



## MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held electronically from City Hall,  
141 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver, BC on March 7, 2023

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### **Members Present**

Anna Boltenko  
Catherine Kingfisher  
Olga Kens  
Kathy McGreenera  
Tim Page  
Zeyus Spenta  
Tony Valente, Councillor

### **Staff Present**

Heather Evans, Community Planner  
Edytha Barker, Administrative Coordinator II

### **Absent**

Kate Galicz

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

#### **1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

#### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of the meeting held on September 28, 2022 were approved as circulated.

#### **3. INTRODUCTIONS**

H. Evans, Community Planner, acted as Chair.

New and former members as well as staff introduced themselves.

#### **4. ANNUAL ORIENTATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

H. Evans presented the following highlights regarding the Social Planning Advisory Committee:

- Terms of reference and review of procedures.
- Role of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- Roles of members (voting), staff (non-voting, resource capacity) and Council member (non-voting).
- Conflict of interest.
- How SPAC communicates (by resolution, as a group).

Some community statistics about the City from the 2021 Census were also provided. Highlighted included:

- Population – 58,120.

- 22,250 immigrants (32% of residents have a mother tongue other than English or French).
- Median household income is \$86K.
- Three out of 4 units are multi-family.
- Housing tenure is 47% renter and 53% owner.
- Four times more people worked at home in 2021 than in 2016.

Members presented the following notable questions and comments:

- Good overview. Thank you.
- How many social agencies are in the City?
  - Many are registered provincially so it's difficult to know for sure.
  - There are nine core-funded agencies in the City.

H. Evans then commenced the elections. Nominations were called for from the floor for the position of Chair. A. Boltenko was nominated and accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations, A. Boltenko was declared Chair by acclamation.

The Community Planner then called for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chair. K Galicz was nominated in absentia. The Community Planner confirmed that K. Galicz had accepted the nomination in advance by email, should it occur. There being no further nominations, K Galicz was declared Vice-Chair by acclamation.

A. Boltenko took over as Chair of the meeting for the remainder of the meeting.

## 5. UPDATES

- a) Councillor
  - Council has been working off the current Strategic Plan for the last number of years. They will be starting to update it over the coming months.
- b) Staff
  - Staff are continuing to work on the Community Well Being Strategy which will replace the Social Plan. Will be bringing to SPAC for review and comment. Expect to be starting consultation in the spring.
  - Staff are also working on a review of the various funding supports that the City provides such as permissive tax exemptions, core funding and different types of grants. Will be getting SPAC's perspective.

## 6. COMMUNITY GRANTS REVIEW PROCESS

H. Evans presented the following highlights regarding the Community Grants Review Process:

- The purpose of CNV's Community Grants is to support non-for-profit organizations that serve City residents.
- Organizations that apply must meet eligibility requirements that are specified in guidelines which can be found on the City's website.
- The City's Round One grant review process takes from January to May or June.
- In the past, the Committee has been divided into three or four groups and applications were distributed alphabetically; approximately 20 per group.

- This year, a new approach will be tried. Applications have been divided by need met or target group served. Three sub-groups will review approximately 25 applications each.

Members presented the following notable questions and comments:

- Is the City's willingness to provide grant support contingent on organizations securing other funding or just the fact that they are seeking other funding?
  - Ideally, we want to know they are seeking other sources. These other sources may not be confirmed at the time of application.
- What has been the experience of relying on the advice or input of other group members?
  - It is very helpful to get together and talk as a group and ask questions.
  - Generally, a committee member who has been through the grant review is teamed up with new member(s).
  - After the groups have had a chance to look at everything, could we have a discussion about how grants fit into the Social Plan so we have a sense of how we are addressing things in the community?
- What has been SPAC's previous experience in terms of Council following the recommendation of the committee? Is there anything else that Council takes into account?
  - Approximately 85% of the time Council stays with SPAC's recommendations. Very rarely do they question or change anything.
- Does SPAC have the latitude to ask Council for an increase in funding or to recommend other sources of funding?
  - SPAC has recommended to Council in the past that the Community Grants budget be increased and they can certainly do that again. Alternate sources are not something that we have seen in the past but it is an interesting and creative idea.
  - As part of the City's larger body of work, the Long Range and Community Planning division will be reviewing all of the City's grant types; included will be the budget for the various sources and we will be asking SPAC to contribute to that discussion.
- Is it possible to postpone an application to the second round without the applicant having to reapply again?
  - We do not roll applications over but if SPAC denies funding in a certain round, we provide feedback and invite them to apply in the next round. SPAC can request that staff make recommendations to or communicate with a particular applicant.

## 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2023 at 6 pm.

## 8. ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm.

  
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 Anna Boltenko, Chair