

## SUPPORTING SOCIAL PLANNING and ACTION in REVELSTOKE

### Social Development Committee Meeting Minutes November 26, 2008

**PRESENT:** Nelli Richardson, Lory Borges, Melodie Kindret, Bill MacFarlane, Mary Kline, Linda Chell, John Yakielashek, Brian Sumner, Melissa Klages

**STAFF:** Jill Zacharias, Contract Coordinator  
Alan Mason, Director of Community Economic Development  
Debra Wozniak, Recording Secretary

**REGRETS:** Garry Pendergast, Elmer Shoji, Steve Bailey, Anne Cooper, Cathy Girling, Jane McNab

1. Call to order – Chair Nelli Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
2. Welcome to new member – Nelli Richardson welcomed Melissa Klages to the Committee.
3. Approve Agenda  
**Motion**  
Moved by Linda Chell and seconded by Bill MacFarlane to approve the agenda.  
**Carried**
4. Approval of October 22, 2008 Meeting Minutes  
**Motion**  
Moved by Bill MacFarlane and seconded by Linda Chell to approve the October 22, 2008 meeting minutes.  
**Carried**
5. Coordinator Report – Jill Zacharias reviewed her coordinator’s report (attached). The following topics were discussed further:
  - State of Children’s Development – Revelstoke was the only BC community that showed a decrease in children’s vulnerability, while the remainder of BC showed an increase over the study period. The key to Revelstoke’s resiliency was a combination of several community initiatives undertaken to support early childhood education.
  - Organization calendars – the website is not currently structured to post other organization’s calendars. Jill to discuss with webmaster the set up of links / monthly pdf postings of Children’s calendar, seniors calendar, youth activities calendar, etc.
  - Website announcement – Jill prepared an article for the local paper but they did not print. Agreed that we should purchase info ad space for the article.
  - Rental Housing – the issue has still not been addressed by the community – however the Housing Society will be holding a mission / visioning session in the new year and they will be encouraged to incorporate rental housing in their planning.
  - Seniors Planning Session – next phase will be community consultation with seniors groups. Agreed that Jill should proceed with planning a series of workshops on specific issues that were identified as short term actions.
  - Substance Abuse – noted that Community Connections will no longer be able to act as the lead agency for the drug and alcohol task force – agreed that Jill will organize a planning session with stakeholders to initiate a community-wide strategy. One goal of the

session will be to identify a new agency to take the lead in addressing drug and alcohol initiatives. Agreed that Jill should take the time to develop goals and actions for all four pillars of substance abuse strategies.

- Presentation to Council – After consultation with senior city staff, it was decided to move the date of the presentation from December 2008 to January 2009. All committee members are encouraged to attend as a delegation to support Jill’s presentation. Jill will email date and time confirmation.

6. New business:

- Taxi Service – at the Senior’s planning session the unacceptable level of service was discussed and a resulting action noted was to write a letter of complaint to the taxi licensing body. Prior to drafting a letter Jill will get specific examples of incidences to justify concerns from both organizations and individuals. As well committee members can email Jill about their specific concerns/known issues.
- Healthy Communities Grant – Agreed that Jill will apply for \$2,500 to host a social sector planning event in the spring.
- Emergency Housing – Nelli advised that the committee has \$5,500 and has been considering options for winter shelter, including renting a house for shared accommodation. The house rental option proved to be too costly due to the level of supervision required. A local motel has agreed to accept room bookings for clients on a short term basis. The motel room option will be used for local needs. Non-local people will be provided with a bus ticket to where there is an operating shelter and more client services. Another option considered is renting a room in a house, but finding willing landlords may be a difficult undertaking. Community Connections is in the process of hiring a housing outreach worker who can hopefully match homeless persons with landlords. There is no champion identified to fundraise for emergency shelter needs. The primary challenge is that there is no agency with a specific mandate to provide emergency housing.

7. Round table:

**Linda Chell** – BC Healthy Kids Program assists low income families with dental fees and eye glasses. Encouraged committee members to promote the program – brochures and posters are available.

**Brian Sumner** – Renters Voice had its one year anniversary and it has realized the need to formalize membership and improve credibility.

**John Yakielashek** – With the current economic conditions many social service agencies have seen a recent spike in spousal abuse and substance abuse.

**Melissa Klages** – Encouraged the development of a community strategy for substance abuse as we cannot rely on enforcement alone to solve substance abuse issues. She looks forward to participating on the committee.

**Mary Kline** – Residential Construction Program Information night is Dec 2 at 6 PM and a new training program targeting older workers is scheduled for the new year.

**Melody Kindret** – Credit Union has a staff of 45 who have several fundraising activities and could assist with fundraising for other projects.

**Bill MacFarlane**

- Bridge Creek Properties is moving forward with rezoning.
- Emphasized that the committee encourage the new council to continue support for social planning and action in Revelstoke.

**Lory Borges** – Parent night at RSS was well attended. Parents are becoming more aware/concerned about drug & alcohol issues.

**Alan Mason** – Thank you to Nelli and Brian for their work on emergency housing.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting will be 8:30 a.m. January 28, 2009.

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Nelli Richardson, Chair

**Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee**  
**Coordinator's Report**  
**November 26, 2008**

1. Communications and Contacts:

- October 22<sup>nd</sup> ECD webcast – Forum in Vancouver “The State of Children’s Development in BC” by Dr. Clyde Hertzman
- October 26<sup>th</sup> – participated in Community Connections (first annual) Health and Wellness Fair at the Community Centre
- November 5<sup>th</sup> – Social Development website launched at [www.revelstokesocialdevelopment.org](http://www.revelstokesocialdevelopment.org)
- Directory of Social Services finished and distributed electronically – also hard copies available. Will be updated once/month
- November 20<sup>th</sup> - attended Revelstoke Child Care Society Open House & the Grand Opening of First Steps Infant and Toddler Centre
- Attended meetings of the following groups:
  - o Early Childhood Development Committee
  - o CFDC
  - o Emergency Housing Committee
  - o Renters’ Voice
- Individuals:
  - o Karen Tierny & Rick Reynolds of Parks Canada
  - o Rob Girard, new Fire Chief
  - o Melissa Klages, RCSDC
  - o Gayle Morgan, Community Connections
  - o Linda Chell & Tracy Spannier, ECD
  - o Corin Flood, RCHS

2. Seniors Planning:

- Social Planning Session on November 4<sup>th</sup> was well attended (15 participants)
- Background information included an overview of existing services, population projections and current wait lists for services, as well as examples of services in other communities and ‘age-friendly’ planning guidelines.
- Specific needs were identified in the following areas: Transportation, Health, Housing, Accessibility, Community Care, and Social Isolation.
- Specific actions were identified for short-term (0 to 1 yr), medium-term (1 to 3 yrs), and long-term (over 3 yrs).
- Next steps:
  - o Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant was submitted to UBCM (included a resolution of support from Council) - \$10,000
  - o Community consultation & setting priorities – the Seniors’ Association just had another election. Ruth Boettger is the new president & they are still finding their way. It is possible I can present the results of the planning session to this group on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Also, I am planning to go out to other groups – Mt. Cartier Court, Mt. Begbie Manor & Monashee Crt for feedback.

- I have been facilitating communication between OC and the Seniors' Association to get the computer centre back up & running.
3. Substance Abuse Planning:
- Received most of the research data from various community agencies
  - Also, I have been researching substance abuse strategies from other communities – the four 'pillars' are: Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction and Enforcement.
  - Social planning session targeted for January. Two schools of thought regarding developing a strategy for Revelstoke – a) focus on prevention b) take the time to develop goals & actions for all four pillars in order to be ready for action if funding comes along or opportunity knocks.
4. Presentation to Council:
- After discussions with Ross McPhee and Alan Mason, decided to move the date of the presentation to January (December 15<sup>th</sup> is the very first meeting of the new council).
  - Have been researching information to present.
  - Outline:
    - Brief overview of formative process
    - The economic contribution of the social sector
    - Priorities in the workplan – what we've achieved, what we're working on.
    - Example of social planning in action – Dr. Clyde Hertzman's research & Revelstoke's success in building community resiliency to lower the % of vulnerable children entering kindergarten.
5. Miscellaneous:
- Community Futures Video Conferencing facility is up and running – it is fairly high quality & they are now taking bookings. The cost to use the facility is \$100/hour to a maximum of \$500/day. It is a useful tool to avoid out-of-town trips with regional or provincial groups that have video conferencing capacity.
  - I am continuing to track time spent. I will be taking 2 weeks off in December (Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> to Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>) so am working extra hours at this time.