



COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting – Wednesday, September 15, 2021
7:00 pm - BY MS TEAMS

Members: Ashraf Amlani (Chair)

Cathy Harvey

CS Kim

Constantine McQuade

Stephane Perrais

Victor Schwartzman

Pamela Wilkinson

Donna Zwickel

Regrets: Rebecca Ferguson

Maxwell Lai (Vice Chair)

Ellison Mallin

Staff: Eirikka Brandson, Social Planner

Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOVED by Victor Schwartzman and seconded by Cathy Harvey
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the June 16, 2021 Minutes

MOVED by CS Kim and seconded by Cathy Harvey
To adopt the June 16, 2021 Minutes.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising

(a) Recommendation to Council – Proposed Motion

As background, the recommendation was developed because there had been discussion about social priorities in the District, and the Committee has struggled figuring out how to deal with the various requests without knowing the District's priorities. As well there have been some concerns that the budget may be insufficient and there is a lack of information or data that could help assessing whether there is sufficient funding. There has also been a gap between the amount of funding recommended by the Committee and the amount available. As well, at the June meeting, there had been some ambiguity and concern whether the Committee had a mandate to advise Council. On review of the membership manual, and other guiding documents and policies, there was wording around "... advising Council and staff on issues of concern to the public and District. Council considers this advice when making decisions . . .".

On discussion and review, members provided some feedback on the wording of the proposed motion, and some revisions were requested.

MOVED by Cathy Harvey and seconded by Stephane Perrais

THAT: The social priorities and budget for Community Service Grants be reviewed taking into consideration:

- Population demographic changes
- Cost of living
- social trends;
- Unmet social needs in the community;
- the amount of the budget shortfall, in each of the past five years, to fulfill the grants recommended by the Community Service Advisory Committee; and
- increases over the past five years in the number of applications from non-profit organizations to provide social services to residents of the District of North Vancouver.

AND THAT: the Community Services Committee and subject experts in the community be consulted in the review of social trends and needs in the communities of the District of North Vancouver.

CARRIED

A suggestion was presented that before the recommendation is made, information needs to be gathered and a report provided to Council, on population changes and demographic, unmet social needs, mental health needs, budget shortfall and number of applications. Staff reported that a report has gone to Council with the recommendation that there be a review for population growth analysis.

Staff reported a process has been initiated and discussions are underway with the Community Planning Dept. about the grant portfolio and possible recommendations for change. As well, there is some openness for all of Committees of Councils coming forward to make presentations to Mayor and Council. The budgeting processing is

underway and the report includes a recommendation to do the population growth adjustment and there is an openness to add other pieces to that analysis for this year. As well, members can provide other considerations, including the metrics that would be useful.

It was noted that staff indicated willingness to take the metrics, as suggested by the Committee, and embed those metrics into the analysis that will be provided to Finance. In this regard, the majority of the Committee indicated consensus that the course of action would be through staff to do the analysis and that members can provide any metrics or considerations to staff by September 30.

5. Discussion on Grant Process

Members were requested to provide their feedback on the CSAC grant process, particularly processes that worked well, and processes that may need improvement. It was noted that there have been some internal conversations with staff around the overall grant process, including reviewing forms, the membership binder, reviewing policies and guiding documents.

The following comments were provided by the Committee members:

- The ability to complete the entire grant process remotely and the possibility of maintaining a virtual process in terms of interviewing the applicants.
- As available funding is limited, and in order to consider some safeguards, a review should be undertaken in terms of the ability of the large agencies to apply for multiple applications.
- Having direct contact with the organizations and the interview process.
- More information is required around social needs in the community, possibly developing a social plan that could be informed by subject experts.
- Although interviewing virtual was success, in-person interviews are more preferred.
- Rather than individual Committee members meeting with the agencies, consideration be given to having the agencies having a voice to present to the entire Committee as this would provide an opportunity for the agencies to answer the Committee's questions.
- Having an opportunity to learn about an agency and what services they provide in the community.
- There may not be a consistent way of how the Committee recommends funding, and there may be a lack of clarity of how members recommend funding.

- It was beneficial and important to visit the agencies in person as it raises more dialogue between the Committee member and the agency. Virtual interviewing may become stale and lose some of the organization's perspective, and feels more like questions and answers.
- The larger agencies outside of the District apply for funding did not indicate the number of people or the amount of money allocated to the District. This information should be specifically requested and if not available, focus on agencies that are only based in the District and deliver services to the District.
- There is value in in person interviews and getting to know the agencies wherein in a virtual setting this may not be possible.
- There is benefit in the District's process for the grants in terms of a group of people are reviewing the applications, instead of the grant process being overseen by employees of the municipalities.
- There is a human element in terms of interviewing the agencies and the ability to see the full context and atmosphere, clients and the nature of the people of the agency and this gives a perspective of the service that the agency is providing.
- It may be beneficial to have a standard questionnaire for the interview so that all members are asking the same questions and presentations are more consistent, or instead have a scale or criteria that members can grade in order to be more subjective. Consideration could also be given for the agencies to fill out one application every funding cycle.

Since there will be several new members joining the Committee, members were requested to provide questions for potential new members. The following feedback was provided:

- Whether the individual has financial expertise, and knowing their motivation for wishing to be part of a grant process.
- Ensuring that there is a diverse group of members in terms of age, background, youth, Indigenous, gender identified, etc.
- An ability to have humility and be willing to learn about the community and be without a personal agenda.
- Ensuring potential new members are committed to the amount of work of the Committee, as well as their area of speciality to add to the Committee.
- More diversity in the Committee including Persian, Aboriginal, etc., and possibly having an academic who specializes in social issues. In the past, there may have been too many members with financial backgrounds and too few members with social issues background.

- It was beneficial to have financial expertise, but it is equally important to have a member with expertise in social services and social planning.
- Members should have an openness and curiosity to learn what the District offers.

6. Speaker / Presentation for October and November

Members were requested to provide feedback on possible agencies or presentations for the October and November meeting. This could be a certain topic area, or a specific agency, to do a presentation to introduce themselves and more of their programming. In November as past practice, there will be a small celebration to celebrate the outgoing members of the Committee; however the format will be determined because of possible public health restrictions. In terms of topic areas, the following feedback was presented:

- For the November celebration, consideration be given to an outdoor event.
- A presentation from the agencies in Lynn Valley regarding youth.
- A presentation on social need in the community, priority areas from Canadian Mental Health and from agencies involved with aging population.
- It may be beneficial to hear from the people who are receiving the benefit received from the agencies that the District has funded. It would also be good to understand the trends and have a presentation from a social worker or the Hope Centre. It was also suggested that a presentation from another District Committee, possibly the Housing Committee.

7. Any Other Business – Binders

Members were requested to return to the District Hall the grant application binders.

8. Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

District Vision Statement

Our goal is to be recognized among the most sustainable communities in the world as demonstrated through our environmental stewardship, strong network of neighbourhoods, a vibrant economy and community-driven growth and change.