

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 27, 2018 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Steve Tornes, Chair
Naz Kohan, Vice Chair
Arash Ehteshami
Jasreen Janjua
Jolene Kennett
Etienne Normandin
Tina Parbhakar

ABSENT:

Cassandra Buckley
Heather Urquhart
Holly Back, Councillor

STAFF:

Heather Evans, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk

GUESTS:

Laura Reynolds, Executive Director, North
Shore Crisis Services Society
Susan Fisher

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 May 23, 2018 were adopted as circulated

4. GUEST SPEAKER

Laura Reynolds, Executive Director, North Shore Crisis Services Society

L. Reynolds gave a verbal presentation.

Key points included:

- *SAGE House*, an 18-bed transition house that provides safety and support to women and children fleeing abusive situation, is the oldest program at NSCCS. The location is confidential. The average stay at Sage House is 30 days; woman receive safe shelter and necessities, as well as the use of advocates to help them transition out of the abusive situation.

- Sage House also runs the *24 Hour Women's Support Line*. This line is for women in an unsafe situation but can also be accessed by a family or friend that is concerned.
- *SAGE Second Stage Housing* was renovated in 2015 to add 2-bedroom second stage suites for women and their families. Stays here are approximately 3 months.
- *Hope's Place Second Stage Transition House* also has 2 2-bedroom suites. This is independent living and families can stay up to 6 months.
- *The Outreach Services Program* provides services to women and their children who have escaped or who are at risk of abuse, violence and threats. This program is open to women living on the North Shore and to women who have resided at SAGE House. The OSP provides support and advocacy as well as assistance dealing with family court, referrals to community resources and other services as appropriate. The case load is approximately 40 women per month.
- The *Multicultural Outreach* program provides services to women and their children who have escaped or who are at risk of abuse, violence and threats with cultural sensitivity and a focus on immigrant and refugee women.
- The *Homeless Prevention Program*, is for women who have experienced violence or are at risk of violence and are homeless, hidden homeless, or at risk of homelessness. The program aims to keep women in their existing housing or if that is not possible, assist them to find safe and affordable housing. Assistance is given with housing applications, accessing income assistance and other services and well as rental supplements.
- *The Good Stuff Connection Clothing Program and Thrift Store*: The clothing program ensures that clean, good quality clothing, shoes, personal items and small household goods donated by the public are provided free of charge to our clients and to men, women and children referred by other community social service agencies. The Thrift Shop is a non-profit thrift shop which offers clean, good quality, low cost men's, women's and children's clothing, footwear and accessories as well as a wide variety of books, toys, jewelry, and other items for sale to the public. Sales revenue from the Thrift Shop portion of the program helps support all of NSCCS's programs for women and their children who are experiencing abuse.
- *The Adolescent and Child Empowerment Program* provides services for children between 3 & 18 years of age who have witnessed or experienced abuse, threats or violence in the home. The ACE program is open to children who reside on the North Shore.
- NSCCS also offers access pro-bono clinics that provide legal advice for women in a half an hour appointment which is free of charge.
- The trends that NSCCS is currently seeing:
 - Longer stays at transition house and second stage due to housing crisis,
 - Families are having to go off the North Shore, leaving their community supports.
 - More single women are being referred to SAGE House because of lack of housing.
 - More women are staying in an abusive relationship or staying with an abuser because of lack of housing.
 - More requests for space for families at risk of homelessness.
 - Women are coming to them with more complex needs such as mental health, addiction and poverty.

Questions from SPAC:

- What are the wait times to stay at SAGE House?

- There are no wait times; we get women in right away. However, if there is not room at SAGE, we refer them to another shelter. The waitlist for Second Stage Housing is approximately 3 – 6 months.
- What is the criteria for qualifying?
 - All women and children fleeing any type of abuse: financial, emotional or physical. Our mandate states that they do not have to be fleeing abuse that occurs in intimate relationships.
- What kind of affect does lesser funding have on your operations?
 - Core funding is very important to provide the administrative services. If funding were to be cut, it would have an effect, making it difficult to run programs. We would have to fundraise.
- What other organizations on the North Shore that you work with, referrals from and to? Is there a particular municipality where you are sending other people?
 - Hollyburn Family Services, Family Services of the North Shore, Canadian Mental Health Association, Spectrum Mothering Support and the North Shore Women's Centre.
 - Vancouver and other municipalities in the Lower Mainland have transition houses as well; we send people where there is room.
- How many people are you helping on the North Shore?
 - We see about 1,500 women and children each year. Two hundred women go through SAGE House each year, 500 through the community programs.
- What are your plans for capacity and growth? It seems that there are more in need than you can meet; would you look at expanding services in particular areas?
 - Second stage housing is important, at SAGE we turn away as many women as we take in, year to year. This does not diminish. We would like to double Hope's Place in the future.
- In terms of a general funding outlook, where do you seek funding from. What are seeing in terms of trends?
 - BC Housing is looking at organizations that are interested in providing new units for us, includes operating funding as well. We have an annual fundraising event raising money for the redevelopment of Hope's Place.
- When clients are referred off of the North Shore, do they come back to the North Shore to their original support network?
 - They do often have to move off the North Shore, and we can lose touch with them then. But we see them at the critical point, we provide crisis intervention and get them back on track. We do not provide long term counselling, other agencies do that. Other organizations have stopping violence programs; we tend to not keep in touch after the crisis phase.

5. UPDATES

- Councillor – N/A
- Staff –
 - a. Studio in the City 11: Studio on Third: Working out of a studio at 111 East 3rd Street, artist apprentices will help create and bring to life a large public art project on the wall of the Army & Navy building. The program will start July 3rd and will run every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am – 3 pm each day until the end of August. We have happily accepted 8 youth to participate in the program this year.

- b. Queensbury Parklet: Install of the Queensbury Parklet is underway and will be complete by end of next week. We invite you to ride or walk down to the area and enjoy the new community space!
- c. Play Boxes: The City has installed two new play boxes, building off the success of last year's pilot program in Civic Plaza. Our new and snazzy boxes have been installed in Rogers Plaza and Civic Plaza (to replace the old one).
- d. Curated Busking Program: Be on the look out this summer for various artists and performers activating our City streets and spaces with unique entertainment!
- e. Long Tables Lunches: First event happening next Thursday July 5th from 12-2pm in Civic Plaza. Weather permitting the Long Table Lunches will be happening every Thursday in July and August from 12-2pm with live music, long table, and of course of giant plaza games!
- f. Civic Plaza Piano: BIG thanks to the art students at Mountainside Secondary for repainting our beloved plaza piano.

6:32 pm – 5 minute break

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Queen Mary Family Learning Program

H. Evans gave an update on the Queen Mary Family Learning Program and their desire to become core funded. They have received grants from the CNV since 2011 in varying amounts. They have expressed interest in becoming a core funded agency as they would prefer guaranteed funding on a year to year basis. H. Evans met with them in early June and has also met with CNV staff.

One of the criteria in the City's Core Funding Policy stated that an agency must have received \$10,000 or more per year in grant funding from the City for three consecutive years; unfortunately, QMFLP do not currently meet this criteria yet. The other consideration is that they are not an organization; they are a partnership of multiple agencies and therefore receive funding from a few different sources. QMFLP is now having that conversation with some of their partner agencies to see which one could be the receiving agency for the funding. They can continue to apply for community grants. After they have received \$10,000 for more than 3 years they could request to be considered for core funding

SPAC members had questions about the Core Funding Policy. H. Evans advised that it was last revised in 2005 and will be reviewed in the current year work plan. H. Evans will involve SPAC in that revision and update, which will likely be later this year. SPAC expressed a collective desire to review the Core Funding Policy in the fall, hopefully at the September meeting.

b. Child Care Strategy

H. Evans gave an update on the Child Care Strategy. The draft strategy is currently being worked on with the consultant. We have met with managers and will be scheduling a meeting with different departments in the City such as Parks, Building, Licencing and Real Estate to look at the policy. The next step will then be to go out to partners such as Vancouver Coastal Health over the summer and will come back in the fall to Council and to SPAC.

c. You Me US

H. Evans gave an update on the Community Well-Being Strategy:

- Most engagement is complete.
- The online survey and Kitchen Table Talks are open until July 3rd.
- Three reports are in progress.
- Six focus groups were held in May with social service and community agencies around six different themes.
- Client / program meetings were also held.
- Listening posts were put up in secondary schools, recreation facilities, the Multicultural Society and community resource centres.
- We have also been attending different community events such as the Friday Night Market and Good Neighbour days.
- The response has been very positive.

d. Committee Procedures

S. Ternes led a discussion around Roberts Rules of Order and options for making SPAC meetings run more fairly and efficiently. He referred to the email document he sent to all members prior to the meeting. He stressed that he feels that small committees can be run more informally as per recommended by Robert's Rules of Order.

Arash Ehteshami advised he had found a Roberts Rules "cheat sheet" online that he finds helpful and will share it with the committee. He stated it may assist SPAC, particularly during the Community Grants review and discussions.

SPAC came to a unanimous consent that members should continue to raise hands when they wish to speak and the Chair will call on members in the order hands are raised with consideration of who has already spoken. This will ensure that everyone has a voice and every opinion is heard.

7. ROUND TABLE

Nothing further.

8. ADJOURNMENT – 7:38 p.m.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 26, 2018

Alex Ternes

Chair

Sept. 26th, 2018

Date