

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

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**Present:** Diane Brennan, Chair  
Kathy Torhjelm  
Elizabeth Forrester  
Ralph Meyerhoff  
Andrea Bonkowski  
Zeni Maartman (5:00 pm)

Val Alcock  
Beverley Barton  
Lynne Fraser  
Darcy Ross  
Diana Johnstone

**Staff:** John Horn, Social Planner  
Deborah Jensen, Planner, Community Planning  
Holly Pirozzini, Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Eileen Reilly

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 MINUTES

MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the Minutes of 2006-Dec-13 be adopted. CARRIED.

The Chair welcomed new member Andrea Bonkowski (who replaced Donna Allen), and SPAC Committee members introduced themselves.

4. DELEGATIONS

a) Official Community Plan Ten-year Review - Deborah Jensen, Planner, Community Planning, advised:

- The OCP was created in 1996.
- In March, 2006, Council approved review of the OCP.
- The City has hired UMA, Land Consultants from Vancouver, to work with staff on the OCP 10-year review process.
- On November 18, 2006, a community consultation conference was held to receive public input.
- A series of open houses and workshops have been held since November.
- The OCP is currently a cumbersome document and some areas are difficult to interpret. The goal is to make it more reader-friendly.
- A number of goals in the OCP range from the Urban Containment Boundary to protecting the environment, but social issues are not included in the content; which is why this Committee's input is requested.
- Would like to link new policies to do with social planning issues to the Social Development Strategy that is now in place.
- Input from the committee is required prior to April, 2007.

J. Horn suggested the social component in the OCP could be short and broad, but refer to the Social Development Strategy (160 page) document; in other words, link social policies in the OCP to the Strategy document.

MOVED by K. Torhjelm, SECONDED by D. Johnstone, to receive the presentation. CARRIED.

- b) Harewood Family of Community Schools – Marty Cross, teacher at John Barsby Secondary, and other representatives from the Harewood Family of Community Schools, advised that the HFCS is comprised of four schools: Georgia Avenue Elementary, Fairview Elementary, John Barsby Secondary and Nanaimo District Secondary. He provided an informational powerpoint presentation on the history of community schools in Nanaimo, community education principles, partnerships, programs offered (e.g. youth drop-in nights, summer activities, practicums) and the possibility of a Harewood Community Centre Cooperative (copy of presentation attached). Mr. Cross requested the committee's suggestions for making the general public aware that community schools operate in the summer months.

Z. Maartman advised that ICBC has bright yellow "Children Playing" signs available. It was suggested that she contact ICBC and obtain this signage on behalf of the Harewood Family of Community Schools.

MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by D. Ross, that the committee recommend to Council to explore a variety of options to make the community school zones safer during the summer months. CARRIED.

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by D. Johnstone, to receive the presentation. CARRIED.

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE

J. Horn read correspondence received from the Nanaimo Addiction Foundation (NAF), which thanked the committee for providing a Social Development grant and advised that a report would be submitted upon completion of their start-up phase. J. Horn handed out brochures from NAF.

MOVED by K. Torhjelm, SECONDED by Z. Maartman, to receive the correspondence. CARRIED.

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

- a) VIHA Health Promotion Grant – J. Horn advised that the City has received a \$20,000 grant from VIHA (originally allocated for a Needle Exchange Program). Council recently approved use of these funds for an Urban Cleanup Program and the City has now entered into a contract with the Nanaimo Region John Howard Society. This program will address areas such as the Salvation Army, Living Room, Methadone Clinic, and the southend, and will take place in consultation with staff from Social Planning, the Public Works Department, Bylaw Officers, RCMP, Neighbourhood Associations and the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership/Society. J. Horn suggested that the handling of needle drop boxes may be included in the John Howard Society contract.

- b) Grants Advisory Committee – Z. Maartman advised that there had not been a meeting since her last report.

- c) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee – R. Meyerhoff reported that the main focus is the OCP 10-year Review. He suggested that a sub-committee be struck to incorporate social issues into the OCP.

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by V. Alcock that a sub-committee be struck to work with J. Horn to incorporate social issues into the OCP and that this be accomplished prior to April, 2007. CARRIED.

V. Alcock, D. Brennan, D. Ross and E. Forrester volunteered to sit on the sub-committee.

R. Meyerhoff encouraged Committee Members to attend a public meeting to be held Feb. 15 at 5:00 p.m. at Beban Park Complex, respecting the Urban Containment Boundary.

- d) Social Development Strategy Steering Committee – D. Brennan reported that a community meeting was held in October and since that time, the SDS Steering Committee has been working with the writer of the report to bring back the results of that consultation and to advise the committee on how to best have social issues imbedded in the OCP.

J. Horn advised that a discussion has been held with the SDS Steering Committee about incorporating community social issues into the OCP, which would link to the Social Development Strategy. He also advised that there may be a need to include the issue of equitable distribution of affordable housing and the necessary infrastructure and zoning to support this. He stated that he will arrange for a representative from the Social Development Strategy Steering Committee to attend the next SPAC meeting to speak to the committee.

- e) Downtown Social Response Working Group – Z. Maartman reported that a meeting was held with the Downtown Social Response Working Group and the Downtown Safety & Security Group and that a draft document is ready to present to Council. The main issue in the report is the distribution of social service providers in commercial zones throughout Nanaimo.

J. Horn reported that there is a draft document, which combines the thinking of the two groups, which will be brought to a future Finance/Policy Committee of the Whole meeting. [This has been temporarily put on hold until other important community issues are handled (i.e. hotel, conference centre)].

J. Horn advised that he will provide a map to the committee which indicates resource centres and social service providers in Nanaimo.

The Chair advised that this group may ask Council to consider exploring incentives to developers to look at ways to make rents cheaper everywhere in the city, not just in the southend (i.e. an entire floor of a building could be for social services). Another suggestion was for those that are providers, to establish “good neighbour” agreements.

- f) Council Monitoring – A sign-up sheet for 2007 was distributed, as the committee agreed that it was worthwhile to have a SPAC presence at Council meetings.

MOVED by E. Forrester, SECONDED by L. Fraser to approve the committee reports.  
CARRIED.

7. STRATEGY FOR 2007

- a) SPAC and Social Development Strategy – J. Horn stated that the Social Development Strategy needs to be discussed with regards to how SPAC can move the strategy forward. Two possibilities were discussed:
- Create a Social Planning Advisory Council to represent different social sectors, rather than a committee appointed by Council.
  - Create a group of high-powered individuals to take social issues under their wing which could raise awareness and give these issues a higher profile.

J. Horn stated that after a representative from the Social Development Strategy speaks to this committee, it will be easier to determine where SPAC fits in.

- b) Specific Initiatives – The committee discussed the need to establish criteria for choosing SPAC involvement.
- c) SPAC and the Average Joe – The committee agreed that SPAC's relevance to the average citizen who doesn't get involved in social issues and who doesn't know SPAC exists should be included when establishing criteria.
- d) SPAC and Downtown Issues – The committee agreed that downtown issues are a separate focus from all other issues to be established by criteria. The committee was advised of the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership becoming a Society. It was suggested that the Downtown Nanaimo Society needs to be involved in SPAC.
- e) SPAC and Emerging Issues – The committee agreed that part of SPAC's role is to advise Council of emerging issues and that this be a repeating agenda item.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by D. Johnstone that the March agenda be a special meeting with only two agenda items:

1. SPAC and the Social Development Strategy; and
  2. establishing criteria for choosing SPAC involvement in issues.
- CARRIED.

8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- a) Strata Conversions - J. Horn advised that Council has a policy regarding when the vacancy rate is under 3%, there is no permission given for converting rental stock into stratas. J. Horn advised that there are 3,562 formal rental units/apartments in Nanaimo, excluding secondary suites. The committee discussed SPAC's role in setting policy for strata conversions and agreed that this is an issue they would like to be involved in.

D. Johnstone left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

An updated list of Committee Members was distributed to attendees.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2007-Mar-14.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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