

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

Present: Bill Holdom, Chair Zeni Maartman
 Tony Davis Lynne Fraser
 Eileen Hooyberg Phil Field
 Ralph Motzek Kathy Torhjem
 Darcy Ross

Staff

Alison Millward, Social Planner
Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Val Alcock TerryLynn Saunders
 Ralph Meyerhoff

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

2. Presentations:

None.

3. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes:

MOVED by R. Motzek, SECONDED by L. Fraser that today's Agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Community Social Planning Network BC
- Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Chair

CARRIED.

MOVED by R. Motzek, SECONDED by K. Torhjem that the Minutes of 2005-Mar-09 be adopted. CARRIED.

MOVED by L. Fraser, SECONDED by R. Motzek that the Notes from 2005-Mar-15 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. New Business:

a) Process to Review Delivery of Social Services in Nanaimo – Allan Neilson-Welch, consultant, discussed with the Committee the recent changes to the Downtown Zone that created new definitions for Social Service Centre, Social Service Resource Centre and Drug Addiction Treatment Facility. Mr. Neilson-Welch was hired to report to Council on the implications of the changes. The Downtown Zone permits Social Service Centres, but not Social Service Resource Centres or Drug Addiction Treatment Facilities; therefore if an agency wants to open either one, they would have to apply for a rezoning. After hearing concerns at the Zoning Bylaw's Public Hearing, Council decided to adopt the Bylaw then have it re-examined to determine whether the changes to the social service portion of it should be reversed or modified. Some of the Committee's comments were:

- The zoning change was precipitated by the revitalization of the Downtown, particularly bringing the conference centre to the area. As they want to attract people to conventions, they are trying to sanitize the Downtown.

- Prior to this however, changes to the zoning Downtown were prompted because of the need to restrict high-rises to certain areas.
- Redefining all social service delivery was also part of it.
- The backlash regarding the Salvation Army's proposed shelter on Wesley Street and the 7 to 10 Club's plans to locate on Albert Street may have precipitated the changes.
- The changes will allow for discussion of controversial uses.
- At public hearings, people will always say "not in my backyard", so that process may not be the best one. Council and staff should review the applications.
- Another danger of public hearings is that people can speak against something even if they are not affected by it.
- There are levels of risk with these services, e.g. needle exchange compared to a food bank.
- Many people that require these services live in the Downtown area and therefore must be accessible to those that need them.
- Should be a combination of proper planning and education.
- Decision makers should be educated also.
- The proactive process by the Salvation Army to involve stakeholders in a community advisory committee followed their failed attempt to locate the new shelter on Wesley Street was successful and did result in a new location being found.
- Splitting the types of services might be more costly, but might make them more easily assimilated into the fabric of Downtown.
- A dialogue should be held between social service providers and business.
- If there is a need in the community, there is an obligation to provide services.
- Zoning is a land use tool and should not be used to exclude people.

Mr. Neilson-Welch advised that he will now do some comparative research, craft some ideas for Nanaimo, and plan a workshop to test possibilities of "building bridges".

- b) Homeless Census – A. Millward advised that the first annual census of the homeless will be held on April 21 between 9 pm and midnight. Teams, led mostly by front line workers, will survey people in local shelters, the Downtown core and adjacent neighbourhoods, plus outlying areas and City parks. The survey is modeled on Kelowna's, and will be done twice a year from now on. The information collected will be used by the Working Group on Homeless Issues and then woven into an updated Housing Needs Assessment. Donations are being sought for a "goody bag" to be given to the people who are surveyed. If members of SPAC would like to participate in the census they should contact Alison.

MOVED by L. Fraser, SECONDED by T. Davis that SPAC authorize the expenditure of up to \$200. to buy candy bars/power bars for the Homeless Census "goody bags".
CARRIED.

5. Updates on Business Arising:

- a) Annual Work Plan Report to Council – The Committee reviewed the proposed Report. It was suggested that additions be made to seek a bridge to EDG, and representation on the DNP.
MOVED by L. Fraser, SECONDED by K. Torhjem that the Report as amended be forwarded to the PEDSC. CARRIED.

A concern was raised regarding City staff circumventing SPAC's work program, and questioned who SPAC takes it's direction from, Council or staff. In particular, Council asked SPAC to develop criteria around gaming funds, and now their resulting report proposing a Social Development Grant Program is being held up when there is need in the community, and available funds. Alison was asked to set up a meeting between Zeni, Bill, Lynne and Brian Mehaffey to discuss this issue.

- b) Review of Terms of Reference Report to Council – The Committee reviewed the proposed Report.
MOVED by T. Davis, SECONDED by R. Motzek that the Report be forwarded to the PEDSC. CARRIED.
- c) Opportunities Fund – R. Motzek reported that Nanaimo was granted funding for two years so the fund is again operational.
- d) Community Social Planning Network BC – The Committee considered an email from Jim Sands from SPARC advising of a conference entitled “Strengthening the Network: Building Local Capacity to Promote Community Social Planning in BC Communities” to be held on June 17 and 18 in Richmond. Anyone interested in attending should contact Alison.

Also included with the email was a copy of a letter to the Mayor and Council providing information on the SPARC organization.
- e) Mal-U Chair for Aboriginal Early Childhood Development – Information on this new initiative was considered.
- f) Food Link – Copies of Volume 1 of Food Links newsletter were distributed. T. Davis also extended an invitation to the Committee to Food Link's AGM to be held on May 11th.
- g) Nanaimo Early Years Coalition – A. Millward announced the “birth” of the Greater Nanaimo Early Years Coalition following workshops held in February, March and April. The first meeting of the new Coalition will be held in May and Ian Kalina of the Boys and Girls Club has agreed to be the interim Chair.

6. Other Business:

- a) R. Motzek advised that a very interesting forum was held recently on criminal system reintegration. It was the first of several to be held, and will provide important education to the community.
- b) P. Field advised that the Disability Games will be held in Nanaimo in July and that there are opportunities for volunteers and donations.

Phil also advised that a World Fund for Aboriginals exists.

7. Next Meeting:

The next Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2005-May-11, at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room, City Hall.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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