

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER
Regular meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee
Held via WEBEX
On Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Naz Kohan, Chair
Etienne Normandin-Poitras, Vice Chair
Anna Boltenko
Arash Ehteshami
Kate Galicz
Jolene Kennett
Tina Parbhakar
Heather Urquhart

ABSENT:

Jasreen Janjua

STAFF:

Heather Evans, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk
Renée de St. Croix, Manager, Long Range &
Community Planning

Angela Girard, Councillor

9 members – quorum = 5

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:08 p.m. The approval of the agenda was moved and seconded and the agenda was approved as circulated.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNCEDED TERRITORY

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of October 28, 2020 was moved and seconded and the minutes were adopted as circulated.

4. UPDATES

- Councillor
 - a. Council has recently approved a few rezoning applications as well as the creation of an end destination facility at Harbourside.
 - b. Council also approved a low carbon building bylaw amendment; this will transition new construction buildings to low carbon and help the City reach our 0 emissions targets by 2050.
 - c. Councillor Valente made a Notice of Motion regarding retractable balcony glass systems; staff will investigate.
 - d. Round 2 of the 2021 Community Grants was approved.

- Staff
 - a. The Community Well Being strategy, which has been on hold due to COVID-19) will soon be looked at again. The grants program will be part of that.
 - b. Have been discussing with the District of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver regarding getting word out for future rounds of the Community Grants, and support to applicants on how to best prepare a high quality community grant application. What are some key issues and shortcomings in applications that we could point to in the workshop?
 - i. Need to align the grant application with the guidelines and with evaluation criteria before you do a workshop.
 - c. At our last meeting, a member passed on concerns about the HOpe Centre and VCH. Staff have talked about having someone come and speak to SPAC. Who would the committee like to see and hear from at the January meeting?
 - i. Would be good to hear from a seniors organization; eg. how Covid is affecting the seniors population.
 - ii. Would like more information on the outcomes of the extension of outdoor community spaces, any studies done on their usage, etc.
 - d. Regarding seniors' issues during Covid, one group is continuing to meet around the subject of food. There are food providers providing meals to seniors and others and they are not seeing any lowering of numbers. The food bank at North Shore Neighbourhood House has extended their hours so that there are no line ups. There is still a lot of demand for the seniors' programs and services; some of them are providing hybrid programs. There are concerns about mental health impacts on seniors.

5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

- a) Child Care Action Plan – Status Update
Heather Evans presented.

Key points included:

- This is a 10 year action plan; it highlights collaboration with partners, the need for new spaces and advocating for quality child care.
- There is less space available for infant / toddler programs as they are expensive to run and staff. School age programs very low.
- We need to create space but also advocate for the remuneration of childcare workers.
- One quarter of children experience childhood vulnerabilities.
- In order to meet targets, we have come up with 40 key actions; six of these are top level.
- There are positive changes happening at the ministry level
- Sync up child care needs with provincial and federal governments.
- Four priorities for action – increasing accessibility, improving affordability, focusing on quality and strengthening partnerships.

Questions/Comments:

- Thrilled this strategy is coming forward. Did some research a few years ago and found that child care was lacking in the City. This is a subject that requires advocacy.
- Agree that finding child care in North Vancouver is very difficult.

- Women with children are leaving the work force at a never before seen rate. This was a problem before Covid, but is becoming a crisis now. Why is this a 10 year, not a 4 year plan?

6. ROUND TABLE

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.



Chair

January 27, 2021

Date