

Present: Zeni Maartman, Acting Chair
Adam Evans
Diana Johnstone
Darcy Ross

Bev Barton
Elizabeth Forrester
Ralph Meyerhoff
Kathy Torhjelm

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

Regrets: Val Alcock
Diane Brennan

Andrea Bonkowski
Lynne Fraser

1. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 4:50 p.m. by Acting Chair Z. Maartman.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by E. Forrester that the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Zoning for social services
- Security checks

CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by B. Barton that the Minutes from 2007-May-09 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE
None.

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS / NEW BUSINESS

a) Community Service Grants - J. Horn advised that the grant allocations recommended by SPAC at the last meeting were approved by Council on 2007-May-28. The organizations have been asked to submit a report a year from now on how the funds assisted them with their project.

b) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee - R. Meyerhoff had no report as PNAC had not met since the last SPAC meeting.

c) Grants Advisory Committee - Z. Maartman had no report as the Committee had not met since the last SPAC meeting.

d) Social Development Strategy Steering Committee - J. Horn advised that he had met with the members who sit on the OCP Review sub-committee and had subsequently prepared two draft social components. (See (f) below)

- e) Council Monitoring - From the May 28th Council meeting B. Barton noted that Council standardized bar closings to 1:30 a.m., unless grandfathered. From the June 11th Council meeting, R. Meyerhoff advised that Council approved liquor licenses in Maffeo Sutton Park for the Dragon Boat Festival and Marine Festival in July.
- f) OCP Submission Update - J. Horn advised that in response to the OCP Review consultant recommending that the social component have its own goal in the new OCP, two draft social goals were written in two different formats. Copies were distributed to the SPAC members. One draft was written as a condensed version of the *Social Development Strategy* reflecting its six focus areas. The other draft was entitled *Goal 3: Encourage Social Sustainability* and was written around the key determinants of health contained within the *Social Status Report*. The Committee advised that they preferred the *Goal 3* format and discussion followed, including the suggestion that progress indicators be included.

John will set up a meeting with the sub-committees from SPAC and the Social Development Strategy Steering Committee to "wordsmith" the document, and will then bring it back to a SPAC meeting for further consideration.

- g) Community Service Grant Guidelines - The proposed amendment to the guidelines pertaining to Community Service Grants was distributed and discussion followed:
- Should it be contained in the guidelines that the criteria for each round will be outlined in the advertisement requesting applications?
 - If there is a controversy over what grant allocation the Committee recommends for an organization compared to what the organization had requested, would the applicant appeal to the Grants-in-Aid Committee? This would decrease the possibility of the applicant appealing directly to Council.
 - Don't include festival components in the criteria because festivals already fall under the Cultural Committee's grant criteria. Maybe refer to "community involvement programs" instead.
 - Might be helpful for J. Horn and B. Meunier to meet and discuss the different grant programs to ensure they do not work at cross purposes.
 - Place the ads for the September 15 deadline no later than September 1.
- h) New Grant Applications - J. Horn advised that two applications were received for Community Service Grants after the last batch was considered and the new criteria created. He asked the Committee for direction on how to deal with the applications.

MOVED by K. Torhjelm, SECONDED by A. Evans that letters be sent to the two applicants thanking them for their applications and advising of the new criteria for Community Service Grants, and advising that we will hold their applications until the next round but would accept any additional information that they might like to add to their applications. CARRIED.

MOVED by K. Torhjelm, SECONDED by D. Ross that the new application form for Community Services Grants be approved. CARRIED.

- i) Zoning for Social Service Facilities - J. Horn advised that discussions are still being held with respect to relocating the 7-10 Club to 195 Fourth Street, and therefore Bylaw No. 4000.415 has not yet proceeded to Public Hearing. To ensure a smooth transition, the organizations must be very well prepared prior to notifying the public. Discussion followed:
- Important to get the neighbours on board so J. Horn may go door-to-door with information.
 - Concerned about the City doing the public consultation. Is it not the 7-10 Club's responsibility?
 - The proposed location is a City-owned building. That is why John is considering doing the public consultation in order to ask the public how they feel about the building being utilized for this use.
 - Maybe some of the 7-10 Club clients should go door-to-door.
 - Won't be an easy sell because of NIMBYism.
 - Problem is the perceived increase in the crime rate.
 - If the bylaw passes, soup kitchens will be permitted across the City, so potentially not every hungry person will have to go to the one in this neighbourhood.
 - The bylaw is responding to the issue of concentration of poor people in the downtown core.
 - Is this a SPAC issue or a City issue?
 - SPAC did identify "hot topics" as one of its criteria in choosing topics for consideration.
 - The 7-10 Club could have just moved into the building, but John did not think that was ethical or fair to the neighbourhood.
 - If the relocation to this location does not proceed, other commercial rentals can be considered, if the zoning amendment bylaw passes.
 - Might be an easier sell to the neighbourhood if the 7-10 Club were to put a small soup kitchen in the firehall, but also locate them in other areas across the City as well.
 - Concerned about utilizing industrial land for this type of use. The purpose of the Official Community Plan is to set out the direction in which the City should grow. To say that social service agencies can locate in any industrial lands, goes against this.

MOVED by D. Ross, SECONDED by E. Forrester that SPAC support the adoption of Bylaw 4000.415; the rationale being that the bylaw would support the dispersal of social service agencies throughout the city, and would encourage social sustainability. CARRIED (R. Meyerhoff opposed)

John will look into whether the bylaw could be amended to take into consideration the concerns expressed about the use of industrial land.

- j) Security Checks - Further to discussion at the last meeting, J. Horn advised that SPAC had previously investigated the matter of security checks and determined that because there is a large demand for them in Nanaimo, the cost of doing them is high because a full-time employee is required. Therefore, a fee is warranted. Even when charging the fee, cost recovery does not break even. Council must also adhere to Provincial legislation, i.e. they cannot do less than what the legislation requires. The Committee felt that the fee is problematic for organizations doing one-day events. It was noted that security check grants fall under the purview of the Grants Advisory Committee so organizations can apply for a grant (only up to a maximum of \$300. though).

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2007-Jul-11.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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