

SUPPORTING SOCIAL PLANNING and ACTION in REVELSTOKE

Social Development Committee Meeting Minutes 8:30 a.m. Wednesday March 31, 2010

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

1. Call to order – Chair Nelli Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

Moved by Antoinette Halberstadt and seconded by Cathy Girling to adopt the agenda.

Carried

3. Approval of February 24, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Motion

Moved by Linda Chell and seconded by Jane McNab that the Minutes of February 24, 2010 be approved.

Carried

Business Arising from the February 24, 2010 Minutes:

- Antoinette Halberstadt advised that City Council approved the committee's recommendation to write a letter of support for the Provincial Government to re-open discussions regarding treatment options for youth struggling with substance abuse and refusing voluntary detox/treatment programs.
- Alan Mason reported on the progress being made by the Housing Society. The Clearview Heights project has been abandoned due to difficulties and cost of site stability to develop two single family units. The focus is now on development of one or two duplex units at Bridge Creek Properties. The Society has signed an MOU with Okanagan College for a trades training program to start on site May 3, 2010. Affordability of the units is still a challenge even with land donation and a \$250,000 grant from BC Hydro Unit 5 Project. Next step is to confirm unit construction costs. New members have been appointed by City Council to the Society, filling all vacant director positions. Corin Flood has resigned as the Manager. Interim staffing is being provided in house and the Society will need to determine what type of staffing will be required. Alan also advised that BC Housing is moving forward with seniors housing unit development plans for Moberly Manor and Mt Begbie Manor sites. Official announcement of project has not yet been made.
- Jill Zacharias reported that due to time constraints, she did not make a submission to the Secondary Suites public hearing. The by-law has been approved by City Council.
- Jill Zacharias advised that she contacted all the committee members whose terms were expiring and that they all have expressed a desire to continue except for Brian Sumner

who has resigned from the committee. Anne Cooper has reconsidered her participation and would like to continue being an active member. There has not been any applications received for the public at large vacancy, thus it will be re-advertised and the application deadline has been extended to April 22.

Motion:

Moved by Antoinette Halberstadt and seconded by Cathie Thacker

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT:

the following persons be appointed to the Social Development Committee:

Jane McNab, CFDC representative

Melody Kindret, RCU representative

Lory Borges, John Yakielashek, Nelli Richardson and Linda Chell as Social Sector representatives.

Carried

- Social Services month letter has been posted on The Current and published in the Times Review. Copy of letter attached to agenda package.

4. Coordinator's Report – Jill Zacharias reviewed the Coordinator's report for March 2010 and noted the following additional information:

- She is assisting the CNIB to deliver support services to service providers in Revelstoke as they have not had a representative in town for eight years. There will be an event June 4th at the Seniors Centre. Details TBA.
- SPARC BC is interested in doing a cost/benefit analysis of the Social Coordinator position in Revelstoke.
- The quarterly report to Council is due in April and Jill would like to defer to June and do a year end report at that time. The committee agreed.

6. New Business:

- Copy of a letter sent by the City to BC Housing Commission asking for a reconsideration of funding a supportive housing project in Revelstoke, is attached to the agenda package for information.
- Nelli Richardson described the Good Morning Program that was once coordinated by the Women's Shelter where volunteers phone on a regular basis an isolated person as a safety call initiative. Jill advised that the grant application for a Senior's Volunteer Coordinator included a very similar initiative. Nelli will forward program information to Jill for reference.
- Cathy Girling reported on the increase in applications being declined for Income Assistance and Disability Pension. She is lobbying for political recognition and correction to these cutbacks and denials as they are having significant impacts on the community. She also advised that applications are accepted via telephone even though on-line access is their priority. Cathy also commented on the issues with accessibility at the Court House for persons in a wheelchair - this is where Access BC delivers services locally and the site is inaccessible for those in newer, motorized wheelchairs. Jill will discuss the issue with Brian Mallett.

- John Yakielashek reported that there has been a recent change in the application process and responsible Ministry for the Child in Home Relative Program which has been renamed the Extended Family Program.
- Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 28th, 2010 at 8:30 am.

7. Round table

Anne Cooper

- School District office has temporarily moved to the top floor of Mountain View School.
- Will distribute recent newsletters about the new schools to the committee.
- School District has signed a John Hansen agreement for aboriginal children.
- Full day Kindergarten is funded for 35 children, but 75 have registered. School District is looking for money to fund the extra seats.
- Open House for design of new schools on April 15, 5:30 – 8:00 pm at RSS gym.

Cathie Thacker

- Employment Centre running a monthly business spotlight on the website as well as in the office.
- Nordic Ski Club job creation opportunity for apprentice carpenters.

Antoinette Halberstadt - concerned for diabetics on low income being denied medical coverage for glucose test strips.

Steve Bailey – Revelstoke Mountain Resort summer operations will keep some staff in place and there will be lots of facility expansion activity with construction of phase III units.

John Yakielashek – impressed with how the community can pull together to fulfill needs, gaps in capacity and lever services.

Susan Knight – May 8 is World Fair Trade Day and first day of Screen Smart

Jane McNab

- Volunteering for income tax preparation and is amazed at how little (\$9,000) some people are expected to live on (they look forward to turning 65 when the Old Age Security benefits add another \$5,000 to their annual income).
- Attended a BC Council for Families meeting and noted that all communities are experiencing cutbacks.
- Columbia Basin Trust will be holding a Symposium in Revelstoke at the end of October. This is a free conference and well worth attending.

Cathy Girling

- Community Connections is holding its AGM on April 21.
- Expecting staff changes with several maternity leaves coming up soon.
- Anne Corrie leaving Revelstoke in June.

Nelli Richardson – April 18 – 25 is Prevention of Violence Against Women and will be planning a noon hour walk to raise awareness of the issue.

Tony Scarcella – Transit meeting today, he will take any comments the committee may have to the meeting.

8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

Nelli Richardson, Chair

Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee Coordinator's Report –March 31, 2010

1. Communication, support and coordination

Contacts:

- Feb 24th – RCSDC steering committee meeting
- Feb 25th – John Guenther, Director of Planning
- Feb 25th – OCP Steering Committee meeting
- Feb 25th – CFDC (volunteer)
- Mar 1st – Brian Mallet, Director of Public Works
- Mar 2nd – CBT Community Initiatives grant session (volunteer)
- Mar 8th – 12th – on holidays
- Mar 15th – Substance use strategy steering committee meeting
- Mar 16th – CFDC executive meeting (volunteer)
- Mar 17th – Lory Borges
- Mar 17th – Scott Graham, SPARC BC, telephone meeting
- Mar 19th – Screen Smart
- Mar 22nd – ECD planning session
- Mar 23rd – 25th – “Traction for Community Action” conferences in Rossland & Cranbrook
- Mar 26th – Brian Mallet
- Mar 30th – The Psychology of Addiction learning event

2. Supporting our Seniors

- Grit box pilot project moving forward.
- Submitted a grant application to UBCM Seniors Housing & Support Initiative for Age-Friendly project implementation – for a volunteer coordinator at the Seniors Centre.
- Facilitating a grant application to New Horizons for Seniors program between Railway Museum, Revelstoke Museum & Seniors Association for an Oral History project.

3. “Traction for Community Action” conferences in Rossland & Cranbrook

- These were 2 back-to-back one day conferences in the West & East Kootenays on Community Social Planning, co-sponsored by Interior Health, The Canadian Cancer Society, CBT, BC Healthy Living Alliance, and SPARC BC. I was asked to participate as a plenary speaker, as well as facilitate a concurrent session, twice, each day.
- Scott Graham, from SPARC BC, and I kicked off each day with the plenary session: I began with a discussion of the principles of sustainable community development with a focus on the meaning and goals of the ‘social sustainability’ pillar for communities. Scott spoke to community social planning, and then I followed with The Revelstoke Story – explaining the history & structure of the Social Development Committee, my workplan, and key factors of success.
- This was followed by a panel discussion by local government representatives – answering how local government & community groups can be engaged collaboratively & work together on social issues.

- The afternoon concurrent sessions included creating a community social plan (which I facilitated), citizen engagement, using research indicators, building healthy coalitions, & creating spaces for constructive conversations.
- This was an excellent experience – both for learning and networking. Positive feedback on the presentations – it was inspiring for other communities to see social planning happening in a small, rural community – and how much can be accomplished. I emphasized that the work we are doing is building on the excellent work of existing social sector groups and organizations in Revelstoke, addressing gaps, and bringing in additional resources, programs, and project development.

4. Substance Use Strategy

- We are working hard to complete the draft & have it available for public and agency review by the end of April.

5. Service Provider Speaker Series

- Next session will be Wednesday March 31st – Melissa Klage, Attorney, will speak on the highlights of family law and services to access in Revelstoke.