

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, February 27, 2019 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Cassandra Buckley
Arash Ehteshami
Jolene Kennett
Naz Kohan, Vice Chair
Etienne Normandin, Chair
Larry O'Grodnik
Tina Parbhakar
Heather Urquhart

Angela Girard, Councillor

ABSENT:

Jasreen Janjua

STAFF:

Heather Evans, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk
Jill Cameron, Public Space Assistant

9 members – quorum = 5

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

1. WELCOME NEW MEMBER

New member, Larry O'Grodnik, was introduced to the committee and SPAC members each introduced themselves.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

H. Evans began chairing the meeting and commenced elections for Chair. Nominations were called for from the floor. E. Normandin was nominated and accepted the nomination. N. Kohan was nominated and declined the nomination. As there were no further nominations, E. Normandin was declared Chair by acclamation.

H. Evans then called for nominations from the floor for Vice Chair. N. Kohan was nominated and accepted the nomination. N. Kohan was declared Vice Chair by acclamation.

E. Normandin then took over the meeting as Chair.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda of February 27, 2019 were adopted as circulated.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of January 23, 2019 were adopted as circulated.

5. PRESENTATIONS

a) Update on Play / Placemaking Program

J. Cameron, Public Space Assistant, presented.

Key points included:

- The vision of the City's program (called Play: Embrace the Space) is to enliven public spaces in the City of North Vancouver through interactive installations, events and community collaboration.
- This program originally started as a pilot project and is now in its third year.
- The idea is to look for opportunities in the City (such as pedestrian cut-thrus or linking nodes) to create a new space for people to get outside and connect with their community.
- New for 2019 are three "Nooks and Nodes" the City is looking at: Queensbury, Centennial/South patio and the B-Line.
- Programming can also be used as a way of Placemaking; a program was created 2 years ago where curated buskers are paid a small fee and then given a particular space in which to perform.
- One of the larger projects was the roaming parklet. The first year it was located at Lonsdale and 18th; the feedback received revealed that it did not work being close to busy traffic. It was moved to Queensbury for the second year and the parklet will be moving again at the end of its year.
- The spot in Queensbury is going to be programmed permanently.
- Studio in the City (the City's youth employment in the arts program) is another way the City crosses over to create Placemaking. FunAlley and Alley45 (both in Lower Lonsdale) were created by Studio in the City participants over the last two summers. This year, the potential of Studio in the City crossing over with the activities happening in Queensbury is being explored.
- Lonsdale Lane (across from FunAlley, near Big Pete's) is another project. Last summer, this space was temporarily shut down and used as a gathering and gaming place. The City hosted community consultations and the outcome was that this space will now be permanently closed to traffic and redesigned; re-opening is scheduled for spring/summer of 2019.
- Parking Day is in the vision stages for September 2019. The idea would be to temporarily take over parking spaces for urban interventions.
- The committee was encouraged to email ideas to play@cnv.org.

Questions from SPAC:

- What ever happened with the Thingery?
 - J. Cameron: The Thingery opened 3 weeks ago. A smaller, repurposed shipping container (was formerly the "Art Box" for Studio in the City) is being used and is located outside of North Shore Neighbourhood House.
- What is the annual budget for the Placemaking Program?
 - J. Cameron: There is a \$30,000 annual operating budget.

- Can you tell us more about businesses taking on ideas and contributing to Placemaking? Do you mean they are providing funding?
 - J. Cameron: We have not needed that as yet or had it happen, but that is done in other cities. The Lower Lonsdale Business Improvement Area has been very helpful.
- Have you thought about starting youth groups to get ideas from youth?
 - J. Cameron: We have been collaborating with Leah Herman, the employee that holds the City's youth portfolio, on School the City. School the City's objective is to get youth more engaged with City matters; the workbook includes envisioning public spaces.
- Sometimes when new initiatives are introduced there can be some disgruntled people; is the social acceptability of the program growing?
 - J. Cameron: Most community members have embraced our energy. We do low cost initiatives with the intention to try and see if things work. Sometimes they don't. The majority of feedback has been positive; if it is not, we can take action to address issues immediately.
- How does this initiative relate to other initiatives in the City, i.e. seniors' benches, dementia friendly cities?
 - J. Cameron: We have had a broader focus the last 2 years but we have great interdepartmental communication. We have a "Playgroup" comprised of representatives from City staff and community groups. The engagement with specific groups is part of this year's focus, we will be engaging with seniors and other community groups. This being the third year, the momentum is building and other City projects are now asking for Placemaking input.

6:40 p.m. - J. Cameron left the meeting.

b) Orientation to Social Planning Advisory Committee

H. Evans showed the PowerPoint presentation on SPAC. This is shown annually as a reminder for current members and information for new members.

Key points included:

- Staff and the appointment Councillor attend in non-voting roles.
- Abstaining to vote counts as a "yes" vote.
- If you feel you might have a conflict of interest, discuss with staff. If conflict of interest does exist, the member must leave the room for that portion of the discussion and vote.
- SPAC communicates as a group, not as individuals and by resolution to Council. Outside of SPAC meetings, members are asked to remember they are responding to questions as a member of the public, not a member of SPAC.

Questions from SPAC:

- What is SPAC's role in commenting on developments?
 - H. Evans: SPAC does not review development projects, rather only projects that are civic led, e.g. Harry Jerome presentation and discussion in 2018
- What about potential child care in a development?
 - H. Evans: Those are reviewed at the staff level and guided by policy. The Advisory Planning Commission reviews any developments that require an OCP amendment.

6:55pm – 7:05pm - Break

6. UPDATES

a) Councillor

- Council recently approved a Zoning Bylaw for a large rental project at 210 – 230 East 2nd Avenue. The development includes 16 mid-market units and the applicant has volunteered to increase the term of the below market rate from the minimum 10 years to 20 years.
- Council has directed staff to explore the possibility of bike valet services at City events.
- North Shore Streamkeepers gave a presentation to Council regarding the Mosquito Creek Restoration project. They were granted \$10,000 from the Stream Environment Enhancement Project.
- Council approved a change to the M4 Industrial Zoning in Lower Lonsdale to allow larger lounges and service of products produced in site in normal sized glasses (currently only sample sizes are allowed). This means areas east of St. Georges on Esplanade can have breweries.
- Mayor Buchanan presented a motion on a housing solutions lab that will be a potential precursor to Workforce Housing in the City and across the North Shore. This motion was passed unanimously.
- Council applied for a \$20 million grant application related to the Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre project.
- Council directed staff to apply for \$25,000 from the UBCM Child care Planning program to create child care action plan.
- Council referred a rental project at 2612 Lonsdale back to staff. Council would like to see an increase in the numbers of 3-bedroom units as well as energy efficiency improvements, among other concerns.
- Council gave input to staff on the Draft Preliminary Project Plan.

b) Staff

- Staff are looking forward to the release of Council's Strategic Plan. This will drive the staff work program going forward.
- The City hosted the North Shore Young Citizens' Forum last week. This is a group of 30 residents aged 19 – 39 that have been formed to provide recommendations to the three North Shore municipalities on how best to engage this age group.
- Staff attended the Table Matters meeting; this group works toward increasing food security on the North Shore. There will be another workshop April 5 and staff will bring back more information and input opportunities to SPAC.
- Staff attended a "Brave Conversations" events hosted by the North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership. This is an annual event. The intention is to learn and strategize tools for cultivating inclusive diversity on the North Shore and collectively working towards positive systems change. Workshop topics included reconciliation, unconscious bias and barriers to change.
- The annual event for youth by youth, CityFEST, is coming up May 4, 2019 at the City Skate Park. This is the largest Youth Week event in the Lower Mainland.

- Nominations for youth awards and applications for the Youth Centennial Scholarship are now being accepted. The deadline for both is March 15. More info can be found on the City's website.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Work Plan

H. Evans circulated last year's annual report and work plan. The committee was asked to review the 2018 goals and to think about what they wish accomplish in 2019.

It was decided unanimously that the Chair and Vice Chair will meet and create a draft of the report, then send it around to committee members for comments

Some of the ideas discussed included:

- Make goals for 2019 sharper and more specific
- Use the second grant intake in the fall as a time to review the grant process. Consider an opportunity for one half of the committee to review the grants while the other half could create a sub-committee to discuss ideas for making the grant review process more efficient.
- Use our ability to speak to Council through resolutions.
- When we receive a great presentation or tour an agency, tell Council about it; what we found interesting, other ways the City could assist, etc.
- When we have guest speakers or presentations, we have not always been well prepared. It would be helpful in future to receive some funding history and background information so that we can have a more robust conversation with the agency representative or speaker.

H. Urquhart inquired as to the status of the update to the Social Plan. H. Evans advised that, as the committee knows, CNV and DNV collaborated on research and engagement. CNV will reference portions relevant to the City and SPAC will be informed of the next steps. This will happen once Council's Strategic Plan has been tabled. Part of the Social Plan process will likely include a review of the City's funding mechanisms, a review of the Core Funding Policy and other funding reviews.

b) Community Grants Application Process & Group Assignments

H. Evans showed a PowerPoint on the grant review process. The designated applications were handed out to the four groups.

She pointed out that staff comments on the applications are included on the spreadsheet rather than the separate memo and reminded SPAC that we are still using the existing Social Plan as the criteria when reviewing grants.

8. ROUND TABLE

Plans for a social event after the meetings and perhaps a summer get together were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:05 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 27, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C/er', written over a horizontal line.

Chair

A handwritten date '27/III/19' in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date