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## City of Kelowna

# MEMORANDUM

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DATE: October 23, 2002  
FILE: 5080-02 / 5040-20  
  
TO: City Manager  
  
FROM: Community Planning Manager  
  
RE: Community Planning Progress Report / Social Planning Board Involvement  
  
REPORT PREPARED BY: Theresa Eichler

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council receive, for information, the annual progress report on the Social Planning Board dated October 23, 2002 from the Community Planning Manager.

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to provide a progress report for work with the Social Planning Board over the last year. The terms of reference for the Board require an annual status report to Council under clause 8 – b.

### **REPORT:**

The terms of reference for the Social Planning Board define its objectives as follows:

- To advise Council on matters of social relevance from a community-based, prevention standpoint.
- To ensure a policy and decision-making framework which aims to improve quality of life for residents of the City.

Work that falls within these objectives has also been set out in the terms of reference. In 2000/01, the Board worked diligently on the terms of reference to ensure that they were clear and current. Scope of the work is set out as follows:

- a. Recommend disbursements from the Community Social Development Grants fund and the Grants to Address the Sexual Exploitation of Youth fund to Council
- b. Advise Council regarding implementation of social policies contained within the City's Official Community Plan, and ensure that these policies remain current.
- c. Inform council and members of the community of the City's social policies, which are provided for the following topic areas, as approved in the 1996 Social Plan, and incorporated and updated within the Official Community Plan:

Accessibility  
Arts and Culture  
Child Care  
Community Development  
Crime Prevention

Education  
Employment  
Health  
Housing  
Human Rights

- d. Determine means of recognizing existing community or social service organizations that embody the policy direction of the City.
- e. Advise Council on all areas of social and community needs and problems within the City, recommending possible solutions to such needs and problems.
- f. Advise Council on formal agreements between the City and community and social service organizations.
- g. Act as a liaison between Council and community organizations concerned with the provision of social service programs.
- h. Hear and consider representations by any individual organization or delegation of citizens with respect to social programs and make recommendations as the Board deems to be in the general interest of all citizens.

**THE BOARD:**

In the original creation of the Social Planning Board, the City's intent was to create a mix of representatives from the community, both those who are well-versed in key social issues, and those representing key business interests. Interest from the general community, in particular Residents' Associations, was also sought. Fortunately, the Board has retained a positive mix of members over the years with many influential community leaders. Board members over the last year include:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (s)</b>
Eric Greer	Board Chair, General Manager Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Okanagan (CFDC-CO)
Alan Dolman (resigned due to appointment to the Health Region)	Former Board Chair, President, Central Okanagan Foundation
Dorothy Silgram	Canadian Mental Health Association (formerly)
Jeff Gunn	Manager, TD Canada-Trust, Spall Plaza Branch
Brian Given	Council Representative
William J. Downie	Executive Director of Kelowna Community Resources
Mac Campbell	Quail Ridge Residents' Association & former school administrator in Peel Region of Ontario
Lynn Burgat	Executive Director, Kelowna Child Care Society
Carol Bernard,	Senior Administrator / Career Coach CBD Network Inc.
Farah Lorimer	Formerly with Multicultural Society of Kelowna
Michael Loewen	Executive Director, United Way
Micheal (Mike) Morrill	Executive Director of C.O. Child Development Association
Allyson Fagan	YMCA-YWCA of Kelowna/Westbank, Career Contact Centre for Youth

Within a one year period, the Board would not necessarily engage in every one of its areas of work. However, it is surprising to review how much work does occur. This report summarizes the last year by topic area.

**GRANTS:**

Council will recall that the grants for 2002 were approved in April of this year. Work for the Board on grants begins with the appointment of a grants sub-committee in January or February. Based on availability, members of the Board assist with the grants information session that is held at this time. Following the grants application deadline the last Friday in February, the sub-committee meets with staff to determine the short-list of applications that will be reviewed in detail, based on an assessment of which applications are complete, and meet the program criteria. There are two grant programs administered by the Board, the Community Social Development grants and the Grants to Address the Sexual Exploitation of Youth. The sub-committee then allocates which applications to review in detail by which committee members. At a subsequent meeting, sub-committee members bring back individual assessments to the group, with the assistance of staff. The sub-committee then determines which applications should go forward to an interview with the applicants. Interviews are conducted usually over the course of one day. Following the interviews, the sub-committee determines what its recommendations will be. Recommendations are then taken to the full Social Planning Board. The Board, in turn, makes its recommendations to Council. This process involves fairly intensive work on behalf of the members of the grants sub-committee over the period of a couple of months. Staff is responsible for administration of the grants programs. Council policies governing these programs are available for consultation as policies 218 and 277. The process has worked well over the last few years, and the commitment of volunteer time by the Board members is commendable.

For the convenience of Council, 2002 recommended grants are listed below:

**2002 Approved Community Social Development Grants**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Type of Grant</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grant</b>
Junior Achievement Okanagan	Special project	Fund conference for grade 9 students on the "Economics of Staying in School"	\$5,000
Tara Association for Personality Disorders	Operational	To help TARA stabilize its services to the families and friends of people with Borderline Personality Disorder.	\$2,000
Okanagan Families	Special project	Coordinate parenting education activities in the community.	\$2,500
United Way	Special project	"Journey Forward" project to help community build consensus on human service issues with the intent of improving service alignment to local need.	\$19,500
Reach Out Youth Counselling Centre	Special project	"Leadership Camp" for 40 financially disadvantaged youth 13 to 15.	\$6,756
Kelowna Community Resources	Establishment	Establish a permanent volunteer centre for Kelowna.	\$12,000
Kelowna Community Resources	Establishment	Offer a psycho-educational group for those who have lost someone by suicide. 10 weeks	\$3,900
Kelowna Women's Shelter	Establishment	New program to offer a personal life-skills management workshop to survivors of domestic violence.	\$4,868
People in Motion (member of Central Okanagan Access Awareness Team )	Special project	Research & produce an updated version of the 1996 Access Guide	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$66,524.00</b>

**2002 Approved Grants to Address the Sexual Exploitation of Youth**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Recommended Grant</b>
Servants Anonymous Society	Therapeutic mentorship program for 19 & under client base. Special techniques for recovering from traumatic events.	\$15,000
Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society	Fund 2 10-week preventative groups for adolescent girls 12-14 who have been sexually exploited, or are at risk of sexual exploitation. Also a self defense course will be offered.	\$7,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$22,000.00</b>

**DELEGATIONS:**

In the interest of serving its role to the community and the City, the Board hears delegations on many issues. Here is the list of delegations to the Board in the last year:

October 15, 2002:

Kelowna & District Consumer Council (KDCC).

Representatives of this agency met with the Board to discuss changes to income assistance and disability benefits, in terms of how it affects the consumers of mental health services. The KDCC is holding an information session for people with physical or mental disabilities regarding how to fill out the new forms for those who have received letters from the Province asking for more details. The Board agreed that City staff could assist with the cost of booking the Library meeting rooms for the KDCC for this purpose.

June 11, 2002:

Ministry of Children and Family Development

The Executive Director and Service Manager for the Ministry presented the nature of program changes with new government to the services provided to children and families in the Kelowna area. This presentation was precipitated by the impact of closing two shelter beds operated by the Central Okanagan Boys and Girls Club and the request by the Club for additional funding by the City. Since Liberal government changes are taking place incrementally, the Ministry did not request any assistance in the form of correspondence or motions of Council, from the City.

May 14, 2002:

Poverty Task Force

Members of the Task Force met with the Board to discuss the impacts of funding cuts to income assistance and other programs on the community. They presented client case outlines to illustrate the impact. It was difficult to determine a City-level action without more specifics on the nature of the impacts.

April 9, 2002:

Communications Manager

The Board invited the Communications Manager to present ways to promote and advertise effectively to raise community awareness of social issues.

March 12, 2002:

AIDS Resource Centre

This agency presented a video entitled, "A Time to Remember", produced by youth on the consequence of drug use, unsafe sex and sexual exploitation. The video was produced with the assistance of a City grant and the Board was very impressed with the quality and impact. Suggestions regarding distribution and showing the video were made. It was to be entered into a film festival.

September, October & November, 2001

Central Okanagan Foundation

The Board held detailed discussions with representatives of the Central Okanagan Foundation regarding various ways the City could assist financially with the upcoming conference and anniversary for community foundations to be held in Kelowna. No compromise was determined that would match the direction of the Foundation with the policy framework and direction for grants governing the Social Planning Board. The Board advised the Foundation to approach Council directly.

**SPECIFIC PROJECTS:**

A function of the Board is to review particular project work conducted with community planning and provide input for staff or forward recommendations to Council, if necessary.

**Policy Review**

The Board reviewed employment and health policies from the OCP and did not determine need for change. It also reviewed a matrix of social-oriented policies from newly approved OCP, with corresponding work initiatives.

**Accessibility Guidelines**

The Board has been provided with a draft document introducing design guidelines for accessibility that has been prepared by staff and reviewed by other City departments. Comments and suggestions on use and introduction of the guidelines are being forwarded to staff.

**Housing Opportunities Reserve Fund**

As housing policies from the OCP also fall within the context of social policy, the Board has been kept apprised of affordable housing issues and efforts to initiate the housing opportunities reserve fund.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Social Planning Board has proven itself to be a highly functional group of individuals who volunteer their time to make recommendations to Council and to work with staff and community representatives towards improving the quality of life in this City. The members enjoy the work and each other's company and would like to establish a more open relationship with City Council. Periodic progress reports, like this one, will be given to improve communications. In the meantime, minutes of the Board meetings are always available in the Council reader file.

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Theresa Eichler, MCIP  
Community Planning Manager

Approved for inclusion

R.L. Mattiussi, ACP, MCIP  
Director of Planning and Development Services