

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 28, 2017 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Arash Ehteshami, Vice Chair
Joanna Linsangan
Etienne Normandin
Tina Parbhakar
Mary Tasi
Heather Urquhart

Holly Back, Councillor

ABSENT:

Steve Tornes, Chair
Jasreen Janjua
Cassandra Buckley

STAFF:

Heather Evans, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk

GUESTS:

Lesley Blok, North Shore Meals on Wheels
Betsy MacDonald, North Shore Meals on
Wheels
Angela Sealy, Westcoast Facilitators Group

9 members – quorum = 5

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2017 were adopted as circulated.

3. PRESENTATIONS

a) North Shore Meals on Wheels

Betsy MacDonald and Lesley Blok

B. MacDonald (Chair), and L. Blok (Vice Chair) gave a verbal presentation on North Shore Meals on Wheels.

Key points included:

- Meals on Wheels originally started in Great Britain during the 1940s. In North Vancouver, it was started in 1967 by Jess Smith and was called "Mobile Meals".
- The first volunteers were from the United Way and various church groups across the North Shore. It became incorporated as "The North Shore Meals on Wheels Society" in 1978.

- The society's purpose is to deliver hot, nutritious meals three days a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) to those who, because of age, illness or disability cannot always prepare meals for themselves.
- They have 3 types of meals for customers to choose from; these all come with a protein, a starch, a vegetable, soup and dessert. The meals are all freezable.
- The meals are prepared by Chef Joe at the Pantry in North Vancouver. The Pantry is a recently new provider (about a year ago).
- Approximately 80 meals are delivered every week.
- The meals are picked up from the Pantry, taken to North Lonsdale United Church and St. David's United Church where they are sorted and heated by volunteers, then delivered by volunteers. Some meals can be delivered cold upon clients' request.
- The meals cost the client \$8.50 per meal and this can be paid by cheque, credit card or through Paypal.
- Clients are not only elderly people but also include people who request the service (e.g. people on disability, people who are receiving medical treatments, new mothers).
- North Shore Meals on Wheels has 7 active board members and 120 volunteers. They have 7 routes in North Vancouver and 4 in West Vancouver.
- The service can be seen as more of a community service; it allows seniors to stay in their own homes longer and can be the only point of social contact for some.
- Volunteers are asked to do 2 hours per week.
- NS MOW had a hard year financially when they lost Cheers as a food provider (Cheers closed). They went through 2 providers before finding The Pantry but in the meantime had to dip into their contingency fund until they could raise prices to sufficiently cover costs.

Questions from the Committee:

- Would it not be beneficial to use 2 meal suppliers so you don't get into a tough situation again?
 - It has been a struggle for us to find one good meal supplier as they don't make a lot of money; The Pantry is really doing it as a community service as well. It also has to be a restaurant that prepares breakfast as the meals need to be at the 2 churches by 9:30 a.m.
- Have you ever looked at using the Carson Graham food program or the Salvation Army?
 - Yes, we have. Carson Graham weren't ready for something like this when we spoke to them. We would also have the added problem of what do during school holidays and in the summer. We have also spoken to the Salvation Army but it didn't work for them.
- Do you deliver to the reserves?
 - Yes, we do.
- Are you mentoring successors to take over administration when present volunteers or board members retire?

- We have not been as most volunteers are retired seniors who are available during the day. Our board members are getting younger so we think this will happen naturally.
- Who are all your funding partners?
 - The West Vancouver Community Foundation, the North Vancouver Community Foundation, the Gaming Commission, the Kiwanis, the Legion, the Lions, Vancouver Coastal Health, the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver and the Soroptimists. We have to fundraise \$35,000 - \$45,000 per year.
- Do you cater to vegetarians or those with Celiac disease?
 - Unfortunately not as we are such a small organization.
- Do you do any kind of volunteer appreciation?
 - We do a volunteer luncheon once a year. It is difficult to justify as we are low on funds but we know it is important. We are lucky on the North Shore that we have so many volunteers; other Meals on Wheels organizations have folded as they have had to start paying drivers and other volunteers.
- Do you do any marketing or promote yourselves on social media?
 - We are just starting to get onto social media. We are looking for ways to do marketing that are not too expensive.

6:35pm – 6:40pm - Break

b. North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership

Angela Sealy

H. Evans introduced A. Sealy who is part of the Westcoast Facilitators Group and has been hired to work on the North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership's Diversity on Boards project. The City of North Vancouver did provide this project some funds through the last round of Community Grants.

Key points included:

- Having immigrants as part of an organization's governance structure is highly coveted and beneficial. Immigrants come up with different ideas as they see things with a different lens; they may process things longer and may come up with different questions. They provide new innovation and creativity.
- Some have asked if this is system of affirmative action or tokenism. It is not as inclusion is the difference.
- The goals of the project are to:
 - Identify diverse candidates for North Shore boards/committees;
 - Identify organizations interested in building a diverse board/committee.
- This will be done by hosting information sessions, hosting governance training, hosting networking sessions to match board/committee with "new" board members and hosting diversity awareness training for existing boards.
- Follow up with organization is important as we will want to hear stories from the new board members, what we can learn from it and how we can support everyone.
- The target populations are China, Philippines, South Korea and Iran but the initiative is open to others.

- The target numbers are to match 10 – 15 new board/committee members with 20 – 30 organizations.
- The impact we hope this project will have is that we double or triple the representation of immigrants on local board or committees; this will have a long-term positive impact in increasing inclusive organizational leadership on the North Shore, making North Shore organizations more responsive to the needs of future immigrants.
- Diversity in leadership helps to bring forward a variety of perspectives to discussions affecting the political, economic and social lives on the North shore. This also builds a stronger and better board when it represents the community which it serves.
- Inclusiveness is what will make this project work. Immigrants will be assigned a mentor so they have someone to turn to if they don't understand why a decision is being made, if they don't understand bylaws or the framework. A lot of countries may not have the democratic process we enjoy here; mentoring is an important piece.

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Why are you focussing on people from specific countries?
 - This is due to the demographics of the North Shore
- What should individuals that are interested in being on a board or committee expect?
 - They should send in a resume, Angela will call them and set up a detailed interview. If accepted, they will be given training and matched with a board or committee.
- Some non-immigrants do not realize that the democratic process is important and that it is good to have people with differing opinions on the same committee. It is important to put this in your training. Some cultures will not speak up. It will be important to stress that they need to speak up, even if their opinion is different and they may get push back.
 - That's why the training is scheduled for 2 days; we will touch on the democratic process, how to ask questions, the responsibility of being on a board, the responsibility to speak up. We will also be training established board members to accept questions that they feel may be coming out of "left field".
- One of the most valuable things this project could do is if one person from each culture sits on a committee and brings what they learn back to their community..
 - Yes, we are hoping to recruit champions who will go back to their communities.

7:10pm – 7:15pm - Break

4. UPDATES

a. Councillor

- Council received a delegation from a lawyer for Weeds Glass & Gifts; they feel they should be able to have a business licence but Council has denied.
- Option E for Harry Jerome was approved by Council. It has now gone back to staff to rezone the land on the south side of 23rd Street.

- Onni's over-excavation at 13th and Lonsdale has been considered by Council for a bowling alley. This will be going to public hearing.

b. Staff

- H. Evans and Councillor Back both attended the North Shore Congress last month. This was mayors and councillors from all North Shore municipalities, Lions Bay and Bowen Island as well as Vancouver Coastal Health, school trustees and Members of Parliament. This occurs twice a year and the topic this time was Child and Family Friendly Charter The speaker was Paul Kershaw, and there was an interesting discussion about how family friendly the North Shore is especially with respect to affordability.
- The Request for Proposal for consultants to help with the Child Care Strategy has gone out. Responses are expected by July 5. There will also be a research assistant helping with the Child Care Strategy for 4 weeks this summer.
- The new parklet at Lonsdale and East 18th Street has been installed.
- Astro Turf has been installed at Rogers Plaza; yellow & pink chairs are tables and umbrellas will be there soon. Watch for the launch party mid-July!
- To promote busking in the City, staff will be curating local young performers to perform at specific times and locations throughout the summer.

5. **ROUNDTABLE**

SPAC members had questions regarding the proposed Ferris Wheel. H. Evans will find out more information and send by email to SPAC.

6. **ADJOURNMENT – 7:44 p.m.**

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 27, 2017**



Chair



Date