

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 25, 2014 at 7:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Antje Wilson, Chair
Nick Bryant
Arash Ehteshami
Tomoko Ito
Ray Moore
Maria Sponza
Steve Tornes
Mary Tasi
Donna Zwickel
Rod Clark, Councillor

ABSENT:

STAFF:

Paul Penner, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk

GUESTS:

Gary Ansell, Executive Director, Harvest Project
Kevin Lee, Development Officer, Harvest Project

9 members – quorum = 5

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

1. WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Our newest member, Donna Zwickel, was welcomed and introduced to the Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of May 28, 2014 were adopted as circulated with 2 minor changes.

4. GUEST SPEAKER

Gary Ansell, Executive Director, Harvest Project and Kevin Lee, Development Officer, Harvest Project

Kevin Lee presented a PowerPoint presentation.

Key points:

- The Harvest Project has been on the North Shore for over 20 years.
- There is an “invisibility of poverty” on the North Shore. This was more obvious 20 years ago.

- “Extending a hand up, not a hand out” has been their motto from day 1. Their approach is to coach clients by using a goal setting model to re-connect with the community in a healthier way.
- 20% of North Shore families are single parent; some are new residents and some have ongoing health challenges.
- Harvest is not affiliated with the Food Bank; they provide supplementary grocery support.
- Poverty = risk to children. Harvest is directly impacting the lives of young children.
- They provide counselling and referrals to other resources/programs and ask clients to report back; therefore clients are asked to be accountable.
- There is also an “emergency needs” program for people not ready to get into goal setting.
- Harvest is funded by a mixture of government grants, in-kind (food) donations, cash donations and volunteers.
- Partnerships with businesses, community resources, schools/students are very important.
- Gaps in resources include challenges around housing, program funding, consistent income.
- Would like to do more research; would like to be able to measure how the community is better off because of the Harvest Project.
- Harvest Project thanks CNV for the continued support.

Questions/Comments from SPAC Members:

- So glad you reach out to community and glad that the community is supportive.
- Food seems to be significant part of Harvest. Why are you not part of the Food Bank? How do Harvest and the Food Bank work together?
 - Food Banks of BC is an umbrella organization that supports regional services, such as the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, etc. Harvest’s provision of food is complementary to the other services it delivers. This service has evolved over time. The only other Food Bank on the North Shore is the North Shore Neighbourhood House, which is the official North Shore distributor for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank.
 - We have an “unofficial alliance” with the Food Bank; we are trying to fill gaps, not duplicate service.
- It seems that the homeless population were a major client when Harvest first started; now maybe not? What happened?
 - We have found that the homelessness numbers have stayed fairly static, through our Emergency Needs program we still serve that demographic.
- Are there representatives from contributing agencies on the Harvest Board?
 - The Harvest Board is made up of North Shore residents, business representatives, academia and nursing.
- What about couples? When one loses a job and the family income drops?
 - Our bubble diagram doesn’t represent 100% of our client base. Every day we see families with children. But, yes, we do see couples.
- How long does a typical Harvest client receive support?
 - 2 years on average; although it is difficult to average across clients as demographics are different and individual circumstances are different. There are diverse reasons why they graduate from the program.
- How much was Harvest’s lease previously compared to its current location?
 - It is about 50% less than the previous location.

- Have you made any progress in defining how your program benefits the community?
 - Harvest assists approximately 300 families per month; it is difficult to work out the impact to the community, we can't find a report that has researched that.
 - Two families per month graduate from our program which works out to 24 families per year; this is a powerful social impact as well as dollar impact.
- It is hard to define value for dollar. How much time and effort does one spend on that as opposed to getting the job done?
 - We have created a development office as we need to be accountable and responsible. However, it is all about human lives; we don't want to wallow in numbers; we want to focus on our neighbours/community.
 - There would be no story without numbers and no numbers without a story!

5. UPDATES

a. Councillor

- The City is moving rapidly towards a conclusion to the OCP process. The final public input session was held last Wednesday. July 7 is the final Council input and July 21st will be the first reading of the bylaw. It will then go to the Squamish Nation & Metro Vancouver.
- Pleased to report that the Community Grants and Lower Lonsdale Legacy Fund reports were received by Council. Combining the 2 grants will now be looked at. Council thanks the committee for the work.
- The North Vancouver Recreation Commission is now the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission. Their mandate has changed to include culture, and will now coordinate the activities of the Arts Office.
- The PGE station is now on Alder Street where it will be there for a few years until a home is found for it.
- The Presentation House Gallery is now through the Public Hearing process.
- Roger Brooks' Waterfront vision report will be coming to Council in July.
- Land use concepts developed for the School District by their consultants for the Cloverley & Lucas Centre school sites are now in the public domain. Council has asked to meet with School Board

b. Staff

- Last Monday, when Council received the reports from SPAC there were no questions regarding the Lower Lonsdale Legacy Fund but some questions on Community Grants. These were to do with levels of support from other municipalities.
- The SPAC Work Program was not discussed much as the focus was on the proposed merger of the two grants. Finance staff will do some research on the LLLF and the recommendation is to bring it back as part of the 2015 Financial Plan.
- At the OCP/CityShaping public input meeting last week there were 86 speakers; they were given 3 minutes each. Of the 86, 83 talked about the East 3rd Street area proposed density changes.
- The Coppersmith Shop has now been leased to the Tap & Barrel restaurant group.
- The final rezoning for the Harbourside redevelopment was approved by Council; this will bring significant changes to the waterfront.

- Staff have arranged for the Women's Centre to speak at SPAC's September meeting and the Lookout Shelter will speak at the October meeting.

8:35 p.m. – M. Tasi left meeting, Councillor Clark left meeting

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Social Plan – What Works/What Doesn't/What is Missing? (An Initial Review in Advance of Future Update)

P. Penner introduced the topic of a possible future renewal of the City's Social Plan and asked committee members to give their input. He explained that while the CityShaping process has been going on, the Social Plan has not been looked at in several years. It is a very detailed plan that was developed in 1998 over a period of a year with input from SPAC members and representatives from community groups. The CNV would not necessarily redo the Social Plan from scratch but may look at developing an updated "Social Strategy". As the Social Plan is 16 years old, it is dated in some ways, e.g. there is no reference to the Internet, we now have a transportation plan with a social lens, etc. SPAC members were asked for input and ideas.

Questions/Comments from SPAC:

- The Social Plan is an amazing document that is still relevant and useable, even after 16 years.
- Some things that the City has now accomplished could be removed.
- Some of the language could be changed to be more pro-active, e.g. could be changed to "promoting" or "encouraging" social needs rather than just "supporting".
- The Social Plan does need a general clean up.
- The disability section needs more work.
- Updating is definitely needed.
- Is it more important to define process issues or the end product and what they are?
- Should be more of a reference guide to other plans; more sustainable, more current. It's hard to set goals for 20 years from now. It would be better to have a more "static" or "live" document.
- Is quite general but the objectives and goals are laid out well.
- There is no mention of the environment.
- Needs to expand on the diversity of the community.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

This was A. Ehteshami's last meeting as he is moving to Winnipeg. Arash was thanked for his time and service to the committee.

8. ADJOURNMENT – 8:55 p.m.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 24, 2014



Chair



Date