



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting notes

April 11, 2014

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held on Friday, April 11, 2014, at 9:30 am, in the Business Centre at City Hall.

PRESENT: Chris Morrissey, Chair
Eddy Elmer
Clemencia Gomez
Alan Herbert
Dellie Lidyard
Colleen McGuinness, Vice-Chair
Carol Oreck
Rowena Tate
Eva Wadolna

ABSENT: Tom Brunker (sick leave)
Sharon Fenton
Scott Graham

ALSO PRESENT: Taryn Scollard, Engineering Services

SPECIAL GUESTS: Kara-Leigh Block, Seniors Services Society
Sandra Gebhardt, 401 Seniors

1. Welcome

Chris Morrissey called the meeting to order.

2. Leave of Absence Requests

Sharon Fenton and Scott Graham requested leaves.

MOVED by Alan Herbert

SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

That leaves be granted as requested.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Rowena Tate

SECONDED by Carol Oreck

THAT the agenda be approved with amendments.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Eva Wadolna

SECONDED by Alan Herbert

That the meeting notes for the March 21, 2014 meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

5. Business arising from the previous meeting

a. Pearson Dogwood

Chris Morrissey reported that she, Dellie and Colleen met with Mary Ackenhusen COO of Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). Statements were made about the changes to the design of Dogwood but no details are available as yet. Bob Chapman also attended the meeting and outlined the plans that are being developed about the Green House model to be used. It was stated that this was an improvement over current accommodation. Total care workers will be used.

VCH has engaged Barb Stackhouse to consult and design the community engagement consultation process and identify the groups and organizations that must be consulted as the Dogwood design is put forward.

There was a general discussion about this and Chris, Dellie and Colleen will meet with Barb next week.

b. Casa Mia -Up-date

Chris reported that at the meeting with VCH (see 1.c. above) questions were also put forward about the Casa Mia project. Those in attendance were informed that the internal layout for this facility would change because the proponent will be required to use the Green House model.

Chris, Dellie and Colleen are also going to meet with the Southlands residents' association members next week.

c. Friesen Conference

The City Clerk has agreed to fund the attendance of three people for this May conference at SFU. It was agreed that Chris, Dellie and Eva would attend on behalf of SAC.

6. Presentation

Kara Leigh Block, Executive Director of Seniors Services Society, and Sandra Gebhardt, Executive Director of 411 Seniors joined the meeting at this time along with Marcia Cohen who was on a conference call with the committee.

The discussion topic was introduced with an explanation that the United Way has been providing less funding for several years and the Provincial funds provided from Better at Home are not equal to the services that have been cut.

After introductions SAC members learned that key organizations (411, Senior Services Society, West End Seniors Network and South Granville Seniors Centre) recently met with the major funding agencies to make the case for seniors funding. They learned that there is no coordination between the agencies and it became obvious that there is a need for some group planning between the funders and the various sector agencies. The group will be hosting a meeting in May with the users to discuss the impact of the cuts on individuals.

The SAC discussed a form of outreach bringing recipients together with the newly appointed Seniors Advocate.

The agencies need a champion. The seniors sector is very fragmented with little communication between agencies because they are usually competing for the same funding dollars.

There will be an event on June 4th called Seniors linking Seniors as part of the Seniors Week and it will receive funding from the Vancouver Foundation.

In conclusion the following points were made:

- Coordinated effort would best be through the Lower Mainland Mayors.
- The key organizations are getting funding to document the impact of the recent cuts municipality by municipality.
- The United Way has agreed to release the information about the cuts to the 31 agencies.
- SAC should send a motion to Council expressing the deep concerns and the implications of these cuts to city services. Social Planning and the Age Friendly City initiative should also be referenced.
- This matter will be referred to the Clerked meeting of SAC in May with the intention that a motion be prepared and forwarded quickly to City Council. Eva agreed to take the lead in preparing the first draft of this motion.

7. Committee Liaison Reports

Taryn Schollard had no report.

Taryn was asked about the new lights that are being installed at intersections. The priority will be first to install these at the top twenty high incident locations and greenways and bikeways.

8. Subcommittee Reports

a. Community Outreach

Eddy asked for comment on the previous meeting at Barclay Manor. There was agreement that it had been a very productive meeting with good discussion especially because those in attendance had an opportunity to raise important questions with Translink.

There was a recent meeting of the National Seniors Council Secretariat and Eddy attended on behalf of SAC. The theme was loneliness and it was pointed out that 10 to 15% of the population is defined as lonely and that it is a complex issue.

SAC representatives also attended a meeting on end of life care and another on sex in seniors care facilities. Both important topics.

b. Housing

The Dogwood report and also the Casa Mia reports above represent the work of the committee this month.

c. Transportation and Mobility

Referring to the Compass card, Dellie explained that she learned that lost cards must be identified by the owner reporting the last three trips made. It was suggested that a more practical identification question needs to be established.

There will be a follow-up meeting on the Point Grey bikeway.

Changes for the Downtown bus route have been made public and comments are still being gathered by Transit.

There is a competition for the furniture for the 800 Block Robson. SAC members were encouraged to visit vivadesigncomp.ca to vote on the proposed ideas. It was noted that some are totally unacceptable to seniors.

9. New Business

a. Seniors Advocate

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Clemencia Gomez
SECONDED by Rowena Tate

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: May 9, 2014
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Committee Room #1, 3rd Floor

Next working meeting of the committee

DATE: June 20, 2014
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: City Hall, Business Centre, 2nd Floor

The Committee adjourned at 12:15pm.