bedroom), with little or no parking.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

None.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2011-Mar-01.

J. Horn asked the members to contact him if they have any suggestions for a delegate for the next meeting. J. Kipp suggested inviting a social agency from another municipality that may be able to share some interesting ideas. He also suggested inviting NWGH and SAFER to the March or April meeting to collaborate on a number of issues such as downtown security, homelessness, funding issues, etc.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.

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