



**MINUTES**  
**SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2009-JUN-02**  
**BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL**

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**PRESENT:**

Jim Kipp, Chair  
Bev Barton  
Adam Evans  
Zeni Maartman  
John Neville  
Sharon Welch

Val Alcock-Carter  
Janet Cowling  
Judy Lekisch  
Ralph Meyerhoff  
Jane Templeman

**REGRETS:**

Elizabeth Forrester

**STAFF:**

John Horn, Social Planner

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

**OTHER:**

Eileen Page, People & Process Solutions  
Anne Spilker, Haven Society  
JoAnne Dundas, Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank  
Mike Counsell, Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank  
Richard Bell  
Rick Jones, Urban Design Group Architects Ltd.  
Paul Manhas

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF LATE ITEMS & AGENDA

MOVED by J. Cowling, SECONDED by B. Barton that the Agenda be approved with the change of moving 5(c) after 7(a). CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by V. Alcock-Carter that the Minutes from 2009-May-05 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

5. DELEGATIONS

a) Eileen Page, People & Process Solutions Inc.

Ms. Page advised that the 'Enterprising Women' social initiative proposes to create a community for women in Stage 2 housing to build confidence and capability, and to take responsibility for their social and economic success. The women will pool their income (approx. \$900 each from Social Assistance) and decide how it will be expended. Two micro enterprise groups are envisioned that the women can continue on with in the community, or start up a different business when they leave. Each group of approximately 20 women will stay in the Enterprising Women community for about a year.

Anne Spilker advised that Haven Society has agreed to partner the initiative as it will provide women with safe and affordable housing, support from each other, an opportunity to learn skills, and the chance to move on to a safe, sustaining, and productive life. Haven's role would be supportive and they would try to dovetail their programs with the Enterprising Women enterprise.

Ms. Page noted that the initiative is in its preliminary stages. They are requesting a letter of support from the City, which is a requirement from CMHC in order to access seed funding and property.

In response to questions from the Committee Ms. Page advised:

- They are exploring 951 Haliburton Street.
- They are considering both renovating and building new.
- After 12 months, some women may want to stay on as mentors.
- They have not yet solicited any partnerships with corporations or businesses.
- They have \$1.2 million in the bank for the project and are awaiting signs of interest from the community before proceeding.
- There will be an application process to assess and choose the women. The applicants must be mentally stable, not have any addictions issues, ready to try the program, and demonstrate self responsibility and the will to learn in a group.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by S. Welch to recommend that a letter of support in principle be sent by the City of Nanaimo for the 'Enterprising Women' initiative. CARRIED.

b) JoAnne Dundas, Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank

Ms. Dundas was congratulated for recently receiving an 'Excellence in Social Development' award from the City of Nanaimo.

She advised that she will be retiring from the Food Bank at the end of June, and introduced Mr. Mike Counsell who will take over as Executive Director. She also distributed copies of the Food Bank's Annual General Report for 2009.

Ms. Dundas commented that the Food Bank is struggling with the downturn in the economy. They are presently seeing 994 adults and 503 children per week, which is an increase of almost 300 adults and 150 children per week. The community is responding to this need for more resources, and the Food Bank is managing. There has been an increase in cash donations; however food donations have decreased.

Their largest problem at the present time is the number of clients; with 100-150 people per hour. The satellite location at Brechin United Church is also crowded and stressed. A group of food providers is meeting to determine whether there are alternatives to how food is distributed, in order to efficiently utilize the organizations' resources. Central warehousing and multiple distribution points have been explored. A warehouse is presently not an option because of the lack of resources other organizations could contribute. Ideally, a distribution centre should be set up in Harewood, as that is where 50% of new clients are from.

Another possibility is to have organizations where people congregate come and pick up food, such as the Disability Resource Centre which presently picks up food for 20 of its clients.

Ms. Dundas thanked SPAC for their support and acknowledgement.

Ms. Dundas, Ms. Page, and Ms. Spilker left the meeting.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### a) LRS Application – University Village, 530 Fifth Street (RA219)

Dale Lindsay, Manager of Current Planning, provided SPAC with background information on the City's criteria for evaluating rezoning applications for Licensee Retail Liquor Stores (LRS).

Rick Jones, representative for the applicant, advised that at a public open house held approximately 1-1/2 years ago, residents of the area were asked what kind of services they would like to see in their community. Their responses were: a medical centre, financial institution, and a Starbucks. Starbucks has been built at University Village and property is being held for a medical centre. As they are trying to improve the customer base of the shopping centre and make it viable, the owners believe they will have a better chance of acquiring a financial institution if a liquor store is included in the development, as it will bring other types of users to the centre. The application meets all the criteria.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Manhas advised:

- The LRS is being transferred from Woodgrove Centre because that area has become saturated with liquor outlets, and would serve the community better if moved to University Village.
- The size of the store will be doubled to what is in Woodgrove in order to provide a better variety of products.
- LRS's are very highly regulated businesses.

Richard Bell advised that he has lived across from University Village for 30 years. There are very bad liquor-related social problems in the two housing complexes across from University Village. With the University located nearby, services such as a family restaurant, bank, hardware store, or a 'Staples' store would be welcomed. Out of 50+

people he has spoken to about the liquor store possibly locating in University Village, only two were not opposed, and one of those persons was moving out of the area. Many teens and children congregate around the 7-11 Store on Fifth Street, which has the highest crime rate of the 7-11 stores in Nanaimo. He did not think locating a liquor store nearby would be a good idea. He was also worried about accidents occurring or pedestrians being hit if thieves leaving the liquor store sped away using the "bad" access onto Fifth Street. There are already liquor outlets one mile away in three directions from University Village: Harewood Arms Pub; Jolly Miner Pub; and the Occidental Hotel. He urged SPAC to speak to staff at the Georgia Avenue Community School regarding social problems in the area.

Mr. Bell was thanked for his comments and he left the meeting.

MOVED by J. Templeman, SECONDED by J. Neville that the delegations be received. CARRIED.

(Discussion on this item continues under Item No. 11.)

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

### a) Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre 2009 Social Development Grant

J. Horn provided background information on this issue, and suggested the Committee agree to the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre's request in their letter dated 2009-May-27 to retain \$4,889.20 of their original grant.

A Committee member questioned how the research done could amount to \$4251.48, and reminded the Committee that the applicant had stated that grant money would not be used for research.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by S. Welch that the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre be authorized to keep \$4,889.20 from their 2009 Social Development Grant, and that the remainder be returned to the City. CARRIED.

MOVED by J. Cowling, SECONDED by Z. Maartman to recommend that the \$15,110.80 being returned by the Nanaimo Men's Resources Centre from their 2009 Social Development Grant be returned to the Social Development Grant account. CARRIED.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by J. Cowling that staff provide SPAC with a report on whether the monies being returned by the Nanaimo Men's Resources Centre could be used to address food issues in the community, and if so, what would be the best possible way. CARRIED.

Mr. Jones left the meeting.

## 9. COMMITTEE UPDATES / COUNCIL MONITORING / INFO ITEMS

### a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

R. Meyerhoff reported that PNAC considered a referral from Council at their last meeting regarding a proposal to rename the Harewood planning area on Figure 3-Planning Areas

of the OCP. PNAC subsequently recommended to Council that the name of the planning area in question be changed from 'Old City / Vancouver Island University', to 'Vancouver Island University'.

b) Grants Advisory Committee

J. Neville advised that Loaves & Fishes Foodbank's plan to upgrade their building was discussed at the last Grant Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee subsequently recommended to Council that \$5,000 be allocated to Loaves & Fishes, but that they apply for other sources of funding as well.

The Committee also recommended that the BCSPCA SNIP Program for low-income families receive \$15,000 in funding.

c) Council Monitoring

*May 11 – J. Neville reported:*

- Council approved \$4,000 in funding for the development of a strategic plan for the Morden Mine site, because of the tourist value to Nanaimo.
- Regarding requests that the name "Empire Days" be changed, Council took no action as they did not think it was the City's responsibility to do so.
- Interesting to note that no property owners attended the meeting to provide information on their 'Nuisance Properties'.

*May 25 – R. Meyerhoff advised:*

- JoAnne Dundas made a presentation to Council regarding Hunger Awareness Day on 2009-Jun-05.
- The Zoning Amendment Bylaw pertaining to park zones passed third reading.
- A VIU professor provided some scientific information related to the proposed cosmetic pesticide ban, noting that a blanket ban is not what's required.

## 10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

### 11. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

a) LRS Application – University Village, 530 Fifth Street (RA219)

The Committee discussed information heard earlier in the meeting regarding the proposed LRS at University Village. Some of their comments were:

- Kids will find liquor no matter where it is.
- Takes issue with that statement – what about the regulation of cigarettes?
- Must consider the professionalism of the mall renovation. There won't be as many thieves in a more controlled setting.
- Has to do with personal responsibility.
- An LRS will make the mall more of a functioning unit by providing "one stop" shopping.
- So much of domestic violence stems from alcohol.
- Harewood is a vulnerable community.
- Would like to know the reasons 35% of people surveyed were opposed to the inclusion of a liquor store at University Village.

- Concerned about alcohol being easier to get in this vulnerable area.
- Let the market determine it. May present problems for some people.
- Going on an assumption that violence will get worse. Part of improving Harewood is to have more people enter the area, and to do that you have to provide the amenities that will attract them.
- Opposing the LRS feels like borderline prohibition and censorship.
- Need to decide what the right amount of liquor stores for our community are. When are there enough?
- Liquor stores located inside malls have less impact. There is a big difference between a liquor store located within a commercial corridor like Woodgrove to one located in a vulnerable area like Harewood. Would like to hear from the neighbourhood and the RCMP.
- Is there any kind of mechanism similar to a good neighbor agreement that could be put into place to mitigate negative effects?

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by J. Cowling to recommend that Council approve the application for an LRS at University Village. CARRIED.

## 12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2009-Jul-07 at 4:45 pm in the City Hall Board Room.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee thanked John Horn for raising the profile of social issues in Nanaimo.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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Chair

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Date