



**MINUTES**  
**SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2010-MAR-02**  
**BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL**

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**PRESENT:**

J. Kipp  
J. Cowling  
J. Lekisch  
R. Meyerhoff

V. Alcock-Carter  
E. Forrester  
Z. Maartman

**REGRETS:**

B. Barton  
J. Neville  
S. Welch

A. Evans  
J. Templeman

**STAFF:**

J. Horn, Social Planner

C. Hall, Recording Secretary

**OTHER:**

Dawn Clark, Haven Society  
Lesley Clarke, Nanaimo Women's Resources Centre  
Outreach and Support Workers from Haven Society / NWRC

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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 E. Forrester, SECONDED by V. Alcock-Carter that the Minutes from 2010-Feb-02 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Done.

5. DELEGATIONS

- a) Haven Society and Nanaimo Women's Resource Centre gave a presentation on the 'Stepping Out' program. Some of their comments were:
- The drop-in program, offered between 1-3 pm on Mondays, assists women involved in street life to connect with services, counselling and support, and gives them a safe place to go as well providing personal hygiene items and nutritional needs. Street outreach is an integral part of the program.

- There have been 183 usages of the program in a 10-month period. Twenty women who consistently come in are now connected with other programs.
- They immediately saw significant differences in the women they were serving.
- Participants vary in age from teens to women in their 50's and most commonly have issues relating to mental health, FAS, impacts of violence, abuse and addictions.
- 27% of the participants regularly stay at Samaritan House, 33% are visibly homeless, and 40% are hidden homeless. Four of the participants are now housed in market housing.
- Women using the program have expressed needs for resources in the areas of:
  - housing
  - substance abuse counselling
  - life skills
  - abuse/violence
  - mental health services
  - income assistance
  - legal information
  - health access
  - social reintegration activities
- The program follows the principles of harm reduction and recognizes:
  - change is a complex process
  - no single curriculum is appropriate for everyone
  - supports need to be readily available
  - effective support and programming attends to multiple needs of the individual, not just her drug abuse or other disorders
  - an individual's support plan must be assessed continually and modified as necessary to ensure that it meets her changing needs
  - a lapse during program engagement does not predetermine failure; instead a strength-building model interprets this as part of the process of long-term change
- Outreach was integral in drawing women into the program because women involved in street level sex trade are usually wary of institutional engagement. In time, relationships deepened and women are now asking for expanded services. Being in a space where they are in control is very empowering to them.
- Having the two organizations working together creates a larger safety net, expanded services, and a better ability to respond to the women in need, and they are committed to keeping the program going and eventually see the women themselves take ownership of the programs. The greatest resource will be those women who leave and come back and mentor.
- They look for other funding on a regular basis, and are very thankful for the City's funding.
- Their goal was to provide a conduit for women to move beyond street entrenchment.

In response to questions from the Committee further comments were:

- They continuously work on best practice. Certain trends do repeat themselves, and women all over the world have similar issues when marginalized in their communities.
- A fair amount of background research went into the program.

- They would like to have a fulltime, fully-funded program, but most funding is project based and they first have to find organizations that include this issue in their mandate.
- They are not always successful finding services for the women when they need them, but the women will remain connected to them, and they can call continuously on their behalf.
- Many of the women are supporting someone. It is a sub-culture with an economy to it and a community.
- Need more public openness about these women needing our help.

The delegation was thanked for their presentation and they left the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) A thank-you card and receipt from Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank for their 2010 Social Development grant was received by the Committee.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Choose Criteria for the First Round of 2010 Community Service Grants – The Committee discussed various suggestions then decided to defer their decision until after their discussion under 'Strategic Planning' (No. 10 on Minutes).

8. OLD BUSINESS

None.

9. COMMITTEE UPDATES / COUNCIL UPDATE / INFO ITEMS

- a) PNAC – R. Meyerhoff advised that PNAC recommended approval of the Oceanview Master Plan to Council, who subsequently did approve it. They also recommended approval of a rezoning application at the corner of McGirr and Hammond Bay Roads for a project consisting of 18 lower-cost townhouse units. Another rezoning application for a steep slope portion of Hammond Bay Road was also recommended to Council for approval. That development would consist of a mixture of housing and small commercial uses, but would be quite a bit higher in price. PNAC discussed the issue of whether Hammond Bay Road should be upgraded prior to more development. Traffic studies indicate that is not yet required.
- b) Grants Advisory Committee – No report.
- c) Safer Nanaimo Working Group – J. Horn advised that the Wesley Street affordable housing project was formally announced. Public response has been minimal.
- d) Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness – No report.
- e) Council Update – Feb. 22 – J. Kipp noted that Council concurred to use funds from the Housing Legacy fund to pay for the installation of sprinklers inside the Balmoral Hotel. At the same meeting, they referred the Liquor Strategy to a Council seminar session for review.

J. Kipp requested that 'Review of the Liquor Strategy' be placed on the next SPAC agenda for review and comment to Council.

- f) Election of Chair - J. Kipp advised that as part of the committee review done recently, it was decided that committees can now elect their Chair. (Commission Chairs will still be appointed by the Mayor).

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by E. Forrester that Z. Maartman be elected Chair of SPAC, with Councillor Kipp as the alternate for the remainder of this committee term. CARRIED.

#### 10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

- a) In order to assist in the preparation of the 2010 Workplan, the Committee members listed the following issues/suggestions as being most important to them:

- Shelter for marginalized
- Food for marginalized
- Safe place to get info on access to services
- Safety and security
- Strong diversified economy
- Healthy community
- Recognition of how complex issues are
- Listen to what people object to
- Support the volunteers
- Poverty
- Communications – how do we apprise the community of what SPAC does?
- What can we do to stop problems from continuing on to the next generation?  
How do you break that cycle? (Root causes)
- Education
- Outreach communications
- Children/youth
- Seniors
- Families
- What are the roles and responsibilities of other organizations (e.g. SAFER) ?
- Activism , advocacy
- Accessibility to services and knowledge of them
- Educating peers
- How do we get info out to the marginalized ?

J. Kipp condensed the above topics into:

Who – community, children/youth, families, seniors

What – food, shelter, access/services

How – education, communications

Suggestions to give to staff preparing SPAC's mandate and objectives document are:

- Assisting people to move from marginalization to productivity
- To create a healthy sustainable community
- Tie in triple bottom line accounting

## b) Prepare 2010 Workplan

The Committee reviewed the 2009 workplan and suggested the following changes/actions for preparation of the 2010 workplan.

- John will ask the Social Development Strategy Committee which indicators require updating and the estimated cost to do so.
- Add 'community' to who SPAC communicates to.
- John will investigate how SPAC communicates emerging issues.
- Add giving social planning updates at Council meetings.
- Excellence in Social Development Awards to be given out every second year (so not in 2010).
- Add something about support to the community's volunteer sector.
- Regarding grants, add 'evaluation of successes'.
- 'Rezoning applications' should be added to the applications that SPAC provides input on.
- Provide a more comprehensive preamble (i.e. who, what, how).

MOVED by V. Alcock-Carter, SECONDED by J. Lekisch that SPAC's 2010 Workplan be approved with the above-noted changes. CARRIED.

11. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

MOVED by V. Alcock-Carter, SECONDED by J. Lekisch that the criteria to be eligible for a Community Service grant in the first round of 2010 be, "Projects that assist people to move from marginalization to productivity". CARRIED.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2010-Apr-06.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.