



MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2009-MAY-05
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL

PRESENT:

Val Alcock-Carter
Janet Cowling
Judy Lekisch
Ralph Meyerhoff
Sharon Welch

Bev Barton
Elizabeth Forrester
Zeni Maartman, Acting Chair
Jane Templeman

REGRETS:

Adam Evans
John Neville

Jim Kipp

STAFF:

John Horn, Social Planner

Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

OTHER:

Theo Boere, Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre
Lynne Brown, Social Development Strategy Steering Committee

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:50 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF LATE ITEMS

MOVED by S. Welch, SECONDED by V. Alcock-Carter that the Agenda as presented be approved. CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by S. Welch, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the Minutes from 2009-Apr-09 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

5. DELEGATIONS

a) Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre

Theo Boere, Executive Director of the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre distributed information on the 'Male & Transgendered Sex Trade Workers' project for which they received a 2009 Social Development grant. Mr. Boere noted that based on a report done by VIU students, and his own research, there does not appear to be a significant problem in Nanaimo with street-based male and transgendered sex trade workers. He

suggested that the remaining grant funds (approx. \$15,000) either could be used to address 'fatherlessness' in the community, or to work with the RCMP and the court system to provide counselling for men who use street-level sex trade workers.

The Committee questioned the use of grants funds for the first phase research piece, as they believed those funds were only to be used for the second phase of the project. City staff will review the original application from the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre for clarification at the next meeting.

Regarding the two options Mr. Boere suggested for the remaining funds, he noted that they are both important but would recommend that the Committee choose one so as not to dilute the funds. He also advised that the remaining funds could be returned to the City.

MOVED by J. Templeman, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff to receive the delegation.
CARRIED.

Mr. Boere was thanked for the information, and he left the meeting.

This item will be placed on the next agenda in order to give the Committee time to review the information received from Mr. Boere. J. Horn will ask Mr. Boere to provide financial information on how the partial grant funds were disbursed.

b) Social Development Strategy Steering Committee

Lynne Brown, Chair, Social Development Strategy Steering Committee advised the committee has been in place for almost 10 years, and that it presently consists of representatives from Nanaimo Youth Services Association, Multicultural Society, United Way, School District, VIU, and the federal and provincial governments. They originally met to share information, but have changed their mandate to initiate projects that improve the health of the community; i.e. Clemente Program. They would like to have a stronger relationship with SPAC.

They are presently involved in the Mt. Benson School re-use consultation process. As well as helping to decide what to do with the school, a template will have been created on how to "re-purpose".

In 2006, they paid to have the Strategy's indicators updated, and last year they agreed to be the steward of the Strategy. They would like to request that \$10,000 to \$15,000 in funding be budgeted to have John Talbot & Associates do another update on the indicators using 2006 census data. (The next census will be done in 2011).

J. Horn advised that SPAC refers to the indicators when deciding grant criteria, and funds could be requested in the City's 2010 budget.

Regarding which indicators would be updated, J. Horn advised that could be left to the discretion of the Social Development Strategy Steering Committee.

L. Brown commented that in a recent community consultation, they heard that assistance in providing leadership and support with board development and capacity is required.

Ms. Brown was thanked for the information, and she left the meeting.

c) Enterprising Women

J. Horn noted that Eileen Page was unable to attend meeting. He questioned whether the requested letter of support should come from Council, or from SPAC. Prior to any letter being prepared however, the Committee stated the importance of Ms. Page first attending a SPAC meeting in order for them to meet her personally and attain more information regarding the initiative. John clarified that the initiative is not a “non-profit” and will be run on an entrepreneurial basis.

MOVED by V. Alcock-Carter, SECONDED by S. Welch that Ms. Page be invited to the next SPAC meeting, and that she be advised that SPAC is not prepared to make a recommendation to Council regarding a support in principle letter until they have spoken with her. CARRIED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Committee received a letter dated 2009-Apr-03 from Brechin Hill Community Association advising how their 2008 Community Service grant was utilized.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Invitation to Awards Luncheon

The luncheon will be held at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, May 20, in the Salal Room, Oliver Woods Community Centre, and Committee members are invited. Members will RSVP to Cindy.

In response to a concern from a Committee member, City staff will look into arranging the ceremony in order to allow recipients to speak for a few minutes if they wish.

- b) City of Nanaimo Affordable Housing Policy

J. Horn requested feedback from the Committee on a draft City of Nanaimo Affordable Housing Policy. Some of their comments/questions were:

- Will incentives to build secondary suites be included in the policy?
J. Horn – Incentives will not be given to ‘for profit’ companies. Exceptions might be considered if affordable housing buildings are constructed.
- Are there any taxation advantages in providing secondary suites?
J. Horn – No, the federal government does provide funding through CMHC but homeowners must agree to keep rents low for 10 years. The City of Victoria provides homeowners with \$5,000 if they put a secondary suite in their home because the majority are reconfiguring existing homes, but Nanaimo has a 55% take-up in new buildings for secondary suites, so incentives are not required. Amendments will be able to be brought forward to enhance the policy. The present policy is very minimal.
- Accountability – After City property is leased for a housing project, what is in place to ensure that it is done?

J. Horn – The lease doesn't get written until the building permit is issued so changes would be through the building permit process. If the holder of the lease disbanded, the lease would revert back to the municipality. A certain amount of flexibility is needed in the lease regarding service delivery in order to make changes that might be required over time.

- Concurs with the lower level of municipal subsidy in the assisted home ownership portion of the policy. The policy is 50% reduction from market in selling land for this purpose. This makes it easier to support the provision of municipal land for this purpose.
- It is a very well written document and strongly supports it.

MOVED by E. Forrester, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff to recommend that the final version of the Affordable Housing Policy be adopted by Council, contingent upon it first being circulated to SPAC. CARRIED.

8. ISSUES ARISING OUT OF NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. COMMITTEE UPDATES / COUNCIL MONITORING / INFO ITEMS

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

R. Meyerhoff advised that the RDN is going through a community consultation process for their Regional Growth Strategy, and PNAC has been asked to provide comments, as Nanaimo's community plan must fit in to their plan. As there is a small social aspect to it, Ralph encouraged SPAC to view it at www.shapingourfuture.ca and provide their input online.

J. Horn asked SPAC to consider whether adding a representative from the Regional District to SPAC would be beneficial.

Ralph also advised that a public hearing will be held on 2009-May-07 regarding parks zoning which will include the addition of three new definitions: Nature Park; Community Park; and City Park.

b) Grants Advisory Committee

No report.

c) Council Monitoring – April 20

E. Forrester advised:

- Several delegations were opposed to the proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw which would downzone their properties situated in the Agricultural Land Reserve, as they believed that their properties would decrease in value.
- Delegations of street performers were opposed to being under the authority of the SAFER Nanaimo rather than Parks, Recreation and Culture.

- Canadian Cancer Society showed a video regarding pesticide use. Council subsequently directed staff to restore the educational program that had been proposed by the Advisory Committee on the Environment in the fall of 2008.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

a) Emerging Issue – Food Distribution

J. Horn advised that discussions have been taking place regarding the rising demands on food banks, and the inflexibility that a lack of a warehouse to store donated food creates. V. Alcock noted that in the study done on the subject, it was found that it would be very expensive with rents being so prohibitive.

J. Horn will invite JoAnne Dundas, and Loaves and Fishes incoming executive director, to SPAC's next meeting.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2009-Jun-02 at 4:45 pm in the City Hall Board Room.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

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Chair

Date