



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

November 24, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

City Hall – Lower Boardroom

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, November 24, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Lower Boardroom. The following members were in attendance:

Chairman: Councillor L. Bussey,
Mayor Mark Heyck,
J. Fullerton,
A. Lizotte, and
C. Wawzonek.

Absent: D. Everett
C. Lafferty

Guests : Margaret Melhorn, Yellowknife Community Foundation, and
Rosella Stoesz Executive Director, Yellowknife Community Foundation.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

D. Marchiori, and
S. Jovic.

Item Description

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

2. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.



Approval of Agenda

3. Mayor Heyck moved,
4. C. Wawzonek seconded,

That the Agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

5. Mayor Heyck moved,
- L. Bussey seconded,

That the Minutes of the meeting held on October 6, 2016 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Homelessness Road Map Working Group

6. Mayor Heyck provided an update on the Homelessness Road Map Working Group. Mayor Heyck noted that a copy of the “*Yellowknife Homelessness Road Map Action Plan 2016*” presentation is available on the City’s website. Mayor Heyck further noted that the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness, in collaboration with all front line agencies, will lead the development of a 10 Year Plan to address homelessness in Yellowknife.

Action Plan for Vital Signs Project

7. Committee heard a presentation from Ms. Melhorn regarding “*Vital Signs: Turning Knowledge into Action*”. Ms. Melhorne noted that the Yellowknife Community Foundation (YCF) and the City of Yellowknife’s Social Issues Committee (SIC) have been working together to prepare for the YCF’s participation, in partnership with SIC, in a Vital Signs project in 2017. Ms. Melhorne further noted that the City had recommended to approve \$20,000 in funding for the project in the draft 2017 Budget. Final Budget approval of the funding by City Council in December is necessary if the project is to proceed. Ms. Melhorn stated that “Vital Signs” are reports prepared by community foundations across Canada that provide a broad picture of their community using relevant national data together with local research on a wide range of social and economic trends in their communities. Ms. Melhorn further stated that the reports are prepared by local community foundations with coordination and assistance from the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC). Ms. Melhorn advised that the reports, which have been undertaken by more than 40 community foundations since 2006, help communities make connections between issues and trends in different areas. Ms. Melhorn further advised that the findings are presented in a reader-friendly format that provide a snapshot of quality of life and community vitality. Ms. Melhorn noted that “Vital Signs” connects the dots between existing data to dive deep on issues such as poverty, food insecurity and youth unemployment. Ms. Melhorn further noted that community foundations use Vital Signs to start conversations and identify trends to help communities act on local priorities and opportunities. Ms. Melhorn stated that the Vital Signs project in Yellowknife would be led by the YCF and that this is a requirement of the CFC. Ms. Melhorn further stated that it is proposed that the project be overseen by a Steering Committee composed of representatives from the YCF, the SIC and possibly other members of the community. Ms. Melhorn noted that possible issue areas are:



- Economy & Work,
- Health & Wellness,
- Housing,
- Learning,
- Safety,
- Belonging and Leadership,
- Arts & Culture,
- Gap Between Rich & Poor,
- Getting Started,
- Environment,
- Getting Around,
- Cost of Living, and
- Sports Recreation and Outdoors.

Ms. Melhorn advised that although a firm budget has not been developed, it is estimated that the Yellowknife Vital Signs project will cost at least \$30,000, and may cost more. Ms. Melhorn further advised that the costs will include hiring a contractor to manage the project, consultation costs (possibly surveys, focus groups, consultation meetings), printing, advertising, etc. Ms. Melhorn noted that a contractor will be required as the YCF does not have the capacity to do this work in house. Ms. Melhorn further noted that much of the data needed for the report will be available from sources such as Statistics Canada via the CFC. Ms. Melhorn stated that this is provided through a subscription service by CFC, which also includes Web based Vital Signs manuals and templates, training & coaching and communications tools and that local data sources would also be used. Ms. Melhorn further stated that the YCF has committed \$10,000 toward the funding of the Vital Signs project. It is expected that other sources of funding will need to be explored. Ms. Melhorn advised that Grande Prairie received funding from the Province of Alberta as well as from corporate sponsors. Ms. Melhorn further advised that the Vital Signs report would be completed and released in October 2017 as part of a country-wide release by all participating community foundations, as well as the release of a national report by the CFC. Ms. Melhorn noted that the CFC coordinates the national release. Ms. Melhorn noted that, in 2011 the City of Grande Prairie asked the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta to undertake a Vital Signs project for that community. Ms. Melhorn further noted that the first report was very successful and a Vital Signs project has been done every second year since then.

Committee suggested several amendments to the presentation and left it with Ms. Melhorn to finalize. Committee requested that Ms. Melhorn provide a copy of Grand Prairie Vital Signs Report to Council.

Next meeting

8. Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment

9. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Prepared: November 25, 2016; SJ/