



MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2009-OCT-06
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL

PRESENT:

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

Val Alcock-Carter
Adam Evans
Zeni Maartman
John Neville

REGRETS:

Janet Cowling
Jane Templeman

Judy Lekisch

STAFF:

John Horn, Social Planner

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

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 following additions:

- Council Tour of Wet Housing on Hastings Street – J. Horn
- Delegation re Free Dental Clinic

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by E. Forrester, SECONDED by B. Barton that the Minutes from 2009-Sep-01 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

J. Horn advised that the Safer Nanaimo Working Group has been working on a communication strategy for the upcoming affordable housing projects. When the strategy is finalized he will bring it to SPAC for information.

Another issue dealt with by Safer recently was a request by a resident for the removal of a needle box located near their home. The Committee subsequently decided to not remove the box as it was very well used.

5. DELEGATIONS

- a) Leanne Salter presented a proposal to the Committee to open a free dental clinic for the working poor, people on social assistance, and anyone else who doesn't have dental insurance. There is an overwhelming need for this service in Nanaimo. A few dentists have volunteered as well as assistants and hygienists. It is anticipated that the first year

would be run by volunteers, and following that, the clinic would work on becoming sustainable with some volunteers and some paid staff. The clinic would be open three to four days per month initially and would require some start-up funding. They anticipate the yearly budget will be approximately \$30,000. Case studies from Prince George and Kamloops were considered when preparing their proposal, and they are now seeking a building to house the program.

The Committee inquired how eligibility will be determined, who the sponsoring agency is, and where clinics in other cities have received their funding from.

Ms. Salter replied that needs testing will be done to determine eligibility, the sponsoring agency will be 'Dentists without Borders', and that other clinics have received funding from grants, fundraising, and partial payments from social assistance. Volunteerism has also made it possible for the clinics to run.

The Committee also asked how large a building is being sought, and what the start-up fees will be.

Ms. Salter advised that they are seeking a 1,000 sq. ft. building, preferably free. Start-up costs are anticipated to be \$20,000 to \$30,000.

J. Horn advised Ms. Salter of the 2010 Social Development Grant program that will be requesting applications during the next few months. If the dental program fits the criteria which SPAC decides upon, they may be eligible for a grant. He will provide Ms. Salter with more information on the program and an application package.

Ms. Salter was thanked for her presentation and she left the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Review 2010 Social Development Grant program timeline

The Committee discussed what the key issues are at the present time and decided that poverty and food security are still the most prevalent and that the next grant round should provide funding to organizations attempting to improve the lives of people living in poverty. J. Horn was requested to prepare ads soliciting applications for the 2010 Social Development grant program as per the Committee's discussion.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None.

9. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL UPDATES / INFO ITEMS

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee – R. Meyerhoff advised:

- PNAC reviewed the Sandstone Master Plan at their last meeting, and subsequently recommended that Council approve it.

- Applications have been coming before PNAC for multi-family and commercial buildings on Metral Drive.
- An application was considered by PNAC to rezone a duplex that had been converted into a fourplex without the proper zoning. Ralph noted that several members of PNAC had concerns that a “stroke of a pen” could legalize this building.

J. Kipp noted that open houses will be held on Nov. 10 at Ecole Oceane School and Nov. 12 at Bayview School for the proposed Newcastle and South End neighbourhood plans.

b) Grants Advisory Committee – J. Neville advised:

- The Grants Advisory Committee considered applications for tax exemption at their last meeting and any that appeared to be “downloading”, such as government agencies, were rejected.
- Also, non-profit organizations that assumed they would automatically receive tax exemption rather than including that expense on their original funding application, were also rejected.

c) Safer Nanaimo Working Group – (See Item 4)

It was requested that updates from the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness also be provided at future SPAC meetings.

d) Council Update

Sept. 14 – Z. Maartman advised:

- A delegation voiced concerns as to why another bylaw is needed to deal with aggressive panhandlers when there are other bylaws in place to deal with this issue.
- The 7-10 Club announced the opening of their new kitchen which enables them to serve hot food.

Oct. 5 – A. Evans advised:

- The issue of LED signage was discussed.
- Council passed third reading of the zoning bylaw for the proposed liquor store at University Village.

e) Info Item

J. Kipp advised that members of Council were given a tour of a “wet house” located in the 500 block of East Hastings Street in Vancouver. J. Horn, R. Churchill and D. Laberge accompanied Council. J. Horn added that the purpose of the tour was to give Council a visceral and concrete idea of what is proposed to be built in Nanaimo on the Townsite Road site. Council also looked at an affordable housing project on Fraser Street in Vancouver which the proposed Wesley Street project’s configuration will be similar to.

A Committee member inquired whether there are enough shelter beds in Nanaimo to accommodate the homeless if the proposed “scoop law” was enacted by the Provincial Govt. J. Horn replied that there were.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Committee discussed ideas for the upcoming session they plan to have with other social planning agencies. The Chair and J. Horn will discuss this further.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2009-Nov-03 at 4:45 pm in the City Hall Board Room.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

g:\commplan\spac\Agen_min09\Min_Oct06

Chair

Date