

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDING
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL
ON THURSDAY, 2001-AUG-30 , COMMENCING AT 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor L. J. Sherry, Chair

Members: Councillor W. J. Holdom, 4:10 p.m.
Councillor L. D. McNabb

Staff:	E. C. Swabey	J. T. Bowden
	S. E. Fletcher	K. L. Burley
	A. Millward	M. J. Goddard
	C. Sholberg	

Others: Cathy Torhjem, Chair, Social Planning Advisory Committee

1. Adoption of Minutes:

- (a) Minutes of the 2001-JUN-12 Meeting of the Planning and Development Standing Committee held in Conference Room 2, City Hall Annex at 4:00 p.m.

Moved by Councillor McNabb, seconded by Councillor Sherry that the Minutes be adopted as circulated. The motion carried.

2. Reports of Societies, Boards, Commissions and Committees:

(a) Use of Gaming Revenue

In November, 1999, the Social Planning Advisory Committee recommended to Council that a portion of the gaming revenue allocated to Nanaimo be used to fund community programs that would reduce or alleviate the social impact of gaming. Subsequently, Council allocated \$90,000 annually to this purpose and the Nanaimo Region John Howard Society with community partners Nanaimo Youth Services Association, Shore Counseling Services and the Salvation Army were the successful proponents.

SPAC's goals in recommending to Council that gaming funds be used for social purposes was first to develop the capacity of local agencies to deal with the problem and second to raise public awareness about the problem of gambling addiction. As little was known about the extent of our local problem, the Committee's third goal was to develop a set of statistical indicators to monitor the impact of gaming on our community.

The Committee is pleased to inform Council that, in its opinion, the first two goals have indeed been successfully realized and work continues on the development of the database. As a result, SPAC is recommending that Council continue to dedicate \$25,000 annually to permit the further development of the database by the Problem Gambling Awareness Project and reassign the remaining \$65,000 to support an emerging community priority, the problem of homelessness in Nanaimo.

Over the past 6 months, an intensive planning process has been in place led by the Working Group on Homelessness Issues. This process resulted in a plan titled *Reducing Homelessness: A Community Plan for Nanaimo, B.C.* that identified the following projects as a priority to assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness:

- Small-scale community based residential facility for adults;
- Small-scale community based residential facility for youth;
- Small-scale community based residential facility for sex trade workers;
- Develop a client centered management process for delivering services.

The Working Group's final recommendation is the hiring of a coordinator to oversee the project implementation process.

The plan was a requirement of a federal program known as the Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI) that will bring \$1.03 m. to Nanaimo to develop critical services and housing opportunities that do not currently exist or are plainly inadequate.

Current contributions from the City of Nanaimo, local non-profits and financial agencies will leverage the federal funds, which while generous are not enough to meet the critical needs of Nanaimo, and make possible the successful implementation of all five priority projects. The reallocation by Council of the \$65,000, and more if Council saw fit, to support the priority projects identified in the homelessness plan will be seen as an indication of the City's support for this important community partnership.

Recommendations: That Council:

1. Continue to allocate \$25,000 of the \$90,000 dedicated in the City's budget (from gaming revenue) to the Problem Gambling Awareness Project for the development of a statistical database in order to monitor the impact of gaming in Nanaimo.
2. Reallocate the remaining \$65,000 dedicated in the City's budget (also from gaming revenue) to support the Problem Gambling Awareness Project to support instead the priority projects identified in the document *Reducing Homelessness: A Community Plan for Nanaimo, BC.*

Moved by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor McNabb that the report be received and the recommendations be adopted. The motion carried.

(b) Heritage Action Plan

In January 1994, a Heritage Strategy for the City of Nanaimo was completed. The Heritage Strategy outlined goals and objectives, and recommended actions for implementing a Heritage Management Program. Building on this strategy, a Heritage Action Plan was completed in April, 1998. The purpose of the Action Plan was to recommend initiatives that would integrate heritage planning into the larger municipal planning framework. The Action Plan proposed to achieve this objective by:

- ❑ Promoting the conservation of heritage resources;
- ❑ Enabling the City's heritage resources to contribute effectively to the city's economic prosperity and quality of life for its citizens;
- ❑ Facilitating the development process by removing elements of uncertainty;
- ❑ Taking advantage of the new regulatory tools contained in the Province's watershed 1994 Heritage Conservation Legislation;
- ❑ Promoting flexibility in the City's response to development applications affecting heritage resources.

The Action Plan was completed in conjunction with a city-wide inventory of significant historic buildings, sites and landscape features, published in an accompanying document entitled: "The Heritage Resources of Nanaimo."

The Action Plan was submitted to Council for information, but was never formally endorsed. Staff and the Heritage Commission, however, have continued to work on the objectives of the plan.

The primary purpose of this report is to formally introduce the Action Plan to Council and to seek Council's endorsement of its implementation. This endorsement serves two purposes:

- 1) It ensures that the existing Council is familiar with the objectives of the Action Plan; and
- 2) It provides renewed direction to Staff and the public regarding the implementation of the Action Plan's recommendations, particularly as it relates to the new emphasis on downtown revitalization.

This report's secondary purpose is to identify which Action Plan recommendations have been completed to date and which remain to be completed. The recommendations and their status are highlighted in this report.

If the Action Plan is endorsed, Staff will ensure that individual issues are brought to Council for its adjudication where required. Unless otherwise directed, Staff will continue to work on the recommendations outlined in the report.

For Council reference, copies of the 1998 Heritage Action Plan have been placed in the Councillors' office.

Recommendation: That Council endorse the Heritage Action Plan and direct Staff to proceed with implementation of the plan recommendations.

Moved by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor McNabb that the report be received and the recommendation be adopted. The motion carried.

(c) Heritage Register

At its regular meeting held 1998-Aug-10, Council received a report from the Heritage Commission introducing the newly completed Heritage Inventory entitled "The Heritage Resources of Nanaimo." In the report, Staff also sought direction from Council regarding the transformation of the Heritage Inventory into the City's

official Community Heritage Register. Council received the inventory document and directed staff to initiate a public consultation process for the heritage register.

The consultation process was initiated in the spring of 1999, at which time the Commission held two public hearings; one for commercial property owners (1999-Apr-07), and one for residential property owners (1999-Mar-11). At both meetings the objectives of the City's Heritage Action Plan were also outlined and the restrictions and incentives that would exist under the heritage register explained. Considerable staff time, independent of the two meetings, was also expended during this period answering inquiries by property owners regarding the register.

In May, 1999, responsibility for heritage planning was transferred from the Strategic Planning, Engineering and Economic Development Department to the Development Services Department. With the reorganization of responsibilities the momentum of the consultation process was lost.

The attached report describes the role that a heritage register will play in the context of the City's overall heritage management program, and proposes a revised public consultation process and time frame for Council's consideration.

Recommendation: That Council direct staff to proceed with the revised heritage register adoption process as outlined in this report.

Moved by Councillor McNabb, seconded by Councillor Holdom that the report be received and the recommendation be adopted. The motion carried.

3. Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor McNabb at 4:38 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CITY CLERK