



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

March 5, 2015 at 12:00 noon

City Hall – Upper Boardroom

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 12:10 p.m. in the City Hall Upper Boardroom. The following members were in attendance:

Chair: Councillor Bussey,
Y. Adam,
Councillor Bell,
R. Delorme-Roy,
J. Green, and
Mayor M. Heyck, ex officio.

The following members of Administration were also in attendance:

D. Marchiori,
N. Naidoo, observing, and
L. Dunsmore, recording.

Absent: L. Cooke,
J. Fullerton, and
S. Kemeys-Jones, advisor.

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

2. There were no disclosures of financial interest.

Approval of Agenda

3. R. Delorme-Roy moved,
J. Green seconded,

That the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

4. Y. Adam moved,
R. Delorme-Roy seconded,

That the minutes of the meeting held on February 5, 2015 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting

5. Crime Stoppers will hold its Town Hall meeting on April 16, 2015 to inform the public about what the organization does, and how the federal and territorial departments of Justice, the City of Yellowknife and the RCMP plan to work with Crime Stoppers.

Strategic Plan for Social Issues Committee – selection of goals for 2015

6. Members suggested numerous goals that Committee could consider for the coming year. Please see highlights of the discussion, below:
- Create a process through which upcoming City legislation/activities are brought to Committee for feedback that Chair Bussey (as a City Councillor) could take back to Council.
 - Search for funding to help the City of Yellowknife create its own Community Wellness Plan since, as a “non-aboriginal community”, it does not qualify for funding under current strategies.
 - Improve public awareness and understanding of social issues through a day/week of activities such as collecting items for the Food Bank, the Day Shelter, etc. Activities that produce tangible benefits might garner more interest and support from the general public than a Town Hall meeting or forum.
 - Committee’s primary goal should be to complete the Report Card project by the beginning of September, so the new City Council elected in October will have a framework already in place to guide its work on social issues.
 - Committee could act as an information gathering tool for Council or an interagency communications service.
 - The Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (C.A.B.) will be doing a “Point-in-Time” (PiT) count on May 13, which may provide useful data for Committee.
 - There is an urgent need to develop programming for the Day Shelter; perhaps Committee could encourage big corporations and local businesses to become involved with that.
 - NGOs might be persuaded to share enough information to identify areas where services are duplicated, thereby allowing limited funding to go a bit further.
 - The City’s plan to revitalize the downtown core may alleviate some of the conditions that produce social problems.
 - Committee could encourage the City to become actively involved in finding homes for the homeless, or in setting up a hostel.
 - Committee could encourage Councillors, the general public, or donate its own time, to volunteer at the shelter helping clientele fill out forms to access services, or other such tasks.
 - Committee should not only act as an advisor to Council, but could also identify NGOs in need of funding, find sources of funding for them, and educate the public on social issues.
 - Cities in some jurisdictions have a staff member who acts as a “social entity” to connect their social issues committees with local agencies.
 - Committee needs to start a dialogue with GNWT regarding gaps and overlaps in program delivery because no one is doing that right now.



- The goals that Committee comes up with for 2015 need to be different and distinct from those of 2014.

Action: All members are asked to submit their suggestions for 2015 goals to the Chair by email, prior to the next meeting of Committee in April.

Reports from sub-committees:

7. There were no reports from the sub-committees.

Other Business

8. There was no other business discussed.

Next meeting

9. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2015, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Upper Boardroom at City Hall.

Adjournment

10. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.