



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

March 6, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.

City Hall – Lower Boardroom

MINUTES

In attendance:

Public at Large	Lani Cooke
Public at Large	Jan Fullerton
YK Health & Social Services Authority	Yacub Adam
Yellowknives Dene First Nation	Ruth Delorme-Roy
GNWT – Justice	Shirley Kemeys-Jones, Advisor
Mayor's Office	Mayor Heyck, Ex Officio
City Council	Councillor Bussey, Chair
City Council	Councillor Wong, Alternate
City of Yellowknife	Dennis Marchiori, Director, Public Safety
City of Yellowknife	Linda Dunsmore, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

City Council	Councillor Bell, Alternate
Public at Large	Julie Green
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce	Trevor Bayer

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. Ms. Fullerton moved,
Mayor Heyck seconded,

That the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

4. Mayor Heyck moved,
Mr. Adam seconded,

That the minutes of the meeting held on January 9, 2014 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item added to agenda

5. Administration updated Committee on the formation of a multi-jurisdictional Task Force on Public Safety that brings together representatives of Yellowknife Health and Social Services, the RCMP, the territorial Department of Justice and the City of Yellowknife, among others. Members of the Task Force will identify the public safety initiatives their departments/agencies have planned or already undertaken, and their Communications staff will work together to create a strategy for informing the public of progress made on public safety issues.

The Mayor, SAO and a councillor had lunch at the Salvation Army recently and met some of the people who rely on that organization. News that the shelter would close at the end of March was a great concern to all.

Items for Discussion

6. Reports from sub-committees:
 - a) Advocacy / Leadership – Committee identified ten organizations that would be invited to make a presentation at a meeting of the Social Issues Committee. Nine of those ten have been contacted; to date, one organization (YWCA) has accepted the invitation and will present at the next meeting of Committee (April 3, 2014). Inclusion of presentations in the agenda may make it necessary for Committee to consider changing the frequency or length of its meetings.

Action: Mr. Marchiori will draft an email to Committee that will provide an outline to all presenters regarding Committee's processes, time limits, and how to focus questions.

- b) Downtown Policing – The Mayor has asked the Commander of the Yellowknife RCMP detachment to meet monthly with him (along with some members of Administration) to discuss citizen concerns.
7. Review goals and select two to work on in 2014:
In its Strategic Planning sessions last year, Committee identified Advocacy / Leadership as one of its major goals. Members have already begun work on this goal by inviting ten Yellowknife organizations to make presentations at upcoming meetings. Committee still needs to select one more goal for 2014.

Action: (All) Members will email their preferences for the second goal to Ms. Bussey, Mr. Marchiori and Ms. Dunsmore by the end of the day on Monday, March 31, 2014.



8. Update on presentations to Committee by outside organizations:
Please refer to item 6(a), above.

Other Business:

9. Day Shelter – The future of the Day Shelter is uncertain since the John Howard Society is no longer interested in operating it. The shelter will close at the end of March; in the meantime, Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority will draw up tender documents and search for a new operator.

Action: The Chair and Ms. Cooke will meet/email to discuss ways of ensuring that the \$50,000 in funding from the City of Yellowknife will still be used toward a Day Shelter.

10. Anti-Poverty Action Plan – The Hon. Glen Abernethy, territorial Minister of Health and Social Services, anticipates that an Anti-Poverty Action Plan will be developed in the coming year. The plan will look at various models for helping people to find the assistance they need in their home communities, eliminating the need to travel to a larger centre. Committee discussed inviting the co-chairs of the Anti-Poverty Action Plan to one of its meetings.
11. Administrative Matters – There was a brief discussion about hiring a part-time employee or summer student to assist Committee members.

Next Meeting

12. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2014.
(Note: This meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m.)

Adjournment

13. Mayor Heyck moved,
Ms. Cooke seconded,

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY