

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER
Regular meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee
Held in City Hall, Conference Room 'A'
On Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 7:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Antje Wilson, Chair
Kenneth Izatt, Vice-Chair
Nick Bryant
Arash Ehteshami
Greg Geub
Tomoko Ito
Ray Moore
Mary Tasi

ABSENT:

Steve Tornes
Rod Clark, Councillor

STAFF:

Paul Penner, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk
Michael Epp, Planner 2

GUESTS:

Annwen Loverin, Silver Harbour Centre

9 members – quorum = 5

1 Councillor (non-voting) 2 staff (non-voting)

1. INTRODUCTIONS – New Members

P. Penner introduced our 2 new members, Nick Bryant and Ray Moore.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with one change, the guest speaker was moved to immediately after Introductions.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of May 22, 2013 were adopted as circulated.

4. GUEST SPEAKER

Annwen Loverin, Executive Director – Silver Harbour Centre

P. Penner introduced Annwen Loverin, the Executive Director of Silver Harbour Centre. Silver Harbour is one of the City's core funded agencies. Other than the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre, Silver Harbour is the largest seniors centre on the North Shore.

Key Points:

- Silver Harbour is a recreation centre/social service agency for seniors as well as a gathering place. They offer 70 different recreation programs and social services.

- Silver Harbour's mission is to inspire and enhance the well-being of adults 55 plus. They are operated by a Board of Directors, a small staff of 6½ and 200 volunteers.
- Some of the issues that are important to North Shore seniors are:
 - Information on housing opportunities
 - Range of housing options
 - Access to transportation, friends, stores
 - Parking, accessibility, safety (perception)
 - Supportive transportation options (alternative to cars)
 - Enough funds to pay bills
 - Barriers to being connected
 - Avoiding falls
 - Others' lack of awareness of seniors' needs
- Some of the strategies for progress on seniors' issues are:
 - Increase access to programs that support physical/emotional health and connectedness
 - Coordinated menu of seniors transportation services
 - Improve accessibility/safety for walking
 - Peer to peer outreach to provide info
 - Increase financial literacy – support for form filling, paying bills, etc.
 - Increase stability of seniors in core housing need
 - Improve home support services
 - Cooperative planning and implementation
- The newly formed Seniors' Action Table is working on many of these issues.
- Some of Silver Harbour's successes include:
 - increased number of seniors served
 - creative programs/new programs
 - affordable and welcoming, gives a sense of belonging
 - creates community
 - partnering with other organizations,
 - promoting to new people in new ways
 - new volunteer roles
- Some of their challenges include:
 - failing building that does not suite programs
 - reducing expenses, generating revenues, broadening revenue base.

Questions/Comments from SPAC:

- Excellent presentation.
- Can you be more specific what you are looking for in terms of corporate sponsorship?
 - We do not actively solicit corporate sponsorship but rather respond to opportunities that arise. We have been amazed at the variety of support we get which comes to us in the form of event sponsorship, paying costs of events, sponsors for newsletter, website, etc.
- How do you see baby boomers impacting you?
 - This is one of the main reasons we need a new facility as we are trying to attract more baby boomers. We need to get the message out, have more integrated facilities, differences in programming, more interest in arts and music, individualized volunteering and more educational programming.

5. REPORT

Developing a Housing Action Plan – Michael Epp, Planner 2

M. Epp presented his report on Developing a Housing Action Plan. The draft report was previously sent to SPAC members via email and some have responded to him with comments and feedback. He needs input by July 8 at the latest.

Key Points:

- All municipalities must submit a housing action plan in conjunction with their Regional Context statements. The CNV will be submitting an interim housing plan as we are in the midst of our CityShaping process.
- Housing prices over the last decade have increased by 10 times from 1981 to 2006. Although incomes have stayed relatively the same, housing prices and rents have increased greatly. This has made CNV's goal of becoming a complete community a difficult one.
- Housing options need to be more flexible as the needs of residents are changing.
- Rental housing is at risk as older purpose-built rentals are getting older and fewer are being built.
- Housing has come up as #1 issue for people during the CityShaping process.
- CNV has a strong history of supporting affordable housing initiatives.
- Several considerations are being made by the City for future direction such as rental housing policies, age-friendly housing, creating new affordable housing, etc.

SPAC members were encouraged to send any further comments or feedback to M. Epp by July 8th at the latest. M. Epp would like to come to SPAC again in the near future and do more of a "shirt sleeve" session as this policy document is developed.

6. UPDATES

a. Councillor – N/A

b. Staff

- Council has deferred a report regarding the allocation of affordable housing and child care spaces in the Safeway site/Onni development to the July 15 Council meeting.
- Council has now endorsed staff to move forward and write a first draft of a new OCP that will be developed over the summer, and submitted to Council in the fall.
- Queen Mary Elementary could reopen in late 2013 or may wait until January 2014.
- From the Community Development Worker:
 - On Friday June 7th, the CNV, in partnership with Artists for Kids and Lonsdale Quay Market, unveiled 3 benches created under mentor Judson Beaumont, and a 100 foot mural at Lonsdale Quay.
 - Studio in the City 2013 launches on July 2nd, employing 12 young people to create a public digital art piece at Shipbuilders Square. The students will be employed for the month of July, and will be led by new-media artist Jesse Scott and 2 teachers from Argyle Secondary's Digital Media Academy.

- The NS Lookout Shelter will soon be hiring a job developer under contract to the CNV to research and develop an employment program for shelter residents.
- The CNV is currently developing an Extreme Heat Response for the NS homeless population, as we currently only have an extreme weather response which we implement during very cold weather or extended periods of rain.
- Staff will be preparing a review of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee to submit to Council, looking at how the committee is funded and how funds are appropriated. The last review of the committee took place in 2005.
- The CNV will be working with the NS Lookout to create a mural on the shelter's south facing wall which continues to be a problem area for graffiti. Parks will also be creating a bike path and walking trail behind the length of the shelter and this should reduce adverse activity. Parks will also be implementing a stewardship program to involve shelter residents in the project
- P. Penner recently wrote an Information Report on the North Shore Welcoming Action Committee. The attachments were circulated to SPAC.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Tri-Municipal Meeting on Community Grant Forms & Process
 - K. Izatt advised that, although it was a large group and it was sometimes challenging to reach consensus, progress was made and most needs and concerns were addressed.
 - A. Ehteshami believes that the form will now be more concise. Some of CNV's concerns have been addressed, which will make the form and the guidelines easier for new applicants.
 - P. Penner advised that the changes decided on were captured by DNV's committee clerk. The minutes/notes will be sent to the individual committees to review. Staff has been directed to develop a workshop for potential applicants on how to fill out the application forms. P. Penner has been discussing a more user-friendly fillable PDF with CNV's Communications department.
- b. Future Guest Speakers
 - P. Penner has arranged for North Shore Community Resources Society to come to our September meeting and North Shore Crisis Services Society in October.

8. ADJOURNMENT – 9:15 pm

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –September 25, 2013


Chair


Date