

MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 2007-MAR-14, BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL

Present: Diane Brennan, Chair
Kathy Torhjelm
Elizabeth Forrester
Ralph Meyerhoff
Diana Johnstone

Val Alcock
Beverley Barton
Zeni Maartman
Darcy Ross

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

Regrets: Lynne Fraser
Andrea Bonkowski
Eileen Reilly

Guest: Ann Williams, Chair, Social Development Strategy Steering Committee

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 D. Johnstone that the agenda be approved with the addition of an item entitled 'University 101' (K. Torhjelm). CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by V. Alcock, SECONDED by E. Forrester that the Minutes of 2007-Feb-14 be adopted. CARRIED.

The Chair introduced Ann Williams who will speak on the Social Development Strategy later in the meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Letter dated 2007-Mar-01 from the Central V.I. Crisis Society regarding their grant application for 2007/2008.

D. Brennan explained that following a review of all City of Nanaimo grant policies, Council decided that SPAC will now be responsible for allocating Community Service Grants as well as Social Service Community Grants. The grant that the Crisis Centre is requesting falls into the Community Service Grant category. As SPAC has not yet set guidelines for this new category, Diane suggested that a SPAC sub-committee meet to set up guidelines, deadlines, theme, etc. prior to a decision being made on the request from the Crisis Centre. J. Horn, D. Brennan, Z. Maartman and D. Johnstone volunteered to sit on this sub-committee.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by D. Johnstone that the grant request from the Central V.I. Crisis Society be tabled pending a report from the SPAC sub-committee. CARRIED.

In the meantime, SPAC members will read the correspondence from the Crisis Society in order to be prepared to make a recommendation following receipt of the sub-committee's report.

5. NEW BUSINESS / COMMITTEE UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS

- a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee - R. Meyerhoff advised that at the PNAC meeting held 2007-Mar-13, the Committee made their recommendations on this round of OCP amendment applications. Two of the more contentious applications were to remove property located at Cable Bay and Linley Valley from the UCB. PNAC recommended that these applications be rejected, as well as an application that sought to allow highrises along Stewart Avenue. PNAC did however, vote in favour of recommending approval of the application for a large development in the South End. The development would be built over a long period of time and would include a comprehensive plan for the area.
- b) Grants Advisory Committee – Z. Maartman advised that the report that defines what roles the committees will have with the various grants has now been completed. In response to a question, she noted that it would still be useful to have a SPAC rep. on the Grants Advisory Committee for at least another year while the changes take effect.
- c) Council Monitoring – Z. Maartman reported that the Mayor will write letters to the Provincial Government and UBCM requesting the elimination of the \$6. per hour training wage, and that the minimum wage be increased to \$10. per hour.

MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by E. Forrester to approve the committee / council monitoring reports. CARRIED.

- d) Map of Social Service Resource Centres - J. Horn noted some omissions in the map included with the agenda, and advised that he will distribute an up-to-date map at the next meeting.
- e) University 101 - K. Torhjelm advised that the Nanaimo's University Women's Club has requested Malaspina University-College to offer credited courses to low-income people at no charge or for a minimal charge. The University of Victoria is presently offering courses modeled after the Clemente Program which offers courses in the Humanities to people who would normally not be able to afford to go to university, in order to promote personal growth and enrichment and to create a bridge to higher learning.

Ann Williams noted that Mal-U has the budget available to take 20 students per semester, but they need to know that it is wanted in the community prior to implementing the program.

MOVED by K. Torhjelm, SECONDED by Z. Maartman that J. Horn send a letter to Malaspina University-College on behalf of SPAC in support of a Clemente-type program in Nanaimo. CARRIED.

6. DELEGATIONS

- a) Ann Williams, Chair, Social Development Strategy Steering Committee provided the history and an update on the Social Development Strategy (SDS) process:
 - Since inception of the SDS, there have been different "players", but the consistent members have been the School District, VIHA, Nanaimo Youth Services, Mal-U, United Way, Service Canada, and the City.

- The Social Status Report which compared Nanaimo to Kamloops and Prince George contained 50 indicators and was tabled in 2003. It has since been updated in 2006.
- The next phase was the production of the SDS which listed six areas of focus: Education and Learning; Employment and Income; Community and Health Services; Housing and Shelter; Safety and Security; and Community Life.
- There are concerns on how the vision is going to be carried on; i.e. what group should take ownership of the SDS?
- At the Social Determinants of Health Conference held in Victoria in 2006, and in the Early Childhood Indicators, Nanaimo rated poorly.
- The SDS Steering Committee has tabled all of the information and is awaiting direction from SPAC on how to proceed with prioritizing and implementing the suggested strategies contained in the SDS.
- One suggestion is to form a Social Development Council, similar to EDG - believes the circle of prosperity is important; i.e. community vision, economic supporters and economic drivers.
- The North Shore and Richmond are examples of municipalities that appear to be doing things right. They have integrated their services and put a lot of resources into improving social issues. They are organized and very accessible.

J. Horn asked SPAC to consider how the SDS could become a living document. If SPAC sees itself as taking the key role in driving the SDS, then those are the issues that SPAC would become involved in. Some comments from the Committee were:

- SPAC is too constrained to be able to take this on.
- Would lose the other agencies in the SDS Steering Committee if SPAC took on the SDS.
- Wouldn't want to monitor what another group is doing either.
- Maybe the two groups working together would be the best fit.
- If SPAC feels that the SDS is too broad a document for them to take on, perhaps they could pick components from it to support; i.e. take one suggested strategy from each of the six focus areas to work on - maybe the most "damning" one from each.
- John Talbot and Associates are presently investigating who they think should implement the SDS and will be presenting a recommendation in this regard.
- If the City adopts the SDS, it would be linked to the OCP which would mandate the City to ensure that it is implemented.

A. Williams advised that the SDS Steering Committee would like to hold a round table discussion with high level people from the various organizations in order to get buy-in and a budget. D. Brennan advised that J. Berry has stated his willingness to attend that discussion.

Ann advised that she will get information on what is required to form a Social Development Council, and will forward the info. to SPAC.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by K. Torhjem to receive the delegation and to place this item back on the next agenda of SPAC. CARRIED.

7. STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Committee discussed criteria for choosing issues they should assume and came up with the following:

- Unclaimed orphans - social issues not currently receiving attention

- Balance prevention and symptoms
- Hot spots
- Six SDS focus areas
- Geography
- Education and awareness
- SDS systems / action / visible
- Distress
- Drill down vs. Skim over
- Strength based leadership
- All ages
- Prevention

J. Horn will format and forward an email to SPAC members allowing them to give a weighting to these criteria, with the results to be brought back to the next meeting of SPAC for discussion.

8. NEXT MEETING

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.