



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

January 7, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

City Hall – Lower Boardroom

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 12:11 p.m. at City Hall in the Lower Boardroom. The following members were in attendance:

Chair: Councillor L. Bussey,
Mayor Mark Heyck (ex officio),
Y. Adam,
L. Cooke, and
J. Fullerton.

Absent: C. Lafferty.

The following members of Administration were also in attendance:

D. M. Gillard, and
L. Dunsmore.

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m.

Presentation by Yellowknife Community Foundation (YCF)

2. Representatives of the Foundation introduced themselves. (President Bronwyn Watters, Directors Mike Vaydik, Robert O'Rourke, Margaret Melhorn and Administrative Assistant Rosella Stoesz). The Chair had invited YCF to do a presentation for the Committee explaining the Foundation's work, in particular the "Vital Signs" initiative that resembles this Committee's "Yellowknife Selfie" project.

YCF aims to enhance quality of life for the people of Yellowknife by identifying community needs, then distributing investment income from funds donated to meet those needs. It was through membership in the national organization, Community Foundations of Canada that YCF learned about "Vital Signs", a project that gathers data and publishes reports delving into issues such as poverty, food insecurity and youth unemployment. These reports help community foundations across Canada to focus their attention and resources where they are most needed.

YCF's limited resources led the organization to request an exploratory meeting with City Council's Social Issues Committee. Through its large network of contacts, the Foundation could support the Committee's search for data and resources related to social issues. Perhaps the Foundation could help the City direct its existing resources more effectively. Among other types of assistance to



Yellowknife, YCF offers grants and scholarships, and would welcome suggestions from the City about other areas where it could invest.

The organization is seeking a collaborative partnership with, and political leadership from, the City of Yellowknife or other organizations to produce a Vital Signs report for this community. Undertaking the Vital Signs process would not pre-empt the Social Issues Committee's Yellowknife Selfie; on the contrary, one project might help the other to fill in some of the gaps in its database. The National Office has made a template available that identifies mandatory indicators to be included in communities' Vital Signs reports, but there is some flexibility for users to adjust the indicators to fit the local situation. A report typically costs \$20,000 to \$25,000 to produce, depending on the resources that volunteers bring to the project. The Foundation has neither funding to contribute to the project, nor the resources to manage it, but would like to participate on a Steering Committee if one were established.

Municipalities sign on in February/March and launch their reports on October 6. Members agreed that this timing might be too tight for the City for the current year, but aiming for a 2017 launch would allow time to cultivate partnerships. Non-profit organizations might be able to leverage funding and corporate sponsorship. The Committee was also advised to watch for federal announcements later this year about money available for community-based projects to be completed in 2017 (Canada's 150th anniversary; Yellowknife's 50th anniversary as a capital city). The presenter offered to supply the Committee with more information on the Vital Signs program as it becomes available.

Committee members were encouraged to use the resources, below, for more information.

Vital Signs website: <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/en/home> ;

Vital Signs webinar: <http://communityfoundations.ca/resources/orientation-to-the-vital-signs-program/>

For more information, please contact Cindy Lindsay, Director Member Services at clindsay@communityfoundations.ca or 519-725-3353.

Action item: The Chair will share the results of the Yellowknife Selfie project with the Yellowknife Community Foundation.

The Chair thanked the representatives of the Yellowknife Community Foundation for their presentation, and the Committee moved on to the Administrative matters on the Agenda at 12:50 p.m.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

3. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

4. J. Fullerton moved,
Y. Adam seconded,

That the Minutes of the meeting held on October 1, 2015 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings

5. The Chair reported that she had not been able to reach the Coroner to issue an invitation to a future meeting, but would continue to call.

Update on Action Items regarding the “Yellowknife Selfie”

6. a) Feedback on the “Literacy” section (all members to email Chair by Oct. 7)
b) Preamble needed for each section
c) Recommendation that Council cover cost of distribution to the public

As time was running short, members agreed to defer discussion of above items 6 a), b) and c) to the next meeting.

Action Item: The Recording Secretary will ensure that discussion of the above items is added to the Agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting (February 4, 2016).

Other Business

7. a) Resignation of J. Green

Action Item: Administration to advise City Clerk that the Committee needs another Member-at-Large.

- b) Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce has declined its seat on the Social Issues Committee.

Action Item: The Chair will contact the Executive Director to discuss the Committee’s need for input from the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce.

Next meeting

8. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 12:00 noon.

Adjournment

9. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.