

CITY OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SAFER NANAIMO WORKING GROUP HELD  
2010-JAN-20

PRESENT:

Councillor Fred Pattje, Co-chair  
Councillor Merv Unger, Co-chair  
Matt Hussman, DNPS  
John Horn, Community Planning  
Inga Nielsen-Cooper, Tillicum Lelum  
Marg Fraser, VIHA  
Tom Hickey, Public Works  
Randy Churchill, Bylaw Services  
Tim Davidson, Bylaw Services  
Gord Nixon, Community Policing  
Wally Taylor, RCMP Bike Patrol  
Andrew Tucker, Planning  
Dave LaBerge, RCMP Bike Patrol  
Dr. Lorna Medd, VIHA  
Bruce Anderson, Community Planning  
Gail Honeyman, Recording Secretary

Delegation:

Chris Beaton, Tillicum Lelum

Harm Reduction Strategy – Dr. Lorna Medd:

Dr. Medd did a power point presentation with respect to harm reduction. She explained that distribution of crack kits will help workers connect with the street addicts. The crack kits will include a mouth piece, filter and push stick.

It was noted that clean needles, crack paraphernalia and other supplied are available at the appropriate VIHA facilities as well as Harris House. Mobile distribution of kits will reach more street addicts allowing more opportunity for interaction.

Tillicum Lelum Building Project

Mr. Chris Beaton requested that the group support Tillicum Lelum in their request for funding to building 18 units. At present they have funding for 14 units with an operating budget for 18 units. Mr. Beaton asked that the group support his request to BC Housing to secure additional funding to construct the full 18 units.

It was suggested that any increase in budget for this project might take budget money from other housing initiatives in the City. It was noted that there is not a firm budget at this time.

Mr. Beaton left the meeting at 11:20 am.

### Good Neighbour Agreements

There is no Good Neighbour Agreement in place with any of the neighbours of Harris House. The Old City Quarter Association has declined to participate. Direction was sought on whether delegates from the working group should attend the association meetings to discuss the matter or to leave matters as is.

Moved and Seconded that the group send a delegation to the Old City Quarter Association meeting to talk about Harris House and the Wesley Street project. The motion carried.

### Establishment of Meal Services Outside Downtown

The Salvation Army's meal program is over capacity and the organization is suffering financial stress. It would be beneficial if there were meal programs in other areas of the city. At present, Loaves and Fishes distributes food that can be prepared at home from various locations including Harewood, Brechin area, Woodlands area, and Departure Bay Road.

A hot meal program would require a commercial kitchen and would involve significant cost. There is also a possibility that such a program would cause conflict in residential areas. It was suggested that one option is the 7-10 club.

There are a lot of families with children who are in need of a meal program. Many of these families are reluctant to use the services of the Salvation Army.

Surveys indicate that over 30% of the users of emergency food services reside in the Harewood area. This represents the largest proportion of those in need in the city.

### Bar Watch

Mr. Churchill said that incentives for bar owners to participate are being investigated. There are some obstacles however a report will be brought before SAFER in the next few months.

### Allan Nielsen-Welch Communications Strategy

This includes housing projects including Tillicum Lelum and Wesley Street. The overview has been put back two weeks and will be distributed in early February. The document will be distributed to Council and affected neighbourhoods.

### Meeting Schedule

It was decided that there should be six meeting dates established and that three of these meetings should be public meetings in March, June, and September. A schedule will be established and brought forward to the next meeting.

### Consideration of Tillicum Lelum request

Moved and Seconded that staff work with Tillicum Lelum and BC Housing to secure funding for 18 units of housing, with the proviso that doing so does not diminish the funds available for the Wesley Street project and that such negotiations are not injurious to the relationship between the City of Nanaimo and BC Housing.

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.