



Greater Vancouver Regional District

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SOCIAL SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 7th meeting of the Social Services Policy Committee, held on Tuesday, June 26th at 7.30 p.m. in the GVRD, 2215 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver.

Shelley Dillion acted as chairperson. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as circulated.

Correspondence

It was explained that Alderman Harry Rankin was not able to attend a meeting of this Committee on June 27th but would probably be able to be present on Wednesday, July 11th and the Committee agreed to change its meeting date on that one occasion to accommodate him.

There has been no reply to date from Hon. Norman Levi to the Committee's **letter** of May 30th.

Members were reminded of the meeting on June 28th concerning the proposed integration of social services and it was suggested that some members might want to attend and report back to the Committee.

The Committee was informed of a press release on Premier Barrett's comments to the Canadian Medical Association criticizing professionals for lack of reform in social services. IT WAS AGREED that a letter would be sent to Premier Barrett expressing the Committee's pleasure over his statement and inviting him to attend a meeting of the Committee since his ideas would be useful to the Committee in its deliberations on this subject. IT WAS ALSO AGREED that this letter should **be released to the press.**

Merrilyn Payne reported on her attendance at the last meeting of the Government and Society Policy Committee where she had outlined the work of the Social Services Committee concerning licensing difficulties and complex bureaucratic structures as part of the Government and Society's examination of the decision-making process.

Finance Sub-committee

A letter from Dan Tobin to Mr. George Carlisle was read concerning his displeasure at receiving only \$250 from the GVRD, as discussed at the last meeting. Since he had not been present at the last meeting, it was decided that Stan Persky should contact him, explain the events of that meeting and determine if he wishes to remain a member of the Finance Sub-committee. Stan Persky will also contact Mr. Carlisle

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to explain the circumstances under which Dan's letter had been written.

Membership Sub-committee

Members who had not been attending meetings were contacted to try to determine their reasons. There were two common reasons: the narrow range of the Committee's interests (i.e. primarily day care) and the feeling of a barrier between agency and non-agency members. It was suggested that when the brief on licensing problems had been prepared these members might find the Committee's deliberations of more interest. In any case, there should be provision for "corresponding members" who would receive minutes and interim reports and whose comments would be solicited before a final report was prepared.

Preparation of the Brief

An early draft of the major part of the report on structure has been prepared. In the discussion which took place, the inclusion of the following points was stressed:

- that information was difficult to obtain even by members of the GVRD staff and then only by going to the top.
- that the processes involved in obtaining information and licensing in other municipalities are compared and contrasted with Vancouver, noting that where provincial rather than city officials deal with the public, the service seems better.
- that by this brief we want to go from specific cases to draw general principles of social services as they presently exist and stress citizen participation.

It is hoped that draft reports of sub-committees 1 and 2 will be ready for mailing to members before the next meeting. The draft report of sub-committee 3 will be discussed at the next meeting. Members of the three sub-committees would meet between now and the next meeting to determine the make-up of the entire report. There must also be consideration of what will be done with the brief in terms of publicity and community support.

Following this discussion the Committee gave some thought to what it would discuss following completion of the brief and several suggestions emerged:

- The relationship of social services and a "livable community". If the fact that we need social services reflects a failure in the community, how can we create a community which prevents those problems from arising? Among specific questions to examine would be the effects of population growth.

- The quality of the people who provide social services -- hiring, training programmes.
- Select another topic to investigate in depth, eg. welfare, unemployment, mental health, senior citizens (particularly good since it encompasses a whole spectrum of problems).
- Study experiments, innovations in social services and look for positive programmes and models.

IT WAS AGREED that members would give some thought to this and come to a decision at the next meeting.

It was brought to the Committee's attention that the South Hill Day Care Centre had been ordered to close on June 30th and there was discussion on what if anything could be done by the Committee. It was decided that any financial support was impossible but IT WAS MOVED, seconded and agreed that a telegram should be sent to the Ministers of Health, Human Resources, and Education in Victoria urging that the facility be kept open. The telegram as **drafted** by the Committee and approved by the Centre's lawyer, reads as follows:

- Whereas this Committee is a Policy Committee of the GVRD concerned with social services
- Whereas it has had an opportunity to hear from the people concerned with the South Hill Day Care Centre
- Whereas it has learned with concern that the South Hill Day Care Centre is faced with a closure date of June 30
- Whereas it is our belief that this closure would create **hardship** for all concerned, including parents, children and staff, and loss of valuable community services
- Resolved that this Committee urge that a 90-day extension be granted on the interim license for the operation of this facility to permit a further exploration of this problem in order to preserve a valuable community facility.

IT WAS AGREED that the next meeting of the Social Services Policy Committee would be held on Wednesday, July 11th at 7.45 p.m. in the GVRD, 2215 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver.

/ng
June 28, 1973