

**MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2005-OCT-12
IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL**

Present: Bill Holdom, Chair Ralph Meyerhoff
Val Alcock Tony Davis
Zeni Maartman Kathy Torhjelm
Ralph Motzek Eileen Hooyberg

Staff

Alison Millward, Social Planner
Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

Regrets: TerryLynn Saunders Phil Field
Darcy Ross Lynne Fraser

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:50 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

The Agenda was approved with the following addition:

- Info. re upcoming NADAC Youth Forum – A. Millward

3. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by R. Meyerhoff, SECONDED by K. Torhjelm that the Minutes of 2005-Sep-14 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. New Business:

- a) Advisory Committee on the Environment – Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner for the City, and Gail Adrienne from Nanaimo Area Land Trust were introduced to the Committee. They were invited to talk about the Environmental Achievement Awards that are given out each year, as SPAC's Excellence in Social Development Awards process was modeled after their program.

G. Adrienne advised that when the Environmental Awards were introduced they were very popular, but interest in them has now dwindled. The ACE Committee is therefore looking at ways to improve the marketing of the awards program. They are considering breaking the awards into two levels: recognition and award of excellence rather than having one award for all levels of achievement. Other changes they are considering are overlapping with other awards, doing a combined award ceremony with other City awards, and redesigning the award so that all City awards are common, but distinct for each category.

R. Lawrance distributed background information on the Environmental Awards and asked SPAC members to get back to him on any critiques they would like to make on that program or suggestions on activities presently not being recognized. He also asked them to consider collaborating on the judging and having an award that has a common element to both environmental and social and to consider the idea of a joint awards ceremony.

A. Millward advised that SPAC, the Heritage Commission, and the Design Approval Committee are interested in a joint ceremony, but the Cultural Committee is not. She also noted that in a conversation with Shaw Cable, they were keen to profile all winners this year and could use the pieces to lead up to next year's awards.

Ms. Adrienne and Mr. Lawrance left the meeting after being thanked by the Committee for attending.

- b) Excellence in Social Development Awards – Information on nominations received was distributed. A sub-committee consisting of A. Millward, R. Motzek, V. Alcock, B. Holdom and K. Torhjem will meet on November 7th to review the nominations and report back to the Committee.

MOVED by K. Torhjem, SECONDED by R. Meyerhoff that acknowledgement letters, to be signed by the SPAC Chair, be sent to the nominators and nominees advising that the awards will be presented by Council in January, 2006. CARRIED.

Discussion followed on the merits and logistics of having a common gala next year for all of the City awards programs that want to participate. It was decided that ACE should be advised that SPAC is interested in a common awards ceremony for 2006, but needs to go through their own process this year in order to be able to critique and provide feedback on the program. After that time, SPAC would like to further discuss with ACE award hierarchy and composition of the proposed joint committee.

- c) Request from UBC for City Letter of Support – Pending, as A. Millward has not heard back from UBC yet with the further information she had requested.
- d) Developer Amenity Contribution Policy – A. Millward advised that this matter has come up as a result of a recent contribution to Clearview Detox by a developer of an LRS. Some structure is needed or non-profits will start questioning why the money is not being distributed equitably. Also, conflict of interest could also be involved. Now that the Housing Legacy Fund has been created, affordable housing could be one of the things negotiated for. The Committee might want to look at Vancouver's property endowment fund as an example of how affordable housing can be developed. B. Holdom noted that legislation allows this, but doesn't require it. R. Meyerhoff pointed out that there are different ways that developers can make community contributions that are more logical at that particular time than affordable housing. He does, however, think that the Housing Legacy Fund is very valuable as it was built into Plan Nanaimo as a way to plan for the growth of the city.

Alison will invite John Jessup to a meeting to discuss how Vancouver's property endowment fund was set up and functions. The Committee could then work on drafting a Report to Council in January which could identify priorities around needs in the community and what would be important for developer amenity contributions to be put towards.

5. **Business Arising:**

- a) Social Development Grants – A. Millward advised that Council on October 3rd approved the grant applications recommended by SPAC. Letters and cheques will be sent to the recipients asap.

- b) Social Development Strategy – A. Millward reported on meetings that had been held to move a Social Development group forward. Carol Mathews had suggested adding key community members to SPAC three times per year for this purpose rather than found a whole new group. Lee Mason also supported this idea. The idea of a task force on seniors was also raised.

In response to a question from B. Holdom, Alison advised that the document has strategies suggested in six areas. The document has not been formally adopted by Council yet, but it is a community document and groups in the community are working with it. It would however be beneficial to have the document formally acknowledged by Council in order to attach it to the Official Community Plan.

- c) SPAC Reports to Council - A. Millward advised that she is continuing to work on the report regarding Housing Need, but the Committee Terms of Reference report is ready to go to Council if the Committee wishes. She pointed out that it would formalize review of the grant program.

MOVED by K. Torhjem, SECONDED by T. Davis that the report regarding Committee Terms of Reference proceed to Council. CARRIED.

- d) Altrusa YWCA Proposal – A. Millward and Z. Maartman reported on a recent meeting at which the possibility of founding a YWCA in Nanaimo was discussed. Some points made at the meeting were:

- the YWCA is not a Christian organization – while its roots may have been it has morphed into a non-denominational society
- support is needed for single women over 50, mature women who are primary caregivers, and stay at home moms – there are few programs in the daytime for these groups
- consider having neighbourhood-based programs
- hold some info meetings at places where these groups of women might already be meeting
- attendees agreed across the board that there is not enough focus on women and that this discussion merits more discussion

- e) Temporary Drop-in / Living Room – A. Millward advised that the Health Authority is doing a proposal call for letters of intent this week.

She also advised that Allan Nielson Welch will be reporting on his findings on social service definitions on October 14th.

- f) NADAC Youth Action Project – A. Millward advised that NADAC will be holding a two-day conference on November 17 & 18 focusing on youth alcohol and drug use. This is part of the Youth Action Project that the City recently granted \$20,000 to out of casino revenue funds. NADAC also received \$30,000 from the Federal Govt. for their project. Everyone is welcome to attend and registration forms were distributed.

In response to a question about the recent Crystal Meth forum, Z. Maartman reported that the event was very well attended, but she was unable to convey SPAC's message from their last meeting, as the facilitator appeared to be making sure that speakers only gave the message that he wanted conveyed. A positive thing that did come out of the forum however was that several people signed up for the 11 sub-committees that were

formed and they will be able to get the message out that there are other problems besides crystal meth in Nanaimo.

B. Holdom noted that Beth Blackburn of the Nanaimo RCMP educated the 600 people in attendance on the facts, and that the drug of choice in Nanaimo is crack cocaine.

A. Millward added that the facilitator stressed the importance of immediate treatment for crystal meth addicts. The Provincial Govt. has not however allocated enough resources for this to happen.

6. Attend Council:

T. Davis reported that the whole focus of the October 3rd Council meeting was the New Nanaimo Centre and that Council were "grilled" on the subject.

7. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2005-Nov-09, at 4:45 p.m. in the Board Room.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.