

MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 2008-APR-09, BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL

Present: Diane Brennan, Chair
Bev Barton
Ralph Meyerhoff
Val Alcock-Carter
Elizabeth Forrester
Kathy Torhjelm

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

Regrets: Andrea Bonkowski
Lynne Fraser
Amrit Lally
Adam Evans
Diana Johnstone
Zeni Maartman

Others: Theo Boere, Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre
James Latour, Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre
Tanis Daggert, B.C. Healthy Living Alliance

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:50 p.m. without a quorum. Chair Brennan advised that motions made would be ratified at the next meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by E. Forrester that the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Correspondence dated 2008-Apr-07 from JoAnne Dundas, Loaves & Fishes Food Bank and Anita Smith, Nanaimo Community Kitchens regarding funds remaining from City grants.
- Correspondence dated 2008-Mar-26 from Leonard Krog, MLA in response to SPAC's letter to him regarding the closure of ADAPT.

CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by V. Alcock-Carter, SECONDED by E. Forrester that the Minutes from 2008-Mar-12 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES: (Not addressed)

5. DELEGATIONS

a) Men's Resource Centre (NMRC)

Theo Boere, Executive Director and James Latour, Centre Administrator of the Centre distributed an information package and described the 13 programs currently running at the Centre. Some of their comments, and answers to questions from the Committee were:

- People can walk in to the Centre and receive services, or be referred to other agencies in order to avoid duplication of services. The Centre tries to fill gaps in resources, not duplicate them.
- The Centre focuses on men's issues, but also wants to include a female perspective on what they are doing.

- A researcher from Toronto recently advised that the NMRC is the only men's centre in Canada offering such a wide variety of programs, and that Nanaimo's centre can be a model for other communities across the country.
- Due to a lack of similar centres in other communities, the Centre is now serving clients on a province-wide basis.
- The Centre assists approximately 10,000 people per year, including walk-ins, workshop attendees, and phone and email clients.
- They have received support from the Federal and Provincial governments, but not very much from the City.
- Three full-time and four part-time employees work at the Centre.
- Men are reluctant to seek help. The Centre is working to change society to make it okay for men to ask for help, and not feel shame in doing so.
- The Centre has counselors that help men suffering from domestic abuse. Stats show that domestic violence runs equally between men and women. As a society, we need to do more to define that violence.
- With regards to income testing, the Centre does require that information from clients. Approximately 80 - 90 % of clients have low incomes. The Centre does not subsidize anyone 100%.
- Some clients are afraid to go to the new Family Justice Access Centre, because they think it is part of the "lawyer system" that is keeping them poor. The NMRC works closely with the Justice Centre, and have referrals back and forth.
- NMRC's programs do not overlap with Family Life's. The Anger Management programs offered by Family Life and Shore Counselling are different from the NMRC's program.

Mr. Boere and Mr. Latour were thanked for the information they provided and they left the meeting.

b) B.C. Healthy Living Alliance

Tanis Daggert, Community Capacity Facilitator for Vancouver Island addressed the Committee on this new initiative:

- A number of disease-oriented agencies have recognized three common risk factors amongst chronic diseases: not eating healthy; smoking; and not being physically active.
- The Provincial government has therefore allocated \$25 million to this new initiative which has identified four strategies: Healthy Eating; Physical Activity; Tobacco Reduction; and Community Capacity Building.
- The way our communities are constructed, and the way we socialize, impacts our health.
- Goals in the new draft OCP which fit with this new initiative are: 'Goal 3 - Encourage Social Enrichment'; Goal 5 - Protect and Enhance our Environment'; and 'Goal 6 - Improve Mobility and Servicing'.
- She would like to volunteer to help vet a proposal through this initiative that might come from the community via SPAC's Community Service Grant process, and would be willing to host an information meeting.

K. Torhjelm commented that some very active neighbourhood associations exist in Nanaimo that already have goals for their areas. They should be worked with, and not imposed upon.

MOVED by K. Torhjem, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff to receive the delegations.
CARRIED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Correspondence dated 2008-Apr-07 from JoAnne Dundas, Loaves & Fishes Food Bank and Anita Smith, Nanaimo Community Kitchens regarding funds remaining from City grants, requesting that they be permitted to use those remaining funds to continue to provide the 'Low Cost Cooking for Health' program for another 20 weeks.

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by B. Barton that the request be approved.
CARRIED.

- b) Correspondence dated 2008-Mar-26 from Leonard Krog, MLA in response to SPAC's letter to him regarding the closure of ADAPT.

MOVED by E. Forrester, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the correspondence be received. CARRIED.

K. Torhjem noted that the letter sent to Brechin United Church thanking them for their efforts regarding the satellite food bank, was very much appreciated by the Church.

7. NEW BUSINESS / COMMITTEE UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS

- a) Reports from Committee Reps.

Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee - R. Meyerhoff reported that the public Open House on the new draft OCP will be held at Beban Social Centre on Thursday, April 10, at 6:00 p.m. When asked about the approval process for the new OCP, Ralph advised that it would need to be introduced as a bylaw a Council, given a public hearing, then formally adopted by Council before it would come into effect.

Grants Advisory Committee - No report.

Secondary Suites Committee - No report.

- b) Council Monitoring

2008-Mar-31 - E. Forrester advised that the main issue at that Council meeting was the development community's opposition to increasing development cost charges.

- c) Referral from PNAC

The Committee discussed the suggestion made at a recent PNAC meeting that the Brannen Lake Correctional Centre be used to house mentally ill people. J. Horn noted that in the Provincial Throne Speech, it indicated the need for communities to include provision for mental health service facilities in their community plans.

Committee members noted that the Brannen Lake Centre did not appear to have the capacity for this use, and also that any facilities that are built should be small centres

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by K. Torhjem to thank PNAC for the referral, and advise that they are eagerly anticipating the harm reduction and housing action plan from City Spaces Consultants which will form the basis of their response to the Provincial Government throne speech. CARRIED.

8. STRATEGIC PLANNING

a) Social Component of the new draft OCP

J. Horn stated that modification of wording and categories of affordable housing has been forward to City staff for inclusion in the new draft Plan.

b) Community Service Grants

J. Horn advised that he had met with Chris Sholberg, Neighbourhood Planner and Tanis Daggert from the B.C. Healthy Living Alliance regarding the wording for the criteria of this round of Community Service grants. Ads will appear in the 'City Page' of the Bulletin and Daily News requesting applications and advising of the criteria.

c) Condo Conversion - #1 Chapel Street

MOVED by E. Forrester, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the proposed conversion of the apartment building located at #1 Chapel Street to condos be put on the next SPAC agenda for discussion. CARRIED.

J. Horn will bring any City policies that relate to such conversion to the next meeting.

d) Agenda Item - Next Meeting

As the Committee will be discussing the proposed condo conversion and possible effects on affordable housing, J. Horn will invite Jim Spinelli from Nanaimo Affordable Housing to the next meeting as a delegation.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2008-May-14.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.