

**MINUTES**  
**SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, 2006-MAY-10, BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL**

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**Present:** Diane Brennan, Chair                      Val Alcock  
              Tony Davis                                 John Horn  
              Diana Johnstone                         Zeni Maartman  
              Kathy Torhjelm

**Staff:** Andrew Tucker, Manager, Community Planning  
             Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Donna Allen  
              Lynne Fraser  
              Ralph Meyerhoff  
              Darcy Ross  
              Jim Spinelli

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:55 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following addition:

- 7(c) Downtown Nanaimo Partnership - update

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by V. Alcock, SECONDED by T. Davis that the Minutes of 2006-Mar-08 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee considered information from Bernie Jones on an Affordable Housing Forum follow-up meeting to be held 2006-May-16. J. Horn advised that this will be a brainstorming exercise. D. Brennan and D. Johnstone advised that they would like to attend. A. Tucker advised that City staff are unable to attend that session, but as all four priorities affect City operations, he has requested that Bernie set up a meeting with City staff when the group's plans are determined.

MOVED by J. Horn, SECONDED by K. Torhjelm to receive the correspondence. CARRIED.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Facilitator's Report from Strategic Planning Session - The Committee discussed the report briefly. D. Brennan will meet with A. Tucker to amend the Committee's workplan with items identified at the session. V. Alcock stressed that communications and committee teamwork should be addressed. The Communications Protocol, the Facilitator's Report, and the draft Committee Workplan Report will be put on the next SPAC agenda.
- b) Social Development Grant Program - A. Tucker advised that full applications were received from the Women's Resource Centre, Nanaimo Community Gardens, and Nanaimo Family Life. The Committee reviewed a table which set out application details. In response to a question from D. Johnstone about "double dipping", A. Tucker advised

that the grant application form specifically asks what other grants have been received or are being pursued, and the information is taken into consideration when the application is being reviewed.

MOVED by K. Torhjelm, SECONDED by T. Davis to recommend that Council authorize the following Social Development Grants:

- Women's Resource Centre's 'Building Bridge's' project - \$9,074.
- Nanaimo Community Garden's 'Gleaning' project - \$10,000.
- Nanaimo Family Life Association's 'Dress for Success' project - \$2,500.

CARRIED.

Committee members were concerned that they had not received a full application from S'Ulwen Syuth, who had submitted a Letter of Intent, and were asked to submit a full application. C. Hall will contact them to determine their intentions.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by D. Johnstone that the SPAC's grant sub-committee be authorized to forward an application from S'Ulwen Syuth to Council for endorsement if it meets the criteria, subject to submission of a complete application before 2006-May-19. CARRIED.

[Note: S'Ulwen Syuth have since advised that the information for a full application is not available at this time. They do however plan to submit a full application in the Fall as part of the next round of grants.]

A. Tucker advised that SPAC's Report to Council recommending the grant allocations will go to Council on 2006-May-29.

- c) Letter of Complaint from N. Abbey - Mr. Abbey's letter of 2006-Apr-26 and the City's response from T. Swabey dated 2006-May-04 were considered. A. Tucker advised that Mr. Abbey was also provided with the facilitator's script and workshop report from April 12 and invited to attend this meeting to voice any concerns he might have. K. Torhjelm stated that this situation brings to light the need for SPAC to be more proactive with neighbourhood associations. Z. Maartman advised that she would be willing to attend the neighbourhood association meetings that Mr. Abbey is associated with.
- d) Summer Homeless Census - J. Horn advised that the Working Group on Homelessness will hold another homeless census on either July 6 or 13 and invited Committee members and City staff to participate. As well as doing the count in known locations where the homeless may congregate, specialized teams will also go to the 7 to 10 Club and other meal program providers. The questionnaire will be amended to try to determine how many of the homeless are/are not drug users. It was also suggested that the census also try to determine what community services the people are aware of and utilize. When asked what is done if the people say they need rehab, John advised that information is readily available, but that there is a gap between intent to seek help and the information available. The homeless census information is used to plan how internal resources are to be allocated, and for lobbying, i.e., asking the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness for rehab beds.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by K. Torhjelm that the Committee authorize the expenditure of up to \$600 to assist with supplies needed for the July 2006 Homeless Census. CARRIED.

MOVED by T. Davis, SECONDED by Z. Maartman to receive the report from J. Horn.  
CARRIED.

D. Brennan advised of a project being done by third and fourth-year student nurses regarding drug addiction in the Downtown, and requested that this item be placed on the next agenda.

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a) Grants Advisory Committee - There was no report as there had not been a Grants Advisory Committee meeting since the last SPAC meeting. [Note: At SPAC's Strategic Planning Session held 2006-Apr-12, T. Davis was appointed as SPAC's rep. on the Council select committee which will review the existing grant processes and policies that pertain to grants to non-profit societies.]
- b) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee - There was no report as R. Meyerhoff was absent.
- c) Downtown Nanaimo Partnership - J. Horn advised that at April's DNP meeting, Island Christian Care's need for a new location for their living room was discussed. A DNP member suggested use of his building located at 55 Victoria Road, and the building has since been leased for this purpose. It was noted that the exit and entrance to the living room is off of Nicol Street rather than Victoria Road partly in response to the concerns of the Nob Hill neighbourhood association.

A. Tucker reported that at the May DNP meeting, the issue of Downtown safety and security was front and centre. Some public pay phones will be removed on Commercial Street and Victoria Crescent to reduce their use for drug activities. The proposed street lighting project along Victoria Crescent is presently being scaled back as costs came in much higher than expected.

D. Brennan advised that as a result of people not congregating in large groups in the 'Red Zone', Downtown merchants are now being inundated with smaller groups gathering in "cubby holes".

A. Tucker also advised that the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership office is hosting the BIABC Conference on May 25th and 26th. One of the sessions is a keynote presentation by the Honourable Chief Judge Hugh Stansfield, Provincial Court of B.C. regarding reform ideas and initiatives for the justice system. If any members of SPAC would like to attend any of the BIABC sessions, they should contact Cindy Hall to register them.

MOVED by K. Torhjem, SECONDED by D. Brennan to receive the committee updates.  
CARRIED.

7. REPORT RE COUNCIL MEETING

T. Davis reported that recognition of committee volunteers was discussed at the Council meeting held May 8th, and City staff were subsequently directed to prepare a draft policy including a letter of appreciation from the Mayor, an annual reception, and public recognition of committee members in the Parks & Rec. Leisure Guide.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2006-Jun-14, at 4:45 p.m. in the Board Room, City Hall.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by T. Davis that the meeting adjourn at 6:05 pm.  
CARRIED.

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