



MINUTES
SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUES, 2015-NOV-03
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE, 411 DUNSMUIR STREET

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Linda McCandless, Chair
Councilor Bill Yoachim
Ian Kalina
Elizabeth Forrester
Ralph Meyerhoff
Bill Anderson

Chris Beaton
Mike Horn
Val Alcock-Carter
Suzanne Andre
Bill Robinson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilor Gordon Fuller

STAFF PRESENT:

John Horn, Social Planner

Brenda Moore, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:47pm. It was acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be adopted, motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the 2015-SEP-01 meeting be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No items.

It was mentioned that there is an event being held tonight called "Happy City" which begins at 7pm in the Shaw Auditorium. It's a free event and everyone is welcome to attend. The keynote speaker will be Charles Montgomery and he will be speaking about different ideas and planning that leads to a happier City. There will be City planners and VIU staff present as well.

5. DELEGATIONS

None.

6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Discussion of Social Development Grant program for 2016

A discussion was held in regards to the Social Development grants and which key issue the group would like to focus on for this year's grants. An idea was put forward for each member to choose three words from the "wordles" from the Health & Social Forum findings that represent an issue they feel is important. A concern was brought up that this data is now a few years old, and there may be a more efficient way to choose our priorities. Some members of the committee felt they were unclear in regards to the overall plan/direction, the role of the committee members and also the strategic priorities of the group.

The past practice for these grants involved a request for proposal going in the newspaper in November or December and generally the recipient receiving their grant in January. Some of the past grants have been awarded for key issues within the community such as suicide prevention, poverty reduction as well as for the purchase of a food truck for the food bank loaves and fishes.

There was a discussion around the chamber of commerce and the recently formed education committee being a potential recipient for funding. An idea was put forward to request that the education committee come speak to SPAC so the committee would have a better idea of their goals and general direction. A concern was brought up that this strategy should be looked after by the school board itself. The committee agreed to delay this invitation.

An idea was brought forward to hire a facilitator to help the group establish their priorities, to work on creating a role/vision for the committee and to get everyone on the same page. The committee would use a portion of the grant money for this facilitator. After further discussion, the committee decided to wait and see if the process could be sorted out internally once they have the opportunity to fully review and discuss the documents used to steer the group.

There was a formal motion put forward requesting the documents that have guided the group be brought to the next meeting for review.

As such, it was decided to delay the RFP until the group is clearer on their strategic priorities and have reviewed the information brought forward to the next meeting. The committee would like to establish a clear method for choosing the key issues so that it is a more streamlined process in the future.

The next meeting on December 1st will begin at the SARC boardroom and finish with a Christmas dinner as in past years.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

No items

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Review of SPAC strategic plan

John Horn will work on gathering all the source documents and reports that have steered the committee in the past and provide a summary of this information at the next meeting.

b) Vital Signs Report

The vital signs reports were available for members.

c) Age friendly designation

A report to council was reviewed. The report recommends to Council that they actively support, promote and work toward the City of Nanaimo achieving age-friendly British Columbia designation. There will be a committee formed to assess the City of Nanaimo and find ways to make our community more senior-friendly. Val volunteered to be on this committee.

It was moved and seconded that the committee is in support of this report to Council.

d) Immigrant welcome reception

There will be an immigrant welcome reception happening in February. John asked for volunteers to help organize and plan this event. The amount of time required from the volunteers will be approximately 10 hours between now and the time of the event. The event, held at the conference centre, will be 3 hours and will include a citizenship ceremony. The overall objective of the event is to make new immigrants feel welcome and wanted in our community.

Linda McCandless, Suzanne Andre and Bill Robinson expressed interest in volunteering for this event.

9. OLD BUSINESS

No items

10. Committee/Council Meeting Reports

a) Grants Advisory – no report

b) Council – no report

c) SAFER – no report

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held 2015-DEC-01 at 4:45pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.