

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, October 23, 2013 at 7:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Antje Wilson, Chair
Kenneth Izatt, Vice-Chair
Nick Bryant
Arash Ehteshami
Tomoko Ito
Steve Tornes
Ray Moore
Rod Clark, Councillor

ABSENT:

Mary Tasi
Greg Geub

STAFF:

Paul Penner, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk

GUESTS:

Laura Reynold, Executive Director, North
Shore Crisis Services Society
Margaret Harman, Program Director, North
Shore Crisis Services Society

9 members – quorum = 5
1 Councillor (non-voting) 2 staff (non-voting)

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for October 23, 2013 was approved as circulated.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of September 25, 2013 were adopted as circulated.

3. GUEST SPEAKERS

Laura Reynolds and Margaret Harman, North Shore Crisis Services Society

L. Reynolds, Executive Director of North Shore Crisis Services Society gave a Powerpoint presentation highlighting their programs and services.

Key highlights included:

- Sage Transition House has been operating since 1976. It started as a 10 bed transition house and moved up to 18 beds in 1995. This is the only transition house for women

on the North Shore. Women and their children fleeing an abusive relationship can stay at Sage House for 30 days.

- Hope's Place is a 2nd stage transition house for women and children. This is for families that have left Sage House and are working towards independent living or families that have been referred by community agencies. This is a more secure environment. Women and their children can stay at Hope's Place for up to 15 months.
- Outreach workers assist women with housing applications, legal issues and court accompaniment.
- The ACE Program is for children and adolescents 3 – 18 years of age who have witnessed or experienced abuse or violence. It is a psycho-educational program.
- The Good Stuff Connection is a thrift store that caters to clients in need that are referred by agencies as well as retail sales which generate funds for NSCSS's programs.
- 3,000 hours of service per year is provided by volunteers.

Questions from SPAC:

- How do you reach your potential clients/advertise your services?
 - Public speaking, fundraising, awareness, website, BC Housing referrals, doctors referrals, RCMP, mental health, North Shore Women's Centre.
- Where do you get items for "The Good Stuff Connection"?
 - Donations from the community as well as donations of overstock from clothing stores such as Winners, Phoenix, etc.
- What is the demand for your services? Do you have a waiting list?
 - About 200 women come through Sage House every year and we have to turn away about the same number each year. These numbers have stayed the same since Sage House opened.
- Are you self-sufficient?
 - Yes. We have a \$1.5 million operating budget; 75% is provincial government funding, we have to fundraise for the other 25%.
- You mentioned that you are the only transition housing of this type on the North Shore. Where do you send people that you have to turn away?
 - There are other transition houses in Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster.
- In terms of multiculturalism, are you able to communicate with other languages?
 - Yes, we have Farsi and Mandarin speaking people employed with us as well as access to translators. We also have signs posted in multiple languages for women that come into Sage House late at night to ease their transition to an unfamiliar environment.

M. Harman, Program Director, then talked about the gaps in service and needs. Affordable housing is the most prevalent need. Women transitioning from Sage House often have to move off the North Shore. A need has arisen for women aged 50 and up who have multiple barriers and are having a hard time finding housing. They are also seeing more senior women that need assistance and have no family support.

L. Reynolds and M. Harman also updated SPAC regarding an addition they have planned for Sage House. They are hoping to add an additional 2 suites which would be used for interim housing. This would cover the 3 -6 month period when woman are waiting for subsidized housing to become available or other documentation to be completed. All plans are drawn up and costs have been identified. Attempts to secure funding for the addition through the

Homeless Partnering Strategy have been unsuccessful. They are now in the process of trying to secure funding from other sources for this addition.

4. UPDATES

a. Councillor

- A few meetings ago, Council requested that Staff provide them with a background report on all work that the City has done on social housing and affordable housing as well as an inventory of all the City's affordable housing, policies and successes. This is with a future thought to discussing the issue with the other 2 North Shore municipalities and senior levels of government.
- Council has asked for more information on the Onni affordable housing and daycare space.
- Affordable housing units are included in a potential project in the 100 block of Lonsdale Avenue. There was a Town Hall Meeting on this project last night.
- Council will be making decision on a Density Bonusing policy shortly.

b. Staff

- The Onni project was (by Council resolution) discussed in open Council. Four non-profits agencies will be invited to send a more detailed Request for Proposal for the acquisition and operation of the affordable housing; My Own Space, YWCA, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and Hollyburn Family Services. Two non-profit childcare providers were also invited to send an RFP for the acquisition and operation of the child care facility; North Shore Neighbourhood House and Lonsdale Creek Daycare Society.
- There will be a Density Bonusing Policy Committee meeting as part of the regular Council meeting on October 28th.
- Reminder about the grant writing workshop for Community Grants coming up Wednesday, November 20 at the District of North Vancouver District Hall.
- Vancouver Coast Health has decided to eliminate their Community Developer positions. This impacts the City in several ways as the Community Developer for the North Shore sits on the OCP working group. P. Penner will be writing a report to Council on this issue shortly.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

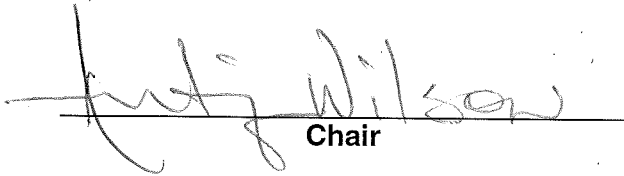
a. Lower Lonsdale Legacy Fund – Round Two Applications

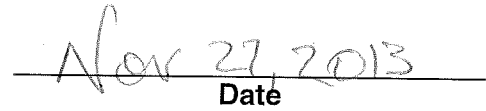
P. Penner advised that there is \$70,338 available for distribution in Round Two of 2013's Lower Lonsdale Legacy Fund. The application requests total \$110,145. It was noted that there was an error in the original spreadsheet sent in the agenda package; this has now been corrected and the spreadsheet was displayed which reflected the correct amounts.

SPAC discussed all the applications and questions for the applicants were noted. P. Penner will contact the applicants within the next few weeks and report back to the committee prior to the November meeting.

At the November meeting, SPAC should be prepared to make final decisions on recommended allocations.

6. ADJOURNMENT – 9:16 p.m.
7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 27, 2013


Chair


Date