



MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2010-JAN-05
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL

PRESENT:

Jim Kipp, Chair
Bev Barton
Elizabeth Forrester
Ralph Meyerhoff
Sharon Welch

Val Alcock-Carter
Janet Cowling
Zeni Maartman
John Neville

REGRETS:

Adam Evans
Jane Templeman

Judy Lekisch

STAFF:

John Horn, Social Planner

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

OTHER:

Dave Hammond, President, Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation
Erin van Steen, Executive Director, Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF LATE ITEMS & AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the addition of a letter dated 2009-Dec-30 from the Nanaimo Women's Resources Society and Haven Society under 'Correspondence'.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by J. Neville, SECONDED by Z. Maartman that the Minutes from 2009-Dec-01 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5. DELEGATIONS

- a) Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation – Dave Hammond, President of the Foundation and Erin van Steen, Executive Director showed a DVD on the Student Support Fund and other programs which the Foundation raises funds for and administers in the form of scholarships, bursaries, awards, endowments, and in the case of the Student Support Fund, funding to support students affected by poverty. Although scholarships and bursaries are important, there is a real need at the base level as many students suffer from poverty which affects their ability to learn and their performance.

Mr. Hammond and Ms. van Steen advised that representatives from the Foundation are going out into the community to explain why the Student Support Fund is so important, and to raise funds. The Fund currently only assists the secondary schools, but they are hoping to expand it to the elementary schools next year.

As they were not familiar with SPAC's process, they did not come to SPAC with a specific request, but asked for consideration for support.

Z. Maartman enquired whether there were still lunch programs in schools.

Mr. Hammond advised that lunch programs do exist but on a limited basis and only in the secondary schools, and most students pay for the program. Students unable to pay can receive vouchers that look like the paid vouchers from the principals or counselors.

Ms. van Steen advised that Community Links funds in the amount of \$2 million are still received, but the School District portion has been cut and responsibility given to the Gaming Commission who's restrictions are very difficult to adhere to. Some parent advisory committees have dissolved because of this.

Funds were completely cut to Woodbank School. 10-15 children in need in that school have since been assisted by the Student Support Fund in order to feed them breakfast and lunch. The Foundation is attempting to build a pool of money as grants to schools shift every year and are not guaranteed.

Mr. Hammond advised that music and sports programs have also been significantly cut and that the Foundation has had to decline requests for assistance from coaches and music teachers.

S. Welch noted that \$3 million in cuts are being estimated for next year, and that it will be the optional programs, such as music and sports, which will probably be cut.

R. Meyerhoff enquired where the video is being presented, noting that 50 to 75% of Nanaimo citizens believe that Nanaimo is an affluent community. The DVD portrays the actual need very well. Committee members suggested that it be viewed at a Finance/Policy Committee of the Whole meeting, and run on Shaw Cable in order to get the message out to grandparents and others who may be interested in donating.

J. Kipp provided information to Mr. Hammond and Ms. van Steen on the Community Service and Social Development grant programs which SPAC administers, and advised that City staff would keep the Foundation informed of future application rounds.

J. Horn added that SPAC could also supply letters of support to the Foundation if they are applying for other funding.

J. Cowling asked whether donations can be specific to a certain school or area of town. Mr. Hammond replied that there is need everywhere, and they prefer that the Foundation allocate the donations using their information. However, they will not turn down money that a person requests to go to a certain school or area.

E. Forrester suggested the Foundation look into how rebate cheques could be turned over to the Foundation (i.e. Mid-Island Co-op).

Mr. Hammond and Ms. van Steen were thanked for their presentation and they left the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter dated 2009-Dec-30 from the Nanaimo Women's Resources Society and Haven Society requesting they be permitted to carry over residual Social Development grant funds to 2010 in order to continue the Stepping Out program while other funding sources are sought.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding this request including the suggestion that the Committee formulate a process for dealing with such requests in order to be consistent. It was also noted that organizations should not be penalized for being thrifty, or rushed into spending carelessly at the end of their funding term.

MOVED by J. Cowling, SECONDED by S. Welch that the Nanaimo Women's Resources Society and the Haven Society be granted an extension to 2009-Aug-31 whereupon they will report back to SPAC. CARRIED.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a) V. Alcock-Carter reported that the Christmas hamper and toy programs were very successful, with 1,800 hampers being given out. B. Barton noted the professionalism of the people distributing the hampers and the respect they showed to clients.

9. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL UPDATES / INFO ITEMS

- a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee – No report.
- b) Grants Advisory Committee – No report.
- c) Safer Nanaimo Working Group – J. Horn advised that SAFER is working on implementing the communication strategy for the housing project on Wesley Street.
- d) Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness – S. Welch noted a problem a proposed recipient of Homelessness Partnering Strategy funds was having in actually receiving the funds, and the difficulties this has caused the organization in its operations. The Working Group chair and City staff will continue investigating the problem, and if required, a report from SPAC will be forwarded to Council.
- e) Council Update
2009-Dec-07 – J. Kipp advised that because of a density concern, the development permit for a proposed apartment building at 275 Nicol Street was referred back to the Design Advisory Panel, and the developer to arrange a public meeting with the South End Community Association. There was also controversy around an application for a temporary change of hours at Level 2, 170 Skinner Street. Council subsequently decided to recommend to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch that the application be approved.

2009-Dec-14 – J. Kipp advised that a report from staff was considered regarding Piper's Park which recommended removal of the old Museum building. Concerns from the public were expressed at the meeting, and Council took no action on the report.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

- a) Discussion regarding the role of SPAC – J. Kipp advised that staff and Council would be meeting on 2010-Jan-07 regarding committee structure, and that he would put forward any comments SPAC had. A general discussion followed on SPAC's role:
- public perception of what SPAC does needs to be clarified.
 - SPAC could be a catalyst and identify gaps in the community, develop strategic plans on how to meet the gaps, and advise Council on what actions should be taken. No other committee has the mandate to do that – it is unique to SPAC.
 - Consider looking to the future and re-doing the Social Development Strategy.
 - Should representation be revisited?

SPAC will continue this discussion at a session to be held following their regular meeting on 2010-Feb-02. Members will bring their top three issues in order to prepare the 2010 Workplan. (Dinner will be provided)

- b) Discussion regarding proposed Round Table Meeting of social planning groups – Deferred until after next meeting.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2010-Feb-02 at 4:45 pm in the Board Room.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

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Chair

2010-Feb-02

Date