

**MINUTES**  
**SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, 2008-FEB-13, BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL**

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**Present:** Diane Brennan, Chair  
Andrea Bonkowski  
Elizabeth Forrester  
Diana Johnstone  
Ralph Meyerhoff

Bev Barton  
Adam Evans  
Lynne Fraser  
Zeni Maartman  
Kathy Torhjelm

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

**Regrets:** Val Alcock-Carter

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:50 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by K. Torhjelm, SECONDED by E. Forrester that the agenda be approved with the following addition:

- Committee vacancy
- CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by L. Fraser, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the Minutes from 2008-Jan-09 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- a) Cable Bay OCP Application - J. Horn advised that B. Anderson, Manager of Community Planning will attend the next SPAC meeting to provide information on this application.
- b) Revised OCP Social Component - As the revised OCP is still being drafted, John was unable to bring the social section to the meeting, so will endeavour to bring it next time.
- c) Safe Needle Disposal Boxes - J. Horn noted that he would be meeting with the Fire Chief and reps. from the needle exchange next week so would advise further on this issue at the next SPAC meeting.
- d) Secondary Suite Task Force - R. Meyerhoff advised that the task force will be reconvening next week.

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE

### a) 2007 Social Development Grant Final Reports

MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by K. Torhjem that the following reports be received:

- Cedar Community Policing Office
- Nanaimo Regional John Howard Society
- Nanaimo Addiction Foundation

CARRIED.

### b) Nanaimo Women's Resources Centre - Email dated 2008-Feb-06 regarding unspent Social Development grant funds.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by D. Johnstone to approve the Nanaimo Women's Resources Centre's request for permission to transfer unspent 2006 Social Development grant monies to their 2007/08 program. CARRIED.

MOVED by E. Forrester, SECONDED by L. Fraser to receive the 2007 Social Development Grant Final Report from the Nanaimo Women's Resources Centre. CARRIED.

### c) Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre - Letter dated 2008-Feb-04 appealing the rejection of their recent Social Development Grant application.

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by Z. Maartman that a letter of receipt be sent to the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre thanking them for responding to SPAC's concerns, and advising that their appeal has been forwarded to the Grants Advisory Committee; and advising that SPAC looks forward to receiving future grant applications from them. CARRIED.

MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by L. Fraser that criteria be developed and included in the Social Development Grant Guidelines, that proper governance must be adhered to. CARRIED. [i.e. executive directors of non-profit agencies cannot sit on their respective boards]

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by A. Bonkowski that non-profit organizations be invited to SPAC meetings on a regular basis to inform SPAC of their issues and what they seek to do about them, and that the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre be the first non-profit organization to be invited. CARRIED.

## 6. COMMITTEE UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS / NEW BUSINESS

### a) Reports from Committee Reps.

**Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee** - R. Meyerhoff advised that he is considering resigning from PNAC because of the direction the City seems to be taking that Committee. He noted that a presentation given by the City Manager to Council with regard to moving the Urban Containment Boundary and "inviting" the Cable Bay development in, is a very different direction than where PNAC wanted it to go. He felt

that PNAC had been slighted, and that Management and Council had totally bypassed one of their advisory committees and not let them be part of the process. He stated there are other members of PNAC who feel the same.

When asked if he, as the SPAC representative on PNAC, had the opportunity to bring social issues to the PNAC table, Ralph stated that he had, and that SPAC should continue to be represented on PNAC.

***Grants Advisory Committee*** - Z. Maartman advised that the Committee would not be meeting until March, so had nothing new to report.

- b) Council Monitoring - 2008-Jan-14 - Z. Maartman advised that the City Manager gave a Power Point presentation, part of which was about the ramifications of following sustainability practices or not.

Zeni also advised that she had attended an event sponsored by the Cable Bay developers that had Michael Campbell as a speaker. At the event, people were being encouraged to attend the public hearing on the Cable Bay OCP amendment bylaw, and vote in favour of the bylaw.

- c) Review of SPAC's presentation to Council on 2008-Feb-11 regarding the Social Development Strategy
- Kudos to Zeni and Bev on their presentation to Council.
  - It was received very well by Council, as there was no debate prior to them endorsing the Strategy and adopting the Social Status Report.
  - SPAC will now need to determine what indicators should be the next to be updated.

When asked whether the Strategy will be a living document for Council, D. Brennan stated that she believed it will be up to the Social Development Strategy Steering Committee to keep it alive, as she did not think Council would refer to it in any great detail.

MOVED by B. Barton, SECONDED by K. Torhjem that the reports from the Committee reps. be received. CARRIED.

MOVED by A. Bonkowski, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the Council monitoring report be received. CARRIED.

MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by L. Fraser to receive the report on SPAC's presentation to Council regarding the Social Development Strategy. CARRIED.

- c) Closure of ADAPT - J. Horn advised that ADAPT have been around for 10-15 years and have been the key non-profit in Nanaimo providing assistance to people with drug and alcohol abuse problems. They also operate six beds, funded by VIHA, for youth involved in substance abuse. (The John Howard Society will take over the contract for six months until this is sorted out.) The executive director of ADAPT has resigned, and the volunteer board of directors have decided to dissolve the organization rather than run it until another executive director is found. A problem with dissolution is that all of the assets will revert back to VIHA, and may be lost to the community. Under the *Societies Act*, however, the board of directors could exercise the option to have the assets disbursed to other "like-minded" non-profits in Nanaimo instead.

MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by A. Evans that letters be sent to Nanaimo's MLAs expressing the urgency of the services that had been provided by ADAPT being continued, and that steps be taken to ensure that the assets of ADAPT remain in Nanaimo. CARRIED.

Discussion followed on the difficulties that non-profit boards face in finding members. Some points made were:

- Chamber of Commerce provides director education every year.
- It might be appropriate to put a call out to the community advising of the number of groups that are looking for board members and executive directors, and have a type of trade show.
- Don't see it as SPAC's mandate to run workshops for volunteers.
- Could meet with the Volunteer Centre and advise that we have identified this as a problem, and suggest they apply for a grant to assist with such a workshop.
- Such a workshop might alleviate funding overlaps as well.
- Non-profit society boards are difficult to sit on because of the extensive fundraising requirements.
- A service as important as ADAPT should be fully funded, with a well-paid executive director.
- Non-profit society boards that are working well should be showcased to demonstrate what they have done to be successful.
- There are many young people at Mal-U that want to be involved but aren't aware of the various societies. Maybe utilize the Mal-U bulletin board or the Navigator newspaper.
- Societies need to be considering succession training considering all of the executive directors that will be retiring in the near future.

MOVED by E. Forrester, SECONDED by K. Torhjem that a letter be sent to the ADAPT board thanking them for their past efforts, and urging them to continue their work in the community. CARRIED.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by K. Torhjem that J. Horn explore ways that SPAC could initiate getting more people involved in non-profit organizations. CARRIED.

- d) SPAC Vacancy - J. Horn advised that three applications had been received for the vacant position. The Committee decided to extend the application deadline date and accept further applications, as it was felt that a larger pool of applicants would allow Council to consider candidates from a diversity of backgrounds.

## 7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2008-Mar-12.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.