

**MINUTES**  
**SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, 2006-NOV-08, BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL**

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**Present:**      Zeni Maartman, Acting Chair      Val Alcock  
                 Donna Allen                                      Beverley Barton  
                 Elizabeth Forrester                              Lynne Fraser  
                 Ralph Meyerhoff                                      Eileen Reilly  
                 Darcy Ross    Kathy Torhjelm

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

**Regrets:**        Diane Brennan  
                 Diana Johnstone

1. CALL TO ORDER  
The meeting was called to order at 4:47 p.m.
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
The agenda was approved as presented.
3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES  
MOVED by K. Torhjelm, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the Minutes of 2006-Oct-11 be adopted. CARRIED.
4. DELEGATIONS  
None.
5. CORRESPONDENCE  
None.
6. COMMITTEE UPDATES
  - a) Grants Advisory Committee - No report (no meeting held since last report).
  - b) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee - R. Meyerhoff advised that a Community Consultation Conference as part of the Ten Year OCP Review will be held on Nov.18 at Mal-U and that SPAC members are invited to attend. The social component will include Mabel Jean Rollings from Victoria as a presenter. Open Houses have also been planned for Nov. 23 at Dover Secondary School, Nov. 29 at Beban Lounge, and Dec. 5 at John Barsby Secondary School.

Ralph also noted that an application for rezoning has been submitted to the City to move an off-track betting site from the Commercial Hotel to the Jinglepot Pub. He is opposed to this gambling expansion as it would remove it from the Downtown core and into a residential area.
  - c) Social Development Strategy Steering Committee - J. Horn advised that the Steering Committee had met with John Talbot who is the consultant updating the Social Status Report. There will be more to report as the update proceeds.

- d) Downtown Social Response Working Group - J. Horn reported that the Working Group at their last meeting discussed zoning for social services in order to formulate a recommendation to Council in their final report.

## 7. STRATEGIC FOCUS - STAFF LED

J. Horn initiated discussion around what the Committee thinks is their intention and what kind of impact they can make on the community. Some ideas were:

- a) Be the group to steer the Social Development Strategy:
- Having a body running parallel to SPAC uses more resources and makes SPAC less relevant.
  - SPAC originally initiated the Strategy process but did not receive sufficient feedback.
  - Use the indicators drawn up by the consultant as the mechanism.
  - Could guide the Strategy economically by using the Social Development Grant Program to address the indicators.
  - Does SPAC's mandate as an advisory body allow for this function?
  - **J. Horn will invite John Talbot to a future SPAC meeting to update the Committee on the process.**
- b) Become involved in specific initiatives such as Homeless Awareness Week. Kelowna's social planning group works on that and other initiatives that are important to them and the community. Consequently, the results are visible and seen as their work.
- c) The Downtown Social Response Working Group have suggested the creation of a high-level committee on social issues. SPAC could help define what that committee's mandate would be.
- d) Participate in the OCP Review process in order to include policies on social issues previously omitted such as gambling and liquor outlets. When the OCP was written ten years ago, it focused mainly on land use. **J. Horn will invite Deborah Jensen to a future SPAC meeting to discuss the OCP Review process.**

General discussion:

- Have always wanted SPAC to be more proactive.
- SPAC's mandate is to advocate for the average citizen as well as those in need. If we do that, people will see SPAC as a resource.
- Should SPAC choose one or two problems in the Downtown core to tackle? If they see their mandate as broader than the Downtown, they should decide between vice issues or quality of life issues to address in order to not spread themselves too thin.
- Shouldn't abandon one for the other. However, strengthening prevention helps to diminish vices.
- If the focus was on quality of life issues, the community's strengths and initiatives being taken to improve the quality of life could be highlighted.
- Have more connection with the neighbourhoods; i.e. put together a presentation to take out to the neighbourhood associations on how to strengthen their association.

## 8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- a) Excellence in Social Development Awards - The Committee were reminded about the luncheon and awards presentation to be held on Thursday, Nov. 9 at the Beban Lounge.

- b) Social Development Grant Program - J. Horn advised that Letters of Intent will be accepted in his office until Friday, Nov. 1. Because of the recent grant process restructuring, there will be an additional \$26,000 available to allocate in 2007 (separate from the present call for LOI's.)

9. COUNCIL MONITORING

- a) K. Torhjem advised that at the Oct. 16 Council meeting, issues discussed of interest to SPAC were permissive taxation and a partnership on responsible gambling. J. Horn noted that at the Oct. 30 meeting there was discussion about homeless mats. **The Committee requested John to look into how they could be proactive about the shelter's needs in order to get the word out to people who are interested in helping.**

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a) J. Horn advised of the affordable housing project proposed for the corner of Bowen and Meredith Roads by the Home Builders' Association in partnership with the City and possibly BC Housing. As there may be opposition to the project voiced at the upcoming public hearing, SPAC members are encouraged to attend the public hearing to speak in favour it.

MOVED by E. Forrester, SECONDED by L. Fraser that SPAC send a letter to City Council congratulating them on their participation in the partnership with the Home Builders' Association to build affordable housing. CARRIED.

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by D. Ross that SPAC send a letter to the Working Group on Homelessness commending them on holding the workshop at which the suggestion from the Home Builders' Association on the affordable housing project was put forward. CARRIED.

- b) J. Horn noted that as per a directive from the last SPAC meeting he has requested information from Tom Hickey, Director of Parks, Recreation & Commission on the process that was followed resulting in a liquor license being issued for the Nanaimo Ice Centre. He will report back at the next meeting.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Christmas Social to be held on Wednesday, 2006-Dec-13 (time and location to be announced). Members are asked to bring a donation to the food bank.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.