

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, January 24, 2018 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Steve Tornes, Chair
Arash Ehteshami, Vice Chair
Cassandra Buckley
Jasreen Janjua
Naz Kohan
Etienne Normandin
Tina Parbhakar
Mary Tasi
Heather Urquhart

ABSENT:

STAFF:

Holly Back, Councillor

Heather Evans, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk

GUESTS:

Margaret Coates, Coordinator
Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society

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

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNCEDED TERRITORY

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of November 22, 2017 were adopted as circulated.

4. PRESENTATION

a. Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society

Margaret Coates, Coordinator

Margaret Coates, Coordinator of the Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Key Points included:

- They are a non-profit society dedicated to the interest of seniors on the North Shore.

- The roots of the organization go back to the mid-1980's; by 1991 Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society was formed.
- Their primary goal is to act as a strong voice for seniors through research, planning, coordination, collaboration and education. Their mission is to be a seniors led and seniors driven organization promoting the participation of seniors in the ongoing coordinated planning and delivery of health, social and other activities that affect the quality of their lives.
- They accomplish their goals through programs such as Seniors Coalition, Older and Wiser Column, Seniors Action Tables (SAT), Seniors Planning Table, Seniors Initiatives and Research Projects.
- **Services to Seniors Coalition:** The main purpose is to provide a voice, forum and vehicle for information sharing, collaboration and networking for organizations and individuals on the North Shore. Also an opportunity for education sessions and presentations. Fifty-five participants from across the North Shore come together 9 times a year to network, set priorities and plan services strategically.
- **Older and Wiser Column:** This column can be found on the Lionsview and North Shore News websites. It promotes discussion on seniors' issues, reflects the views of the LSPS and attempts to influence policy and decision makers. The column reaches approximately 30,000 people across the North Shore.
- **Seniors Action Tables:** LSPS has been supporting and mentoring 4 Seniors Action Tables (SATs) since 2012. They are comprised of local groups of seniors who discuss barriers to age-friendly communities. They plan and implement initiatives and advocate for change.
- **Seniors Planning Initiatives:** LSPS has been involved with the community on a number of seniors planning initiatives including: home care, housing Age and Dementia Friendly initiatives, the North Shore Seniors Health Expo, transitional programming for Lower Capilano and more.
- **Seniors Planning Table:** Lionsview is currently working with several organizations across the Lower Mainland to revitalize the Seniors Planning Tables across Metro Vancouver.
- **Research:** Seniors Today Project, Homelessness on the North Shore, Coalition Survey.
- Funding comes from municipal grants, gaming grants, foundation and project grants (New Horizons for Seniors, Lower Capilano Enhancement Grant).
- There are many reasons to fund Lionsview:
 - they have a unique role in the community;
 - they are a seniors led and driven organization;
 - they act as a catalyst for change as well as a clearing house for information;
 - they act as an advocate on issues of concern to seniors and organizations;
 - they track and communicate trends in the seniors arenas and add value to other organizations.

Questions from SPAC:

- How do we submit topics for the Older and Wiser column?
 - Email ions_view@telus.net.
- You have many years of experience with seniors issues, are there particular types of approaches that stand out as not working as well as others?
 - We always take the long view, nothing changes as quickly as you would like it to. In terms of getting something done, the SATs do work; a small group talking about what is of concern and creating an action plan is very effective.

When a program designed by program managers, often they don't talk to the seniors. It works best when seniors are asked what they want and how they want it to be fixed.

- How do you get the issues out there? How do you recruit for representation on the SATs and other committees?
 - Reaching isolated and homebound seniors is one of the most difficult things. We try to collaborate with other agencies that reach isolated seniors to find out who would be interested. Sometimes they email, and I try to contact them and suggest that they come to a SAT. In trying to promote the SATs, we have held public meetings and have managed to bring out some that have not been out before.

6:40 p.m. - Councillor Back joined the meeting.

- What about reaching the multicultural nature of the North Shore? Is representation diverse?
 - We have not been doing as well in that regard as we would like. We have applied for a grant to invigorate that. We will be working with the multicultural organizations on the North Shore. We know it has been an issue bringing multicultural and seniors' issues together.
- The SATS seem to be doing amazing work. What does the funding go to, what are your costs, and what are the risks associated with not getting money?
 - We receive operating grants from the 3 North Shore municipalities. We never enough for the SATs. There is not a lot of core funding out there for seniors' programs. It is hard for an organization like ours that does not provide a direct service.

6:45 p.m. – 6:50 p.m. - Break

5. UPDATES

- Councillor
 - Council recently endorsed a new bylaw for multi-use path crosswalks. At crosswalks marked with elephant's feet, cyclists can ride their bikes through; there is no need to dismount. The 'Elephant's Feet' can be found on multi-use trails and some bike paths such as the Spirit Trail and Green Necklace.
 - The Dementia Friendly North Shore Action Plan was endorsed by Council Monday night.
 - Also at last Council, an application for 150 East 8th Street was endorsed. This will be a 6 storey building. There will also be an off-leash dog park on the site.
 - An application for 1730 Chesterfield was not endorsed as there is not enough parking proposed.
- Staff
 - a. On January 15, a report went to Council on ending Violence against women. The initiative is called "Be More Than a Bystander" and involves a potential partnership with the EVA (Ending Violence Against Women Association). They have asked municipalities to partner with them by making a donation. The BC Lions Football Club is also a partner and will

be doing an education program in high schools. The North Shore Women's Centre also made a request for Council to support a forum on Men as Allies in Ending Violence Against Women. Council endorsed supporting both these initiatives and are, therefore, supporting this at both the provincial and local level.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Child Care Strategy – Needs Assessment

H. Evans gave an update on the Child Care Strategy and Needs Assessment.

Quick Facts from the Survey to Parents and Guardians:

- 381 people responded to the survey.
- 75% of those that responded need full day child care services.
- 70% of respondents preferred having their child care located close to their home,
- 58% said that childcare fees are not sustainable.
- 54% said that one of their children is on a waitlist.

Quick Facts from the Survey to Child Care Providers:

- 26 people responded to the survey (about one-third).
- Most of the childcare facilities are leased and only 1/3 plan to expand their facility in the next few years.
- There is a staffing challenge in that there is a limited supply of qualified applicants as well as the cost of living vs. the low wages for childcare employees.

There are several upcoming workshops for stakeholders and childcare providers as well as a community conversation planned.

H. Evans will keep the committee updated and will forward the needs assessment when it is completed. If committee members have thoughts on childcare, please email Heather any time.

b. Dementia-Friendly North Shore Action Plan

H. Evans gave an update on the Dementia-Friendly North Shore Action Plan.

Key points:

- A tri-municipal committee was formed in 2016 with staff from the City, DNV, DWV, Vancouver Coastal Health and the Alzheimer Society of BC.
- With funding from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the committee hired a gerontologist who had developed other regional dementia friendly action plans.
- Over the past 2 years, a variety of public engagement was conducted includes community surveys, seniors' health expos, community steering groups, focus groups and staff focus groups.
- From this public engagement, five key priorities were identified: Community Education & Advocacy, Training, Inclusive & Supportive Programs, Built Environment and Supporting Caregivers.
- CNV and DWV have adopted the Plan, it is on the Council agenda for DNV soon.
- In 2018, the Plan will be implemented using funds received from a UBCM grant. Two of the top action areas, Education and Training, will be tackled by the North Shore Dementia-Friendly working group team.

- From there, there will be a customized dementia education campaign formed in the North Shore communities as well as dementia awareness and training in collaboration with the Alzheimer Society of BC.

H. Evans then asked the committee to split into small groups and discuss what a successful dementia friendly campaign in North Vancouver would look like. Some of the ideas the groups came up with included:

- Educate young people on how to deal with their elders, build sensitivity when they are young.
- Have an outdoor area such as a “friendship bench” which could be identified by a blue pole for example. The public would know that if someone is sitting there, they need assistance.
- Have an indoor program where seniors and young people can interact, play game, eat meals together.
- Educate the public on how to recognize and understand the signs of dementia, share stories of and by those living with dementia, have an advertising campaign.
- Work toward something like “Dementia Village”, a small town near Amsterdam called Hogewey. Everyone there is living with dementia and the village has cameras monitoring residents as well as caretakers at close hand and only one door in and out of the village.
- A business could have one person on staff designated to help people with dementia and recognizable to them somehow.
- Have a GPS tracker that is given out to people with dementia that could be on their walkers or in their wallets or purses at all times.

7. ROUND TABLE

a. Foundry Tour Debrief

S. Tornes asked for feedback from members that were able to attend the tour of the Foundry.

- Very impressed, the tour was very informative. Obviously, a lot of thought and care was put into designing the facility.
- Great that it is a drop in and provides many different services for youth.
- Thanks to staff for organizing, it was great.
- They should work at getting colourful art on the walls sooner; if it was a young person in distress, the bare, white walls would cause further anxiety. It currently feels like a cold clinic.
- Really liked how they have special benches and private spaces for those that need it. The cooking program and yoga classes sound great.
- Pretty great that all the different service providers and agencies are working together.

b. Acknowledge of Unceded Territory

The committee discussed what term would be preferable to use and it was unanimously agreed that “acknowledgement of unceded territory” is acceptable.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS** – Goodbye and many thanks to Mary Tasi who has served six years on SPAC!

9. **ADJOURMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Mary Tasi

Chair

Feb. 28th, 2018

Date