



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

January 9, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.

City Hall – Lower Boardroom

MINUTES

In attendance:

City Council	Councillor Bussey, Chair
Mayor's Office	Mayor Heyck, Ex Officio
City Council	Councillor Wong, Alternate
YK Health & Social Services Authority	Yacub Adam
Public at Large	Lani Cooke
Public at Large	Jan Fullerton
City of Yellowknife	Dennis Marchiori, Director, Public Safety
City of Yellowknife	Linda Dunsmore, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Yellowknives Dene First Nation	Ruth Delorme-Roy
GNWT – Justice	Shirley Kemeys-Jones, Advisor

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

2. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Agenda

3. Mayor Heyck moved,
Mr. Adam seconded,

That the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

4. Ms. Fullerton moved,
Ms. Cooke seconded,

That the minutes of the meetings held on October 3, 2013 and November 28, 2013 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Items for Discussion:

5. Reports from sub-committees:
- a) Downtown Policing – Mayor Heyck advised Committee that a meeting with representatives of the Yellowknife RCMP, the City and GNWT-Justice has been postponed due to the recent GNWT cabinet shuffle. He also advised that the City’s Municipal Enforcement Division (MED) is scheduled to undergo an operational review this year and City Council may discuss expanding MED’s role so that its officers can provide more support to the RCMP.
 - b) Connecting Service Providers – The Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse (CCSA) is in discussion with Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority (YHSSA). Chairperson is interested in joining this partnership, and the executive director of YHSSA is open to some type of involvement. As an advisory Committee, Social Issues Committee may recommend that City Council participate. A motion to this effect will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - c) Day Shelter – Request for Proposal has gone out to operate the Day Shelter. The current contract runs to the end of March 2014. During recent budget deliberations, City Council approved a \$50,000 contribution agreement for the Day Shelter.
 - d) Citizens Response Team – The territorial Department of Justice has entered into an agreement with the John Howard Society for the society to draft a proposal for a Citizens Response Team. The department expects to receive the proposal by the end of January.
 - e) Terms of Reference (TOR) – During a review of its standing committees, Council noted that the TOR of most committees need to be updated. With the disbanding of the Yellowknife Area Policing Advisory Committee, the Social Issues Committee may wish to recommend to Council that a seat be added to its complement for a RCMP representative.

Other Business:

6. It was noted that a new Executive Director for the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce has recently been appointed. Administration will contact the Chamber to request that a replacement for Ms. Valpy, the former Executive Director, be appointed to sit on the Social Issues Committee.



7. Committee discussed focusing its attention on two specific goals for 2014. Members were asked to review the Social Issues Committee's Strategic Plan and be prepared to discuss what these two goals might be, bearing in mind that members want to facilitate discussion of social issues in general and hold a public education forum.
8. Committee discussed the concept of "harm reduction" and how it may be another way to address social issues. Members noted that this is a highly controversial and troublesome issue in those communities that have undertaken harm reduction initiatives. The first steps in implementing such projects must always be public education and engagement.

Next Meeting

9. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2014.

Adjournment

10. Mr. Adam moved,
Ms. Fullerton seconded,

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY