

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

Present: Diane Brennan, Chair Ralph Meyerhoff
Val Alcock Tony Davis
Zeni Maartman Kathy Torhjem
Jim Spinelli John Horn
Darcy Ross Donna Allen

Staff

Alison Millward, Social Planner
Jason Carvalho, OCP Planner
Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

Other

Paul Manhas
Paul Minhas

Regrets: Lynne Fraser

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:55 p.m. and introductions were made. The new members, Councillor Brennan, Jim Spinelli, John Horn, and Donna Allen were welcomed.

2. Approval of Agenda:

MOVED by J. Spinelli, SECONDED by V. Alcock that the Agenda be approved. CARRIED.

3. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by Z. Maartman that the Minutes of 2005-Dec-07 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. New Business:

- a) Liquor Retail Store (LRS) Rezoning Application - J. Carvalho from the City's Current Planning Division advised that the City had received an application from Paul Manhas for a site specific text amendment to the C-13 zone to include "Liquor Store" at 1275 Island Highway South.

Mr. Carvalho gave background information on the City's involvement with LRS applications including Council's adoption of LRS rezoning criteria which requires SPAC's review of the applications.

He advised that the application being considered is for a 3,000 square foot liquor store within an existing commercial unit in South Parkway Plaza. The application is tied to Dizzy's primary license which is moving to the Jungle nightclub. Approximately 30 people attended a Chase River Community Association meeting and indicated their support for the store. A letter was included in the LRS application package from the Chairperson of the Community Association advising of their support.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following information was provided by Mr. Carvalho and Mr. Manhas:

- In relation to the A&W, the proposed LRS will be situated at the opposite corner of the property.
- A covenant could be registered indicating the location.
- The Chase River Arms Pub located in the plaza does not have off-sales, or an LRS associated with it.
- The closest liquor outlets to the area are the Cassidy Hotel, Wheatsheaf Pub, Jolly Miner Pub and Harewood Arms Pub.
- Employees of the LRS would receive training.
- The applicant would provide a \$10,000 public amenity.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by J. Horn to recommend to Council that the application for an LRS at 1275 Island Highway South be approved subject to a site specific covenant being placed on it, and that the license be non-transferable.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion on whether they would be supporting the motion or not. Some members felt that it was their responsibility as members of SPAC to not advocate anything that might increase social problems, while others were of the opinion that there was no correlation between the number of LRS's to increased problems as a result of alcohol use.

The motion was DEFEATED on a tie vote.

Mr. Manhas and Mr. Minhas left the meeting.

- b) Committee Nominations - The following appointments were made:
Committee Vice Chair - Zeni Maartman
Grants Advisory Committee - Tony Davis
Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee - Ralph Meyerhoff
Social Development Strategy Committee - Zeni Maartman

5. Business Arising:

- a) 2005 Work Program - The July 2005 Report to Council which outlined the Committee's priorities for 2005 was distributed and A. Millward highlighted the Committee accomplishments and ongoing issues.
- b) Strategic Planning Session - A. Millward advised that it would be beneficial to the Committee for their March meeting to be a strategic planning session in order to identify what the emerging issues are in the community and what they would like to tackle in 2006, in order to prepare this year's Report to Council. R. Meyerhoff suggested that one issue that should be revisited is the Committee's communication strategy.

It was decided that their March 8th meeting would be a facilitated dinner meeting. The following task group was formed to meet with Alison and the facilitator on February 20th to prepare for the strategic planning session: J. Horn; J. Spinelli, R. Meyerhoff and D. Brennan.

- c) Excellence in Social Development Awards - The SPAC Report to Council on this program was distributed. A. Millward advised that the first set of awards will be presented at the Council meeting to be held on 2006-Feb-27.

- d) Social Development Grant Program - A task group consisting of K. Torhjem, D. Ross, T. Davis and L. Fraser was formed to review quality of life indicators in order to recommend to the Committee what issue the 2006 grant program should focus on.
 - e) Social Development Strategy – A. Millward noted that the Social Development Strategy Steering Committee were meeting on February 22nd, 2006. As SPAC is aware, the group was considering working with a consultant to complete a Service Canada application to the Job Creation Program. Plans are still in place to host a Spring Issues Forum. John Talbot is lined up to facilitate.
 - f) Roundtable on Affordable Housing - J. Horn advised that the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness Issues will be hosting a roundtable on affordable housing on Friday, 2006-Feb-10 with Jim Green as one of the speakers. Architects, builders and contractors have been invited with the focus on implementation.
 - g) Low Literacy Family Kitchen Skills Handbook - A. Millward reported that \$35,000 was received from the Community Health Promotion Fund of UBCM for the development of a Low Literacy Skills Family Kitchen Handbook which will provide families with easy to understand recipes and nutrition-related information. The application was submitted by the City on behalf of a partnership of local agencies including Food Link, Community Kitchens, Literacy Nanaimo and VIHA. K. Torhjem will serve as a liaison to the project.
6. **Next Meeting:**
The next meeting will be a strategic planning session as noted above, on Wednesday, 2006-Mar-08 at 4:45 pm in the Board Room, City Hall. Dinner will be provided.
7. **Adjournment:**
MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that the meeting adjourn at 6:55 pm. CARRIED.