

**MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2005-JUN-08  
IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL**

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**Present:**      Zeni Maartman, Acting Chair      Phil Field  
                 Tony Davis                                   Kathy Torhjem  
                 Eileen Hooyberg                                Ralph Motzek  
                 Darcy Ross

Staff

Alison Millward, Social Planner  
Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

Others

Steve Arnett, Exec. Dir., Nanaimo Youth Services Association  
Michelle Dartnall, Exec. Dir., ADAPT  
Diane Brennan

**Regrets:**      Bill Holdom                                   TerryLynn Saunders  
                 Lynne Fraser                                   Val Alcock  
                 Ralph Meyerhoff

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m.

**2. Presentations:**

Steve Arnett and Michelle Dartnall appeared before the Committee on behalf of the Nanaimo Alcohol and Drug Action Committee (NADAC) to request \$8,000 to assist with restructuring their organization in order to provide a coalition that is able to focus on the current and future needs of the community in relation to substance use prevention and treatment. Specifically, funds would assist with the holding of four facilitated planning sessions, providing a report with recommendations in June 2006, and for administration support for monthly meetings from September 2005 to June 2006. They thanked SPAC for recommending that Council allocate funds from gaming revenue to assist with their proposed YAP Project.

Some comments from the delegation were:

- NADAC is evolving in terms of responding to needs of alcohol and drug misuse. As the city grows, problems and complexity increase.
- Looking at having someone come in to look at NADAC's structure and how to increase its responsiveness.
- NADAC is at a critical junction. The whole issue of drug and alcohol abuse, poverty and need for social housing needs more attention.
- Excited about their first formal project, but feel vulnerable because of NADAC's loose structure.
- In response to a question of who NADAC reports to, now that NADAC will be managing a project, it is a good time to look at how to build in accountability.

MOVED by P. Field, SECONDED by T. Davis that the report from NADAC be received.  
CARRIED.

D. Brennan also suggested that NADAC apply to the City's Grants-in-Aid Committee.

Mr. Arnett and Ms. Dartnall were thanked for their presentation and they left the meeting.

**3. Adoption of today's Agenda and Minutes of 2005-May-11:**

The Agenda was approved as presented.

MOVED by T. Davis, SECONDED by D. Ross that the Minutes of 2005-May-11 be adopted.  
CARRIED.

**4. New Business:**

- a) Social Development Strategy to Council – A. Millward advised that the Social Development Strategy Steering Committee have recommitted to its initiative, and to making the document public. They will be holding a facilitated session to identify their top priorities out of the indicators, then each partner will take them back to their organizations. SPAC also needs to review the indicators to create their message back to Council. A sub-committee consisting of Darcy, Eileen, Tony, Zeni, Ralph Motzek and Kathy will meet with Alison to prepare this report.

Alison also advised that the SDS Steering Committee will require funds to assist with publicizing the document but will have more of an idea of how much is required after the Steering Committee has had its session. The importance of this process being as professional as possible was stressed if it is to be as successful and accepted by Council as the EDG Strategy was.

- b) Research Project: Evaluation of Housing Needs in Nanaimo – A. Millward distributed draft Terms of Reference for this project and advised that the focus will be on gathering statistical information on housing needs in Nanaimo and reviewing senior government housing programs. The estimated start and completion dates of the project are July 1<sup>st</sup> and Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 with a budget of \$25,000. Even though this is a staff project, some funds may be required from Casino Revenue because the Community Planning budget for management consulting is also utilized by the other planners in that division.

Alison noted that the upcoming federal budget includes a substantial amount for affordable housing. D. Brennan advised that the budget must first get passed, and encouraged the Committee members to contact their MP's about the importance of this budget proceeding. Alison will provide SPAC with email addresses for the MP's.

**5. Updates on Business Arising:**

- a) Review Message re Grant Availability – A draft of the email CFP was distributed. A. Millward advised that references to a Social Development Grant Program have been removed but key social indicators remain in the message. Alison advised that she is unable to post the message on the City Internet because it is not an official grant program, and therefore feels vulnerable because it does not create a fair playing field.

Allocations so far out of the accumulated \$180,000 in Casino Revenue have been \$12,500 to Food Link and \$20,000 to the YAP Project.

MOVED by T. Davis, SECONDED by K. Torhjem to approve in principle the allocation of up to \$25,000 to assist in publicizing the Social Development Strategy, with the final amount to be determined by the SPAC sub-committee following their meeting and the SDS Steering Committee's session. CARRIED.

MOVED by T. Davis, SECONDED by D. Ross to approve in principle the allocation of up to \$25,000 for the Housing Needs Assessment contract, with the final amount to be determined by A. Millward after looking into what amount can be used from the Community Planning Division management consulting budget. CARRIED.

MOVED by P. Field, SECONDED by K. Torhjem that SPAC recognizes the importance of the grant request from NADAC to assist with their organizational structure, but that the request be held in abeyance pending receipt of all other grant requests in response to the email CFP. CARRIED.

- b) June Social Planning Conference – D. Ross, R. Meyerhoff and A. Millward will attend the Conference with Alison's expenses to be paid out of her department's budget and the Committee members' out of SPAC's budget.

Information was also distributed on a forum to be held in Courtenay on June 21<sup>st</sup> entitled "A Forum for Building Stronger Communities" which will address social economy and social enterprise. Committee members can register themselves if they would like to attend, as there appears to be no fee.

- c) Fall Housing Forum – A. Millward advised that the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness Issues will be holding a housing forum on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2005. The theme of the forum is still to be determined but will be very focused and solution oriented. The group is looking for community partners and SPAC may wish to consider making some kind of contribution; e.g. paying for a coffee break. Providing the information from the proposed Housing Needs Assessment to the forum will allow for a fuller discussion of the issues.
- d) SPAC Reports to Council – A. Millward advised that this item is kept on the agenda because of the various stages that SPAC reports are in. The Committee requested Z. Maartman to continue her discussions with senior City staff regarding the Committee's work program.

**6. Monitor Council:**

E. Hooyeberg advised that at the May 30<sup>th</sup> Council meeting there was considerable discussion about the Foundry. D. Brennan noted Council's decision to give the Zoning Amendment Bylaw for Resort on the Lake third reading, and that City staff had recommended against it. She also advised that she and Councillor McNabb had abstained from voting because of conflicts of interest.

**7. For Information:**

A. Millward advised that the local Altrusa Club is exploring the idea of having a YWCA in Nanaimo with their focus being on the Downtown. Alison will attend their meeting and report back to SPAC.

**8. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be SPAC's annual summer social on 2005-Jul-13 (time and location TBA).

It was also agreed that SPAC meetings will again start at 4:45 p.m. beginning in September. [There will be no meeting in August.]

**9. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

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