

TRI-CITIES SENIORS PLANNING NETWORK

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday, January 19, 2016 - 1:00 - 3:00 pm Poirier Library, Nancy Bennett Room 575 Poirier Street, Coquitlam

Attendees:

Stacy Ashton
Bruce Bird
Ruth Cox
Ryan Drew
Effie Garcia
Brenda Hynes
Jackie Hong
Judy Jackson
King Lum, Chair
Pat McBlane
Patrick McGuire
Roland Mitchell
Mary Ong
Irene Turnbull
Karen Tyrell

Regrets:

Ken Kuhn

Introductions

Welcome to new members and guests.

Agenda

- Accepted with Stacy adding “Grants and Funding” under New Business

Guest Speaker

Selina Robinson, MLA Coquitlam-Maillardville

- Has been asked by the Leader of the Opposition to take on the “Seniors File”
- Have been studying Isobel MacKenzie’s reports – great research
- Presented to legislature in the fall regarding investing in support for caregivers
- Working with appropriate ministries to address issues of:
 - Housing
 - Access to health care
 - Poverty
 - Transportation
- Have been going as a team to different areas in BC to hear from seniors directly and get the bigger picture
- Selina also serves as the opposition for local government and sports

- Uphill battle for accessible housing
- Local government and communities need to prepare for aging seniors
- Does the Provincial Government have a role around seniors' centres?
- Are we missing something?
- If you know of seniors who can't access entitlements, refer them to her office.
- It was suggested that Selina and the 'dog and pony' show be part of the Forum
 - Selina commented that they may be in session at that time, but to please forward the invitation; she would like to have David Eby attend
- Stacy will send the housing survey to Selina for her information
- Roland noted that there is a need to emphasize communications to the community – they need to do a better job at getting the message out
- A newsletter to all seniors, from all opposition, around seniors issues
- Ruth commented that some onus needs to be put on organizations, as well, to communicate
- She said there seems to be a lack of coordination and collaboration within service providers
- Seniors need a 'one stop shop' – Seniors' Hub
- Government does not advertise services/programs well
- Should we have a Seniors' Ministry?
 - CARP has been fighting for this for 15 years
 - 'Absolutely' need one based on demographics alone
- Better at Home has been able to reach about 10% of the total need in urban communities – underfunded based on the need
- Geriatric nurse clinician is a new position in ER at Eagle Ridge Hospital – two will be hired
- Qualifications for overall caregivers have been 'dumbed down'
- Stacy commented that when you look at how the system allows organizations to be involved it seems to be thought that collaboration is better; however, no allowance is considered for increased administrative costs
- According to United Way trends, low income seniors are being priced out of housing in Vancouver
- Creates more pressure for services and a better argument for strong infrastructure for seniors' services
- Seniors walk-in clinics were suggested – navigators for the system; provide medical and emotional support (one-stop shop)
- Set up family health units as being done in Ontario
- Ryan noted that immigrant seniors which adds language and cultural barriers is only expected to increase; how do they learn to connect with mainstream services?
- Too many layers to get to 'direct services' via Better at Home
- Judy Darcy and Selina are the opposition critics re: Better at Home

Thank you to Selina for meeting with us. We hope to continue to work with you in working toward Age Friendly Communities.

Minutes of Previous Meeting (November 17, 2015)

- Roland noted a correction on Page 4 under Port Moody Seniors Focus Committee:
 - 8th bullet should read: The new plans for Wilson Centre are leaning toward being all inclusive; however, nothing has been finalized yet
- Pat moved to accept minutes with correction noted
- Roland seconded
- Carried.

Business Arising from Previous Meetings

Communications Update

- Stacy and Ryan to set up Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Add/tweet link to Housing Survey

Survey Update (this topic was moved forward and discussed as follows while Selina Robinson was still present)

- Patrick, Mary and Stacy met and finalized the survey
- To date, we have 118 responses – since the end of December!
- It is also now available in Chinese
- Some of the results:
 - 49% are interested in hearing of financial support and subsidies
 - 50% are making a plan on where to live – interested in information on downsizing and home renos
 - Preference in speakers has been predominately on topics of Government subsidies, Fraser Health programs and services, not for profit housing and home support providers
 - 51% of responses so far indicated they owned their own home, 32% were living in apartments or condos and 9% were renters (need to reach more renters)
 - 40% have no plans to move in the next 10 years, 30% plan on living in a condo, townhouse or apartment
 - Most responders want to continue living in the Tri-Cities
 - They want to live in areas where services are within a walkable distance
 - They want to find affordable fixed housing costs
 - They want to live close to friends and family
 - 23% struggle with the cost of housing
- Stacy will send the link out again
- Can we target BC Housing Clients? How?
- February 3rd and 24th Volunteers will be able to hand out surveys at the SHARE Clarke Street Food Bank (anyone interested in assisting, please contact Stacy); hours: 11:00 am-1:00 pm

(Selina left at this point and business meeting began)

- What are the next steps around the survey?
- We need to get more out
- Suggested we approach local papers to either insert the survey or advertise it and provide the link to readers (Stacy to follow up)
- Make up bookmarks and tear away posters
- Survey will remain open up to the end of March
- We have enough feedback now to identify trends and proceed with Forum planning
- Wilson Centre (Roland) can send link in their upcoming newsletter (*can anyone else??*)
- Mosaic (Jackie) will assist in getting survey translated into Korean and Farsi (Stacy will send to Jackie)

Housing Forum – Next Steps

- Topics will include:
 - Making a plan for where and how
 - Financial supports and subsidies for those with limited incomes
 - Downsizing and home renovations

- Crossroads Hospice offers workshops on downsizing and renovations – perhaps they would present this at the Forum
- Mary said that RONA will also come in and speak to groups about renovations
- Stacy to talk with CARP about jointly hosting the Forum
- Venue needs:
 - One room for up to 150 people
 - Break out rooms would be of great benefit
 - Will the venue allow for lunch to be brought in or food trucks?
 - Look at Wilson Centre – free venue; accessible Need more volunteers to finalize everything for the Forum
- Need volunteers to take charge (with Stacy/committee assistance) of the following:
 - Venue/Set Up – Roland volunteered
 - Speaker bookings/communications Patrick volunteered
 - Vendor booking – Karen volunteered
 - \$120 for profit; \$100 if they sign up for our Network mailings
 - \$20 not for profit fee
 - Network not for profit members free
 - Marketing and Promotions – Stacy and Ryan will work on this area
- Stacy will schedule a Forum Planning Meeting with all area leads
- Effie’s husband can help us, once again, with our sound requirements

New Business

Grants and Funding

- Stacy and Karen worked incredibly hard in submitting to last minute grant applications to United Way’s new Seniors Action Grant
- They submitted a Letter of Intent for \$16,000 for the Forum
- They also submitted a Letter of Intent for \$30,000 for caregivers and those effected by Dementia (category of volunteer engagement)

Post meeting note: Stacy has since been notified that we were unsuccessful with both of these Letters of Intent.

Updates

Effie Garcia

- Effie is now managing the Skills Connection Program for Immigrants with MOSAIC in Burnaby
- They are mobile covering Burnaby, New West and Coquitlam
- Effie introduced Jackie Hong to our group who is working for MOSAIC in the Tri-Cities

Bruce Bird

- CARP is hosting a Dementia Friends Workshop this Thursday (Jan. 21) from 1:30-3:00 at the Poirier Community Centre
- A speaker from the Alzheimer’s Society will be there
- Attendees can have free blood pressure checks and eyeglass cleaning and adjustment

Irene Turnbull

- Dogwood and Glen Pine have each sent out 20 copies of the survey
- Irene will try to take some surveys in a group setting – she asks, they answer, she records (good idea)

Roland Mitchell

- Wilson Centre will be hosting a Healthy Living Fair on February 13th from 10 am to 2 pm
- This is a free event
- Crossroads Hospice Society Bucket List Festival is being held Saturday, February 20, 2016 at The Anvil Centre, 777 Columbia Street, New Westminster. (*more information attached*)

Mary Ong

- January 27th there will be a workshop about Financial Issues for Seniors and Dementia
- 10 am at Glen Pine Pavilion – contact Mary for more information

Brenda Hynes

- Fraser Health is running a promotion on the Seven Numbers Every Senior Needs
- A copy was handed out at the meeting
- This promotion will be running through newspapers, etc.

Ryan Drew

- Focus lately has been on refugees
- Current contracts for SUCCESS are being extended this year
- Some 'proposed' funding has been put on hold
- There have been 20 families settled into the Tri-Cities so far
- Senior refugees represent about 1%
- SUCCESS Seniors' Enrichment Program will be continuing
- SUCCESS Multicultural Fair will be at Henderson Place from 1 to 4 on January 29th; we will not be reserving space this year (perhaps a few brochures or surveys at the CARP booth)

Karen Tyrell

- CARP event this Thursday at Poirier Community Centre
- Also Thursday at 10 am, Karen will be holding a Cracking the Dementia Code workshop at Glen Pine

Stacy Ashton

- Stacy was recently interviewed on CBC Almanac radio and also TV talking about volunteerism and the volunteer response to refugee crisis
- Stacy is also now the Project Lead for the Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions Collaboration

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 – 1 to 3pm – City Centre Library, Boardroom

Guest Speaker: Susan Foster, Tri-Cities Early Childhood Development Community Development Co-ordinator, Ministry of Children and Family Development (Seniors and Childhood Interactions)