To: Mayor Darrell R. Mussatto and Members of Council

From: Steve Tornes, Chair, Social Planning Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2018 WORK PLAN

Date: April 5, 2018

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PURPOSE:

To provide an overview of SPAC activities and accomplishments in 2017, and an overview of SPAC activities and work plan for 2018.

BACKGROUND:

The City of North Vancouver Social Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) was established by Council in 1991. SPAC is the Advisory Body responsible for reviewing Community Grant applications and making funding recommendations to Council. SPAC also provides input on matters referred by Council or staff and comments on significant social issues in the community.

The Advisory Body is comprised of local residents that volunteer for two years to a maximum of six years to review and comment on grant proposals. It is the goal of the committee to be fair and reasonable, efficient and effective to grant applicants and that the programs and organizations that are recommended for funding support the City's social goals and objectives.

The committee also advises and advocates to Council on broad social concerns that affect residents of the City of North Vancouver and can make recommendations to Council on matters concerning the planning and development of municipal strategies to meet community social needs.
OVERVIEW OF SPAC ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017:

We thank all our members for their commitment to the work of the committee and for their enthusiasm over the year. SPAC members in 2017 were: Cassandra Buckley, Arash Ehteshami, Jasreen Janjua, Naz Kohan, Joanna Linsangan, Etienne Normandin, Tina Parbhakar, Mary Tasi, Heather Urquhart and Steve Tornes.

SPAC is grateful to Councillor Holly Back, City Council liaison representative, for her input. Members found her attendance at SPAC meetings and her ability to provide background and perspective on social planning matters valuable. It was a significant benefit to understand Council's point of view and we were pleased to be able to relay SPAC's perspective to her.

SPAC thanks City staff who provided information and presentations throughout 2017. These added to the committee's ability to see the connections between various initiatives and to understand in a much deeper way both social sustainability and the City's broadly based and integrated concept of sustainability.

SPAC met monthly, except in July, August and December and in each case provided comments and recommendations. Members also participated in committee work, most notably on the review of grant applications for two rounds of Community Grants.

Community Grants

Community Grants are intended to support not-for-profit organizations serving North Shore residents. The North Shore municipalities provide these grants in order to assist groups with the delivery of services, which work to reduce social, economic or physical disadvantage and/or improve the quality of life for residents.

In the first four months of 2017, SPAC's focus was on reviewing Community Grant applications and finalizing recommendations to Council. Using set criteria, individual members of the committee each carefully reviewed a small number of applications. Thereafter, SPAC worked as a committee of the whole to undertake a systematic evaluation and ranking. As a result, decisions were reached in a fair and respectful way and recommendations were made in accordance with both the Community Grant Guidelines and the Social Plan. Each year, staff and SPAC consider the strengths and weaknesses of the review system and make changes to enhance the process in the following year.

2017 was the second year in which the City of North Vancouver received Community Grant applications in two intakes. In the first intake (deadline January 31), 87 Community Grant applications were received requesting a total amount of $307,573. There were 82 repeat applications and 5 new applications. In this round, it was recommended that $149,400 of the $185,000 budget be allocated. In the second intake (deadline September 15), 24 applications were received requesting a total amount of $110,100. There were 24 repeat applications and one application from an agency that had not applied to...
Community Grants before. In this round, SPAC recommended allocation of the full $50,700 remaining in the 2017 fund.

**Committee Education/Seminar Participation**

During 2017, SPAC members received presentations from other groups and organizations.

These presentations included:

- Trina Prior, Manager, Grants & Community Initiatives, Vancouver Foundation - Vital Signs
- Heather Cowie, Provincial Coordinator, Alzheimer Society of BC - Dementia-Friendly Communities
- Claudio Lerner, Program Coordinator, Queen Mary Family Learning Program
- Joy Hayden, Innovation & Engagement Specialist, Hollyburn Family Services
- Betsy MacDonald, Chair and Lesley Blok, Vice-Chair, North Shore Meals on Wheels
- Angela Sealy, Consultant, Westcoast Facilitators Group - North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership
- Julia Kaisla, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association, North and West Vancouver

**Information and Advice on City Policies and Projects**

At each meeting, the Community Planner updates SPAC on Council and community planning activities. These are very helpful in keeping committee members apprised of relevant issues with which they may not be directly involved.

The committee also had the opportunity to provide comment on the following projects and initiatives in 2017:

- Child Care Strategy
- Community Well Being Strategy
- Dementia-Friendly North Shore Action Plan
- Housing Action Plan
- Play: Embrace the Space

**OVERVIEW OF SPAC ACTIVITIES AND WORKPLAN FOR 2018:**

SPAC acknowledges that the committee meets on the Unceded territories of Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. As of 2018, we make this recognition during every meeting. In addition, a regular roundtable is included at the end of each meeting to discuss continuous improvements and to give members an opportunity to share new ideas.
In February 2018, the committee elected Steve Tornes as Chair for the upcoming year and Naz Kohan as the Vice-Chair.

**Community Grants**
The first application intake (deadline January 31) for Community Grants attracted 98 Community Grant applications requesting a total amount of $343,504, which is the largest number of participants and funds requested. The City has $176,828 available in 2018 to allocate to Community Grants. The 2018 fund is $8,172 less than in 2017, as interest earned on the Lower Lonsdale Legacy fund is less than in the previous year. Therefore, although we have a record increase of applicants, we have fewer funds to allocate. SPAC has commenced its review of the 2018 grant applications.

**Committee Education/Seminar Participation**
In February 2018, staff and a SPAC representative attended a workshop held by the North Shore Interagency Network on Financial Statements and Financial budgeting for charities and non-profit organizations. In addition, Margaret Coates, Coordinator for Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society (and former SPAC Chair and Member) was invited and presented to SPAC.

As noted in the Work Plan below, education activities are planned for the remainder of 2018.

**Information and Advice on City Policies and Projects**
The committee sees value in its advocacy. Where feasible and appropriate, the committee would like to be proactive to changes and opportunities in the community.

The committee is looking forward to offering its review and advice on relevant City policies, projects and initiatives.

**Work Plan**
In addition to responding to Council referrals, SPAC’s goals for 2018 include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. To review Community Grant applications and make funding recommendations to City Council;
2. To make recommendations for additional community grant funding to keep pace with community needs and recognize the increasing number of applicants;
3. To provide Council with policy and advocacy recommendations on social issues and initiatives in the community;
4. To consider potential improvements to the grants application and review process for the future, potentially through the work of a sub-committee;
5. To offer ongoing advice and recommendation on the Community Well Being Strategy process to update the Social Plan;
6. To offer comment on new social policy development and implementation e.g. the Housing Action Plan, CNV4ME, etc.;
7. To keep informed on significant community agency responses to changes in funding for health and social service agencies (e.g. through presentations, tours and other means); and
8. To stay abreast of other funding opportunities offered by the City, other levels of government, the private sector, and other agencies.

SPAC is open to receiving ongoing input from the community to raise issues and opportunities.

CONCLUSION:

The Social Planning Advisory Committee appreciates Council’s ongoing interest and support in the committee’s role to review applications and make recommendations for Community Grants, and to advise and advocate on social issues relevant to the City of North Vancouver.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Steve Tornes
Chair, Social Planning Advisory Committee

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