

SUPPORTING SOCIAL PLANNING and ACTION in REVELSTOKE

Social Development Committee Meeting Minutes 8:30 a.m. Wednesday January 27, 2010

Present: Nelli Richardson, John Yakielashek, Tony Scarcella, Mary Kline, Melissa Klages, Melodie Kindret, Linda Chell, Cathy Girling, Lory Borges, Brian Sumner, Susan Knight and Cathie Thacker
Staff: Jill Zacharias, Debra Wozniak
Press: Alex Cooper, Revelstoke Times Review
Regrets: Alan Mason, Jane McNab, Antoinette Halberstadt, Steve Bailey and Anne Cooper

1. **Call to order** – Chair Nelli Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Agenda Additions: Drug Squad Services

Motion:

Moved by Linda Chell and seconded by Cathie Thacker to adopt the revised agenda.

3. **Presentation: Cathie Thacker, Revelstoke Employment Services Centre (RESC)**

Cathy advised that RESC is entering into a strategic planning process and seeking community feedback on their services to be considered when negotiating their next contract for services. Cathie will be the next presenter at the Speaker Series lunch meeting on February 17. Committee members are invited to attend and/or submit comments on RESC services to Cathie.

4. **Approval of November 25, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Noted in Antoinette's roundtable discussions that it was the Revelstoke Community Housing Society and not the planning department that hosted the rental housing forum held on December 1, 2009.

Motion

Moved by Melodie Kindret and seconded by Mary Kline that the Minutes of November 25, 2009 be approved with correction noted in the roundtable discussions. **Carried**

Business Arising from the October 28, 2009 Minutes:

- Jill advised that request for Council to write a letter to the Liquor Outlets was not written and the matter was deferred to Alan Mason and Jacquie Olsen (RCMP).
- Recommendation to make public transportation as high priority and allocate resources is on hold as the responsibility for public transportation has been switched from Parks & Rec (Alan Chell) to Community Development (Alan Mason).
- Health Care Advisory Committee now has all member appointments filled.

Business Arising from the November 25, 2009 Minutes:

- Support for Single Men – Nelli reported that it has been difficult to schedule a meeting. Discussion followed regarding the need to continue and another meeting to be set giving one month's notice. Jill will provide support to the committee as needed.
- Sexual Assault Protocol – Nelli reported that a very large protocol document is being edited by committee members, when the draft is completed it will then be circulated for comment.

5. **Coordinator's Report** – Jill Zacharias reviewed the Coordinator's report for December 2009 and January 2010.

- Supporting our Seniors – The seniors planning committee dissolved as projects are now completed. Jill has established a strong relationship with the Seniors Association. In the spring, she will hold a review of the Age Friendly Plan to ensure that strategies are being addressed.
- Speaker Series: Julie Lowes presentation in January – Although attendance was poor, most of the Health Advisory Committee did attend and it was a very good information session for the committee. Noted that Queen Victoria Hospital is working with the Resort to streamline services.

6. New Business:

- Referral from City Council regarding involuntary youth detox letter received from the South Fraser Family Court and Youth Justice Committee – Jill presented the letter to the Substance Use Sub-Committee for their input which is noted as follows:
 - a) Currently in BC, access to detox/treatment programs is voluntary – this leaves a gap in service for youth who have severe substance use addictions, are refusing treatment, and are at risk of serious harm to themselves or others.
 - b) Youth who are using (to this degree) are not thinking clearly and do not have the capacity to make sound decisions regarding their health and safety. The intent is to provide another avenue of support when **all** other options for intervention and voluntary treatment have failed.
 - c) Three provinces have moved forward with involuntary youth detoxification programs for youth who are strictly assessed by medical professionals and meet the criteria – these provinces now have data on the percentage of youth who access voluntary drug/alcohol treatment following their discharge from the involuntary programs: AB 49%, SK 71%, MB 83%. This evidence-based data was not available when the BC Government last looked at this issue in 2000.
 - d) Preference would be to have the involuntary detox ruling to come from medical referrals rather than the court system.
 - e) It is important to note that the rights of the youth are addressed through due process.

The Committee Recommends that:

“Given the above noted issues that City Council offer support to the South Fraser Family Court & Youth Justice Committee and recommend to the BC Government that they re-open discussions regarding treatment options for youth struggling with substance abuse and refusing voluntary detox/treatment programs.”

- Pool Pass Process – It was noted that a few families are so marginalized that the application process is in itself a barrier and service providers would like to apply on their behalf. Cathy Girling advised that Patti Larson at Community Connections has set up a protocol for service providers to assist although this may not be widely known by all service providers. Jill will coordinate with Patti Larson to ensure the process for service providers is communicated to all service providers.
- EDI Update – Linda Chell requested that this be deferred. It was noted that vulnerability has fallen in Revelstoke from 12% to 6.7% for children entering kindergarten. Tracy Spannier has compiled some very interesting maps regarding the Revelstoke situation. It was suggested that she be invited to make a 15 minute presentation at the next meeting.
- Sensitive Issues – Jill advised that future recommendations to Council will not be attached to specific members’ names but will come from the committee as a whole. She also advised members that if they are contacted by the media and not comfortable about their inquiries to refer to Nelli, Alan, Jill or someone they feel has more expertise on the topic.

- Drug Squad – Tony Scarcella advised that Council has received a letter from the Solicitor General advising that additional support is available from the Kamloops Drug Squad if requested. He also noted that a local business has experienced some drug related problems and that support from the Drug Squad may be helpful. Discussion followed. Tony will get a copy of the letter to Jill for review with the substance use committee. It was agreed that this matter be considered in the substance use strategy.
- Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 8:30 am.

7. Round table

Cathie Thacker – RESC in year 3 of a 4-year agreement. The Center is up in case management and jobs are down.

Melodie Kindret – Revelstoke Credit Union is still seeing people struggling with job loss issues.

Lory Borges – Parent presentation on February 23 at 7 pm in the RSS library.

Brian Sumner – Emergency housing has not launched into a project yet, but trying to gather data to support funding applications.

- pleased that the committee is working effectively and even if not all dialogues are happening at this level, it is happening at other sub-committee levels.

- will be away from early February into March to help out in Nelson.

Linda Chell – Early Childhood Development committee is hosting a Vanessa Lapointe presentation on infant and child mental health, April 23 for service providers and April 22 evening for parents.

- request that next agenda include update on housing partnership between Okanagan College and the Revelstoke Community Housing Society.

Cathy Girling – people are still struggling due to economic issues and client cases are increasing.

- Housing Outreach Worker program statistics have been released to present to the Revelstoke Community Housing Society at their next meeting.

- Community Connections Café is every Tuesday morning 9 – 11 for isolated people to visit with each other and have something to eat.

Mary Kline – Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy sponsors dinners at Families Night Out events

- Carousel of Nations event being held 4 – 6 pm February 6 at the Community Centre.

Debra Wozniak – Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Program now accepting funding applications to February 15.

Nelli Richardson – Women's Shelter has been extending services to past clients to come and share a dinner. There has been amazing support from the community for the shelter. BC Housing has been renovating the shelter.

Jill Zacharias – During 2009 the Social Development program received \$42,500 in grants for social development work.

- Invited to attend the Housing committee meeting for Melissa Jameson's presentation on the Housing Outreach Program.

- Has moved into her new office which is down the hall from the old office.

8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Nelli Richardson, Chair

Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee Coordinator's Report – January 27th, 2010

1. Communication, support and coordination

New office: Down the hall, now in Suite D. Come visit!

Contacts:

- Nov 25th – Transportation Plan Stakeholder meeting
- Nov 26th, Dec 1st, 3rd, 9th, Jan 19th – CFDC meetings (volunteer)
- Nov 27th – Health Care Advisory Committee meeting
- Dec 1st, 3rd, 9th, 10th – Key informant interviews (substance use strategy)
- Dec 3rd – Parks & Rec Plan Stakeholder meeting
- Dec 11th – Substance use trends & Policy responses in BC webcast
- Dec 15th – Mary Kline, OC
- Dec 17th – Tracy Spanner, ECD
- Dec 17th – Dale Morehouse, Seniors Association
- Dec 18th – Jacquie Olsen, RCMP
- Dec 19th to Jan 3rd – Holidays
- Jan 4th, 13th, 22nd – Key informant interviews (substance use strategy)
- Jan 5th – Lory Borges, IH School-based Prevention
- Jan 5th – Brian Mallet, Public Works
- Jan 6th – Economic Development Commission (volunteer)
- Jan 8th (2), 12th, 19th, 20th – Focus groups (substance use strategy)
- Jan 12th – Health Care Advisory Committee meeting
- Jan 18th – Substance Use Strategy Steering Committee meeting
- Jan 20th – Facilitated speakers at the Seniors' Centre
- Jan 20th – Facilitated service provider speaker series, Julie Lowes
- Jan 25th – Early Childhood Development Committee meeting

2. Supporting our Seniors

- The last of the speaker series at the Seniors Centre took place in January – Lynne Welock spoke on Financial Protection & Constable Tracy Longpre spoke on how to avoid scams, and the current top 10 scams. The event was attended by 60 seniors.
- I continue to support the Revelstoke Seniors' Association as needed. This month, I am assisting with a CBT Community Initiatives grant application.
- Generally, the seniors' centre is doing really well. Participation has increased – for example, over 200 people attended the Seniors' Christmas dinner.
- As well, I submitted an application to IH Injury Prevention Small Grants Program in partnership with City of Revelstoke Public Works and Engineering, for \$3500 to initiate a "Grit Box Pilot Project". The use of grit boxes on city sidewalks is a key recommendation in the Age-Friendly Plan. Icy sidewalks affect seniors in many areas from their ability to get in and out of a vehicle, to increasing social isolation. As well, there is a history of complaints to the city resulting from falls on icy sidewalks from residents of all ages. The City of Revelstoke would undertake a trial program to determine if placing "do-it-yourself" grit boxes would help mitigate the problem and augment the current snow removal program. Under the trial program the City would place a number of grit boxes at key intersections in the downtown core and in areas with a high volume of pedestrian traffic, as well in areas used specifically by senior citizens. The grit boxes would contain the same winter grit used by the City's snow operations' staff for sidewalk sanding. Residents will be encouraged, through an awareness campaign, to scoop and spread the grit on

slippery spots on the sidewalk and other problem locations. Potentially, the "do-it-yourself" approach of using grit boxes will make winter walking safer for all by having pedestrians address slipping hazards as they identify immediately.

3. Transportation

- We are still waiting to hear from BC Transit & the results of the consultants report before holding a planning session to review the entire public transit system & come up with recommendations for potential improvements and alternative funding sources. With Alan Chell's retirement, the responsibility for transit has been transferred to Alan Mason.

4. Substance Use Strategy

- Key informant interviews and targeted focus groups have been very successful. We only have a few more to conduct. The client survey (for non-school-aged clients struggling with substance use issues) has gone out to MCFD, Women's Shelter, Community Connections, and Mental Health & Addictions. A questionnaire has been distributed to RCMP. This added depth has prolonged the community consultation phase to the end of February, but we will be conducting the literature review of best practices concurrently and should stay on track. The draft document will be available for public and agency review in early spring.

5. Service Provider Speaker Series

- Our first speaker was Julie Lowes, Manager, Revelstoke Health Services, on Jan 20th at 7 pm. It was an excellent presentation, providing an in-depth overview of significant projects and achievements in 2009, as well as goals and challenges moving forward into 2010. Julie put a lot of valuable time into preparing for the talk, and although 2 City Councilors were there, general attendance was very poor.
- February's speaker will be a 'lunch and learn' event on Wed Feb 17th at 12 noon in the MacPherson Room at the Community Centre: Cathie Thacker, Program Coordinator at the Revelstoke Employment Centre will speak on "Everything you always wanted to know about the Employment Centre, the Job Market & More!"

6. Quarterly report to City Council

- This will take place today at 3:30 in Council Chambers.

5. 2009/10 Workplan – Second Quarter hours (see below)

- I worked overtime early in the quarter, but balanced it out with holidays in December. Also, I still have a number of banked hours from last year. But it will be important to watch the number of hours worked nonetheless.

RCSDC Social Development Coordinator 2009/2010 WORKPLAN
Second Quarter – October 15th, 2009 to January 14th, 2010

Date	Task	Social Dev.	Other Grants	Total
Oct 15th 2009	Fielding emails/reviewing materials (1.0 hrs/day)	12.0		
	Steering committee meeting (including prep)	4.0		
	LIRN BC	6.0		
	Council presentation (including prep)	2.0		
	Substance Use Strategy (including survey distribution, focus groups, steering committee meeting)	24.0		
	Seniors planning	15.0		
	Transit	4.0		
	Meeting with sector members & groups (PBAC, CFDC, RLAC, the Current, Hans Mohr, Nelli R., ECD, John G.)	10.0		77.0
Nov 09				
	Fielding emails/reviewing materials (1.0 hrs/day)	19.0		
	Steering Committee meeting (including prep time)	4.0		
	Substance use Strategy	45.0		
	Seniors planning	8.0		
	Transit	4.0		
	Meeting with sector members & groups (Seniors Executive, Kristal Bradshaw, OCP implementation committee, CFDC, media, Brian Mallet, Whitney Kendrick OT, seniors planning committee, Chamber, Transit Committee, OC anti-racism workshop, ECD, Health Care Advisory committee)	25.0		105.0
Dec 09				
	Fielding emails, reviewing material sent to me (1.0 hrs/day)	13.0		
	Substance Use Strategy (key informant interviews, webcast)	22.0		
	Meeting with sector members & groups (Parks & Trail Master Plan stakeholder meeting, CFDC, Mary Kline, Seniors, Jacquie Olsen)	7.0		42.0
To Jan 14th 10				
	Fielding emails, reviewing materials (1.0 hrs/day)	9.0		
	Substance Use Strategy (key informant interviews, focus groups etc.)	12.0		
	Seniors Planning (Workshop planning, grant application, CBT final report)	13.0		
	Meeting with sector members & groups (Health Care Advisory, Brian Mallet, EDC)	4.0		38.0
	TOTAL HOURS			262.0