

 A/Director	 General Manager	 CAO
---	---	--

The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**  
**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT**

**INFORMATION REPORT**

---

To: Mayor Linda Buchanan and Members of Council

From: Heather Evans, Community Planner

Subject: SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Date: March 31, 2026 File No: 01-0360-20-0088/2026

---

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2026 Work Plan (CityDocs [2771504](#))

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update of the Social Planning Advisory Committee's (SPAC) achievements over 2025 and provide a work plan for 2026. The Committees are established to provide advice and recommendations to Council on matters defined in the Committee's Terms of Reference or Bylaw. Staff facilitate this process through creating annual Committee Work Plans.

**2025 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

SPAC's mandate is to:

- a) Advise Council on community social needs (facilities, programs, etc.), appropriate responses, and the allocation of community grants.
- b) Review, monitor and advise on the City's social and community planning goals, objectives, policies and priorities as guided by Council's Strategic Plan, including consideration of the Community Wellbeing Strategy and implications of major City-led planning and development projects.

SPAC's mandate aligns with the Council Strategic Plan's key priority for a City for People: to create an equitable, accessible and healthy community that is inclusive, welcoming and safe. SPAC's work also contributes to the creation of Council's key priorities for a Prosperous City and a Vibrant City.

SPAC's mandate and activities also include providing input on projects and work that advance the pathways of the Community Wellbeing Strategy. SPAC contributes to Pathway 6 of the Community Wellbeing Strategy, Partnerships, Advocacy & Financial Supports, in relation to the Committee's role in reviewing and providing recommendations to Council for the City's community grants program. The 2025 budget for Community Grants was \$260,000 and a total of 129 applications were received and reviewed. SPAC reviewed the Round One Community Grants applications at March and April meetings, and reviewed the Round Two Community Grants at the November meeting.

As well, a new role for SPAC that started in 2025 is to review and provide recommendations to Council on the Child and Youth Initiatives Grants. The 2025 budget for Child and Youth Initiatives Grants was \$20,500 and a total of 39 applications were received. SPAC reviewed the applications at the October meeting.

SPAC continued to learn and increase its understanding of social and community issues in 2025 with the following activities:

- SPAC visited the Lookout Housing Shelter in the City, to gain an understanding of the scope of work at the shelter and homelessness.
- SPAC invited presentations from local non-profit organizations over the course of the year to learn about community trends and challenges. Invited presentations in 2025 included representatives from Hollyburn Family Services (January 2025 meeting), and seniors' organizations Silver Harbour Seniors Activity Centre and Lionsview Seniors Planning Society (June 2025 meeting).
- SPAC received an information update from staff on provincial legislation related to housing and the City's Housing Needs Report.

## **2026 WORK PLAN**

In 2026, SPAC will be called upon to review and provide recommendations in respect of four key initiatives:

1. Community Grants - SPAC review and recommendations;
2. Child and Youth Initiatives Grants – SPAC review and recommendations;
3. Growing understanding of social and community issues in the City; and
4. Reviewing and providing input on City policies and projects.

SPAC's work in the coming year will provide Council with community perspectives regarding significant initiatives within the mandate of SPAC and furthering Council's strategic priority for a City for People.

More information is in the 2026 Work Plan (Attachment 1). The Work Plan was reviewed with SPAC at the February 26, 2026 meeting and the committee supported the activities in the plan.

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

SPAC is supported by staff in the Planning, Development and Real Estate Department and the Legislative Services Department. Additional staff resources and departments are requested and included as needed on a project specific basis.

## STRATEGIC PLAN, OCP OR POLICY ALIGNMENT

SPAC's work aligns with [Council's Strategic Plan](#) and the strategic priority to create a City for People: to create an equitable, accessible and healthy community that is inclusive, welcoming and safe. SPAC's work is also strongly linked to and supports the City's Community Wellbeing Strategy.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



---

Heather Evans  
Community Planner



## Social Planning Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan

Vision / Goal Statement: To provide community input on advancing the pathways of the Community Wellbeing Strategy, especially Pathway 6: Partnerships, Advocacy & Financial Supports with respect to the Committee's role in reviewing community grants, helping promote Council's strategic priorities for a Prosperous, Vibrant City for People.

*Note: Initiatives should adhere to the Terms of Reference and align with [Council's Vision & Priorities](#).*

<b>Initiative / Project</b>	<b>Actions</b> State what is expected of the members in relation to the Initiative/Project.	<b>Expected Outcome</b> State the expected impact of the actions.
1. Community Grants - SPAC review and recommendations	1.1 Review Round 1 2026 Community Grants and provide recommendations for allocation to Council (March, April, May meetings)  1.2 Review Round 2 2026 Community Grants for allocation and provide recommendations to Council (November meeting)  1.3 Debrief from grants review process and recommendations for improvements to SPAC review process for next year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations to Council for allocation of Round One and Round Two community grants</li> </ul>
2. Child and Youth Initiatives Grants – SPAC review and recommendations	2.1 Provide input to process improvements for grants review, and implement the revised process.  2.2 Review Child and Youth Initiatives Grants and provide recommendations for allocation to Council (October meeting)  2.3 Debrief from grants review process and recommendations for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations to Council for allocation of Child and Youth Initiatives grants</li> </ul>

## Social Planning Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan

	improvements to SPAC review process for next year	
3. Growing understanding of social and community issues in the City	<p>3.1 Visit two local community non-profit organizations as a committee to understand operations, and community needs and trends</p> <p>3.2 Receive invited presentations from local community non-profit organizations / applicants to community grants to understand operations, and community needs and trends</p> <p>3.3 Receive presentations from staff on policy and project updates, e.g. housing and community projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPAC’s new learning and understanding of community issues, needs and trends provides information for SPAC’s review of grants and City policy projects</li> </ul>
4. Reviewing and providing input on City policies and projects	<p>4.1 Provide input on City policy work that is underway including but not limited to Community Safety Strategy, Parks and Public Spaces Plan, Supportive Funding Review, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPAC’s input provides a social lens and perspectives on the development of City policies.</li> </ul>