

MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 2008-MAY-14, BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL

Present: Diane Brennan, Chair
Bev Barton
Elizabeth Forrester
Diana Johnstone
Ralph Meyerhoff
Val Alcock-Carter
Andrea Bonkowski
Lynne Fraser
Zeni Maartman
Kathy Torhjem

Staff: John Horn, Social Planner
Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Adam Evans
Amrit Lally

1. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 4:50 p.m.
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The agenda was approved as presented.
3. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS MADE AT LAST MEETING
MOVED by V. Alcock-Carter, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the motions made at the SPAC meeting held 2008-Apr-09 be adopted. CARRIED.
4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by K. Torhjem that the Minutes from 2008-Apr-09 be adopted. CARRIED.
5. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES:
None.
6. DELEGATIONS
None.
7. CORRESPONDENCE / NEW BUSINESS / COMMITTEE UPDATES / INFO ITEMS
 - a) Proposed conversion of apartment building at #1 Chapel Street to condos:
D. Brennan advised that this building, which is one of the last rentals in the city, has a new owner who is interested in converting it to condos. (The City has a policy to not allow reduction in the rental stock when there is less than a 3% vacancy rate.) Residents of the building appeared at a Council meeting and urged Council to not approve the conversion because they could not afford to purchase a unit. The owner has stated that if their request for conversion were approved, they would include a covenant disallowing the strata corporation from prohibiting rentals. The recommendation made by City staff to Council was to deny the conversion. There has not been any purpose-built rental buildings built since the 1980's, and conversion of the above-noted building would remove 125 units from a fairly limited stock. Council referred the proposal back to the developer for six months to try to come to an agreement with the tenants. Diane noted that if the conversion proceeds, the developer will donate \$1 million to the Housing Legacy Fund.

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by K. Torhjelm that SPAC support the City staff recommendation that Council not approve conversion of the apartment building at #1 Chapel Street to condos. CARRIED.

b) Reports from Committee Reps.

PNAC - R. Meyerhoff reported that a public meeting was held in April on the new draft Official Community Plan (planNanaimo). PNAC heard several delegations, and City staff has since done rewrites to planNanaimo that include many of the suggestions made at the meeting. PNAC has since endorsed the revised OCP and have sent it to Council for consideration.

Secondary Suites Task Force - L. Fraser advised that the task force came to consensus on allowing secondary suites in accessory buildings and sent a recommendation to Council in this regard.

Grants Advisory Committee - Z. Maartman advised that the committee completed deliberations regarding permissive tax exemptions. She also advised that the Men's Resource Centre appealed SPAC's recommendation to Council to not award them a Social Development grant, and the Grants committee concluded that an error in processing had been made, in that the NMRC were not given a two-week period to build an appeal if they wish, prior to SPAC's recommendation going to Council.

MOVED by K. Torhjelm, SECONDED by D. Johnstone to accept the reports from the committee representatives. CARRIED.

c) Council Monitoring

April 14 - B. Barton - Bev noted:

- Parks & Rec's LEAP Card was amended to increase the number of free adult passes to 50.
- A bylaw is to be prepared for secondary suites in accessory buildings.
- The new president of the 7-10 Club introduced herself. [Since then she has been replaced by Gord Fuller and Ewan Cameron as co-chairs.]

April 28 - R. Meyerhoff - Ralph reported:

- A minute of silence was held for workers who had been injured or killed last year in occupational accidents.
- June 5th was proclaimed 'National Hunger Awareness Day' following a presentation by Loaves & Fishes.
- The Canadian Cancer Society gave a presentation on the link between cancer and pesticides.
- Harbourfront Plaza was renamed 'Diana Krall Plaza'.

MOVED by A. Bonkowski, SECONDED by E. Forrester that the council monitoring reports be accepted. CARRIED.

d) Review Community Service Grant Applications

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by A. Bonkowski that the guidelines be amended to allow for the allocation of up to \$15,000 in the spring, if necessary, and the remainder of the \$25,000 in the fall. CARRIED.

The Committee reviewed the 12 applications for Community Service Grants.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by K. Torhjem to recommend the following allocations. CARRIED.

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
South End Community Association	Initiatives to improve & strengthen their neighbourhood.	\$2,500	\$2,000
Brechin Hill Community Association	Initiatives to improve & strengthen their neighbourhood.	\$2,500	\$1,000
Nanaimo Foodshare Society	Activities for the Community Roots Food Garden Project	\$2,500	\$2,000
Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre	Father's Day in the Park	\$2,500	\$750
Morrell Sanctuary Society	Resurfacing the "Yew Loop Trail"	\$2,500	\$0
Nanaimo Community Gardens Society	Community Gardens Project	\$3,000	\$2,000
	Gleaning Project	\$4,000	\$0
Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association	Annual History Night	\$190	\$190
Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association	Annual Picnic	\$510	\$510
Harewood Community Centre Cooperative	Engaging the services of a professional to update their feasibility study	\$2,000	\$1,000
Newcastle Neighbourhood Association	Street Beautification Block Party (Picnic)	\$2,500	\$1,000
Nanaimo Arts Council	Offering artistic people from low socio-economic brackets the opportunity to promote their	\$2,500	\$0

	art/performance skills		
Nanaimo Harbour Watch Society	Fuel, insurance, maintenance & improvements to their vessel	\$2,500	\$0
Total		\$29,700	\$10,450

MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by A. Bonkowski that SPAC re-examine the guidelines and criteria of Community Service Grants; i.e. policy and timeframe. CARRIED.

8. ISSUES ARISING OUT OF NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Not addressed.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2008-Jun-11.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.