

**MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2006-MAR-08
IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL**

Present: Diane Brennan, Chair Ralph Meyerhoff
Val Alcock Tony Davis
Lynne Fraser Kathy Torhjem
Jim Spinelli John Horn
Darcy Ross Donna Allen
Diana Johnstone

Staff

Alison Millward, Social Planner
Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

Regrets

Zeni Maartman

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. and introductions were made. Diana Johnstone was welcomed to the Committee as the representative from the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission.

2. Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved with the addition of a Public Hearing Notice for a Cape Development application.

3. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by T. Davis, SECONDED by D. Ross that the Minutes of 2006-Feb-08 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. New Business:

a) Application for Liquor License - The Committee considered an application from James Street Billiards to license their establishment at 77 Victoria Crescent. Some of the Committee's concerns with the application were:

- the area where liquor would be accessible is too close to the "all ages" area, and people would be able to freely move between the two areas
- the majority of area residents surveyed were opposed to the application
- the mix of kids playing pool and an adjacent bar doesn't seem right
- the Cambie is only two doors away, and there is already a high density of liquor outlets in the Downtown
- worried about a precedent being set in similar establishments
- if the target market is 19-40, it could eventually eliminate an activity for youth

MOVED by V. Alcock, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that SPAC not support the application for a liquor primary license from James Street Billiards at 77 Victoria Crescent. CARRIED.

b) Downtown Nanaimo Partnership - John Horn was congratulated on his appointment as an at-large member of the DNP. John noted the DNP's upcoming strategic planning session on March 23, and said he would report back to SPAC on it. He also brought to

the Committee's attention a brochure that the DNP are proposing on how to respond to aggressive panhandlers and other street people.

- c) WHO Age-Friendly Urban Community Project - A. Millward advised that Council had referred this proposal from the Ministry of Health to SPAC. Municipalities have been invited to submit letters of intent to become a partner city in an initiative that would assist in planning to make their community "age friendly". V. Alcock advised that she had attended a WHO session on emerging issues, and that this proposal may be connected to the 2007 conference that will be held on community plans for seniors, so would support the initiative. D. Ross also noted that as a result of a "slip, trip & fall" campaign in Victoria, the requirement for hip replacement surgeries has decreased, so she would also be in favour of the age-friendly initiative. In response to a question, Alison advised that there is presently no available staff time to work on this initiative.

MOVED by K. Torhjem, SECONDED by L. Fraser to support the preparation of a letter of intent for the WHO Age-Friendly Urban Community Project. CARRIED.

D. Johnstone suggested applying for a Disability Games Legacy Grant in order to hire staff for the WHO project if Nanaimo is chosen as a partner city.

J. Horn also noted the tourism piece, as chosen cities will be listed on a Global Age-Friendly City Index.

- d) Food Link's Warehouse Feasibility Study - T. Davis reported on the needs assessment recently done with the assistance of \$25,000 from VIHA. One component of the study was to look at warehouse models ranging from large facilities down to virtual warehouses; i.e., satellite spots throughout the community with possibly a central kitchen. They will meet with Jim Kipp from the Emergency Program, and also the Salvation Army to ask if they could acquire their emergency vehicle which is not used very often.

Tony also invited SPAC members to attend a presentation at NAC by Jennifer Mullit on March 10 regarding agency collaboration within food security organizations.

MOVED by D. Ross, SECONDED by D. Allen to receive the verbal report re Food Link. CARRIED.

- e) Committee Budget - A. Millward reported that the 2006 budget for SPAC is \$2,300. As this amount has been reduced from previous years, funds can be requested out of the Community Planning budget if necessary.

MOVED by T. Davis, SECONDED by L. Fraser to receive the verbal report on the budget. CARRIED.

5. **Business Arising:**

- a) Harewood Community Centre Co-op Project - A. Millward circulated a feasibility study on establishing a wellness centre in the old Harewood Elementary School building. The report was prepared by a consultant hired with the assistance of Social Development Grant funds. The project's planning group has now decided to pursue the use of the school, with Harewood Mall as their back-up location. Cost-wise, use of the school would only be feasible if a rezoning is not required and costly seismic upgrades are unnecessary.

R. Meyerhoff noted that Malaspina University-College have set up a wellness centre and linkage with the Harewood Community should be pursued.

D. Allen also advised that when on the board of the NDSS multi-use process, a wellness centre was discussed for the Selby Street property as a joint-use project between the School Board and the City.

- b) Excellence in Social Development Awards - A. Millward advised that awards were given out by Council on 2006-Feb-27, and a press release followed. Shaw Cable have advised that they will do a follow-up on recipients as a lead up to the next call for nominations. The idea of a common awards ceremony is still being explored.
- c) 2006 Social Development Grant Program - Notes from the task group meeting held 2006-Mar-08 were reviewed. The Committee discussed whether a call for applications should go out asap for projects running June 1st to December 31st, or wait until October and call for projects starting January 2007, in order to coincide with Council's budget cycle. The consensus was to call for applications asap and carry over any unallocated funds to the next round.

The Committee also had considerable discussion on whether to keep the current two-year maximum on funding, or to only consider projects with a set timeframe in order to avoid creating a sustainability expectation.

D. Brennan noted that there is a difference between projects having end dates, and projects only running for a certain amount of time.

A. Millward advised that she will send out the criteria to the members for discussion at April's planning session.

MOVED by J. Horn, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the grant program continue in 2006 with the existing criteria, but that the criteria be reviewed prior to the 2007 round. CARRIED.

Alison also brought to the Committee's attention the emerging need to enhance the current needle exchange program. As the exchange is only open two days per week, the return rate is low, and the possibility of harm to the public has increased. A pier needle pickup service operates in Victoria where addicts and recovering addicts are paid to retrieve used needles. As VIHA are putting out a needle exchange CFP, it would be timely for the City to consider partnering with VIHA on a pier needle pickup service in Nanaimo to be operated by AIDS V.I.

MOVED by J. Spinelli, SECONDED by K. Torhjelm to recommend that the City of Nanaimo enter into a partnership with VIHA to fund up to \$15,000 for a pilot project for a pier needle pickup project in Nanaimo. CARRIED.

A task group consisting of Darcy Ross, Jim Spinelli and Alison Millward will meet to discuss this project further.

- d) Report on Roundtable on Affordable Housing - J. Horn advised that the forum had a very good turnout. It was quite a diversified group, and he thought the message got out

that Nanaimo is facing a rental housing crisis. A positive thing that emerged from the forum was the offer by a developer to build affordable housing, if the land was donated.

- e) Social Development Strategy - A draft Report to Council on the background of the Social Development Strategy process was considered. When completed, the report will be presented to Council for their endorsement of the Strategy and to feed the Strategy into the Ten-year OCP Review process.

An event will be held in May, facilitated by John Talbot, to re-introduce the Strategy, and give groups actively using it a chance to give presentations.

- f) Committee Terms of Reference - The Committee discussed proposed changes to SPAC's Terms of Reference. D. Brennan will meet with Brian Mehaffey to discuss the changes that staff had suggested be removed, but that the Committee feels are important and wish to leave in.
- g) Public Hearing Notice - A public hearing notice was distributed for Cape's rezoning application for two additional stories on their Front Street development. It was noted that Cape's proposed \$100,000 contribution to the Housing Legacy Fund is conditional on approval of the two extra floors.

MOVED by J. Spinelli, SECONDED by T. Davis that all of the 'Business Arising' reports be received. CARRIED.

6. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be a facilitated strategic planning session on Wednesday, 2006-Apr-12 at 4:45 pm in the Board Room, City Hall. Dinner will be provided.

7. Adjournment:

MOVED by D. Johnstone, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the meeting adjourn at 6:55 pm. CARRIED.