

**MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2005-JUL-13
IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL**

Present: Bill Holdom, Chair
TerryLynn Saunders
Zeni Maartman
Ralph Motzek
Tony Davis

Ralph Meyerhoff
Darcy Ross
Val Alcock
Lynne Fraser

Staff

Alison Millward, Social Planner
Dale Lindsay, Manager, Planning
Jason Carvalho, Planner
Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

Others

Paul Manhas, 612316 BC Ltd.

Regrets: Phil Field
Eileen Hooyberg

Kathy Torhjelm

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

The Agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Budget Report – A. Millward
- NWGHI Letter – A. Millward

3. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by T. Saunders, SECONDED by D. Ross that the Minutes of 2005-Jun-08 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. LRS Application:

J. Carvalho advised that the applicant, Paul Manhas, is requesting a site specific text amendment to the C-7 zone to include "Liquor Store", in order to locate a liquor store within Harewood Mall. Background material including Council's LRS Rezoning Criteria and Mr. Manhas' letter addressing the criteria, and maps showing the proximity of schools, daycares and public facilities had previously been distributed to Committee members. A letter from Carolyn Iles representing the area's neighbourhood association was distributed at the meeting.

P. Manhas advised that he had been contacted by the owners of the Mall who are planning a major renovation of the Mall and are looking for the opportunity to have a liquor store in the Mall to enhance traffic. He entered into a lease with the owners and applied for the required LRS zoning. He has not contacted the neighbourhood association in the area yet. He asked the Committee to check whether the letter from Ms. Iles was on behalf of the neighbourhood association or from her personally.

L. Fraser commented that the LRS buffer zone appears to infringe on both schools in the area.

T. Saunders noted that Harewood Elementary School shown on the map no longer functions as an elementary school. However, Harewood Mall is used by students from all the schools in the Harewood area.

B. Holdom enquired whether the Mall owners are involved in the submission for the LRS application, and whether it is considered part of the proposed Mall expansion. P. Manhas replied in the affirmative to both questions. J. Carvalho confirmed that the Mall has assigned Mr. Manhas as an agent for them. D. Lindsay stated that the Planning Department has had discussions with the owners of the Mall, but that they have not yet received a development permit application.

P. Manhas advised that he is offering a \$10,000 community contribution as part of the application, and in response to a question advised that the license is being transferred from Dizzy's Nightclub at 44 Commercial Street.

MOVED by Z. Maartman, SECONDED by T. Saunders to recommend that the application be rejected.

Discussion on the motion:

- concerned about the proximity to schools
- more work needs to be done on the application
- the Mall is used by students
- the area around the Mall is a depressed area, and the availability of liquor would add to the difficulties in the area
- does not fit criteria – is too close to schools
- there is already a liquor outlet in the area (Harewood Arms LRS)
- increased alcohol availability increases alcohol use
- concerned about increasing the number of sites selling alcohol - with the transfer of a license, one site is being turned into two
- would have strongly liked to have seen the application included in the overall redevelopment concept for the Mall
- encourages the applicant to communicate with the neighbourhood long before presenting an application to SPAC

The motion carried unanimously.

5. New Business:

- a) Social Development Awards – Drafts of the Awards Program timeline, brochure, press release, and types of awards were distributed and discussed. Suggested changes were noted. Mock-ups of certificates will be brought to the September meeting. Zeni, Lynne and Ralph Motzek volunteered to review nominations when received.

6. Updates of Business Arising:

- a) Grant Review Program – A. Millward advised that the Social Development Grant Program Report was endorsed by Council on 2005-Jul-11. She advised that in the next Call for Letters of Intent she will include the maximum grant amount, clarify that professional development training cannot be funded, and include boundaries of the grant area. Zeni, Val, TerryLynn, Lynne and Bill volunteered to review the Letters of Intent on 2005-Jul-22 at 11 a.m. A. Millward will email out a reminder with the location.

- b) June Social Planning Conference – A. Millward advised that she and Ralph Meyerhoff attended the SPARC Conference in June. The conference was very well attended with most of the delegates being community members and not social planners. Ralph added that SPAC is fortunate to have Alison in this capacity and that they should be a more active support for her. He noted that one of the items discussed was developing a communication plan. He encouraged SPAC to re-address their plan and asked that it be kept on the agendas as an ongoing item. Alison encouraged the Committee to stay connected to the SPARC Network as much as possible.
- c) Social Development Strategy to Council – A. Millward requested Committee members who were reviewing sections of the Strategy to type up their thoughts and email them to her. She stated that the Social Development Strategy group is modeled after the Economic Development Group. Because its scopes are so far reaching, having that entity might provide the opportunity to bring those partners together under a Memorandum of Understanding. Therefore, one of SPAC's recommendations to Council might be to provide some financial support for that group. SPAC may also wish to consider recommending that the City implement a community consultation policy, look at its Human Resources policy, and lobbying for housing.

She noted that the SDS group had a brainstorming session in June and identified housing and seniors as key issues, and may potentially strike a task force on seniors issues to ensure health, housing and community services in order to be prepared to support Nanaimo's growing seniors population.

Information from Social Development Canada was distributed regarding a Request for Letters of Intent to solicit expressions of interest for funding that will support national learning on pre-established innovative approaches to community-driven collaborations to reduce poverty. Alison will email the information out to Committee members so that they can forward it to their contacts.

R. Motzek left the meeting.

- d) Report on Altrusa Meeting – A. Millward reported on a meeting she attended at which the Altrusa Club suggested the creation of a YWCA in Nanaimo. The issue of competition for funding was acknowledged. It was noted however that if the programs missing from the Community were clearly defined the concept might be accepted. Altrusa will have a needs assessment and demographic profile done, and will meet again in September.

MOVED by T. Saunders, SECONDED by Z. Maartman that a letter of support be sent to the Altrusa Club for their YWCA proposal. CARRIED.

- e) SPAC Report to Council – A. Millward reported that SPAC's reports regarding their 2005 Work Plan and the Social Development Grant Program were endorsed by Council on 2005-Jul-11. Their report regarding a proposed living room initiative at 156 Victoria Road was referred back to staff in order for them to continue working with VIHA and Island Christian Care Society to find a suitable location for a temporary living room. It was determined that this location would not be suitable because of neighbourhood opposition to the idea.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion about the need for a living room prior to the opening of the New Hope Centre. VIHA had agreed to freeing up the operating dollars set aside for the shelter. She will meet with VIHA to discuss other options.

R. Meyerhoff suggested that the Salvation Army's head office be made aware of how they have jeopardized the proposed shelter in Nanaimo by removing their senior people here.

In response to a question. Alison advised that Alan Neilsen-Welch's deadline for his work regarding social service zoning has been extended to September.

She also advised that SPAC's report on their Terms of Reference would be going to the next Council meeting. However, the report on the housing research project is stalled so she will consult with the Manager of Community Planning then re-draft the report.

- f) Budget – There is \$4,028.25 remaining in SPAC's budget.
- g) Letter from the Working Group on Homelessness Issues – B. Holdom advised that he had received a very nice thank you letter from the WGHl for SPAC's monetary assistance with the recent Homelessness Survey.

7. Attend Council:

B. Holdom reported that Council on 2005-Jul-11 committed \$10 million over 10 years to the fire department with the goal of have a six-minute response time to fires. In order to do this the firefighting force will have to be increased from 60 to 100 and two new fire stations will need to be opened. This will also develop a major source of medical help as well.

Bill also reported that there are an increasing amount of enforcement actions against secondary suites going before Council. A large number of the unauthorized suites are finding it too expensive to bring the units up to Code as per the recently adopted guidelines. Alison pointed out that this is the trade-off of having regulations. The newly constructed suites must be of a certain standard, while the older bottom-end suites are weeded out. TerryLynn noted the desperate need now for affordable housing with the loss of those suites.

The Committee then discussed how to make developers provide affordable housing. Bill noted that the City presently negotiates with developers for amenities at the rezoning stage, and that they might consider requesting affordable housing if it is recommended to them by SPAC.

MOVED by T. Saunders, SECONDED by Z. Maartman that the Social Planner prepare a Council report from SPAC on the subject of requesting affordable housing at the rezoning stage of a development. CARRIED.

8. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2005-Sep-14, at 4:45 p.m. in the Board Room. [No meeting in August]

9. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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