

New Westminster Seniors Services Task Force (SSTF)
MINUTES of the Meeting
Wednesday, February 16, 2011 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Century House Birch/Cedar Rooms

In attendance: Annette Oakes, Patricia Smith, John Stark, Syl Helmink, Lesley Cole, Dianne Clark, Judy Sofroni, Joanne Robertson, Jan Greenhow, Diane Murakami, Pat Dunnett, Kara-Leigh Jameson, Krista Frazee, Freda D'Souza, Heather Whiteford, Gabriele Scully, Mariam Larson (Coordinator).

Regrets: Lorraine Logan, Betty McIntosh, Bill Zander, Morgan McGrath.

Chairperson: Annette Oakes. **Recorder:** Patricia Smith.

Guest Speaker: Lorraine Brett, Vice- Chair, Queen's Park Foundation.

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Dianne, Seconded by Syl to adopt the Agenda as presented. AIF. Carried.

Introductions: Queensborough Old Age Pensioners has changed their name to "Queensborough 50+ Social Club". With appreciation for Syl Helmink's decade of service as their president, Freda D'Souza is the new president for Queensborough.

Minutes of November 17, 2010

Moved by Kara-Leigh, Seconded by Freda to adopt as circulated. AIF. Carried.

2. Business.

2.1 **Chairperson's Report:** Annette commented briefly on the work being done to attract the younger seniors i.e. the Baby Boomers to volunteering.

2.2 **Seniors Services Society Update:** Kara-Leigh introduced Krista who is a new member of the staff at Seniors Services Society. Kara noted that the work of the Society is moving along routinely and that they continue to apply for funding.

2.3 Co-ordinators Report: Mariam presented a summary of the United Way Seniors Planning Table Coordinators' Meeting of Tuesday February 9, 2011; a full summary of the meeting had been sent to members.

She highlighted a presentation by Shannon Daub of CCPA, Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives: The Remaining Light, and suggested that Task Force members view the 30 minute video based on decades of research about community based care for BC Seniors. The DVD is available for free and can be viewed at:
www.policyalternatives.ca/bcseniors

3. Action Group Reports.

3.1 Imby Fair 2011: The Imby Fair is booked into the Royal City Centre for Saturday, April 30. As soon as the contract is signed Mariam will contact the participants from last year to invite them to participate again this year and schedule a meeting of SSTF members who have volunteered to work on this project. They include: Syl Helmink, Freda and Brian D'Souza, Annette Oakes, Dianne Clark and Gabriele Scully.

3.2 Agency Network Event: Dianne reported that we have requested the Centennial Lodge for Saturday, October 19, which is the same week as it was held in 2010. We are awaiting confirmation, and at the next Task Force meeting Dianne will be asking for volunteers to help with the event.

3.3 Membership: SSTF Name Change: Lorraine Logan has been working on this task but was unable to be present as she had back surgery on Monday. Mariam spoke for her. There was only one idea submitted for a new name for the Task Force. After discussion it was moved by Mariam and seconded by Dianne that the new name of the Seniors Services Task Force be 'Seniors Planning and Action Network (SPAN), New Westminster' with the bracketed addition to the logo of 50+.
AIF. Carried.

Kara will contact a graphic designer about pro-bono creation of a logo.

Mariam will contact Lorraine about scheduling a meeting of the Membership Group.

3.4 Pedestrian crossing time change: John reported that he had met with City Engineering re the short time allotted to the crosswalk across 8th Street close to Century House, and was informed that Engineering is looking into a pilot project which would see the installation of a second control button for use by those with mobility problems, which would address those needs without impeding efficient traffic flow.

3.5 Seniors engagement guide Presentation: John presented a Power Point update on the Seniors Engagement Guide which is being prepared for the use of city employees. He highlighted a proposed staff checklist, and two event examples of ‘What makes an event senior-friendly or senior-unfriendly?’

- a) Adaptable Housing Policy Workshop (November 17, Century House.)
- b) United Blvd. Extension Project Open House (November 18, Justice Institute).

4. Projects to consider:

4.1 Directory of Services for Seniors 2011: The hope is to produce another print edition of the Seniors Services Directory in the Fall of 2011. Barry McKee is working on the Webpage, keeping it updated. Kara said she will look into funding for a print directory and will speak to Barry about being involved in a print edition. Mariam suggested a working group to discuss the required revisions, the format and number to be printed, etc. John said the City might be able to print it in-house.

4.2 Brochure Rack Project: This project has been dormant since 2009. It will be brought forward to the next Task Force (SPAN) meeting.

5. New Business:

5.1 **Embrace Aging Campaign:** Kara introduced Lorraine Betts, Vice-Chair of Queen's Park Foundation who explained that Embrace Aging is a tool to connect people to community and promote positive aging. The Embrace Aging Campaign is an initiative in partnership with the Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation. As March is Embrace Aging Month, Lorraine announced a series of workshops. Dates are tentative. March 16th 'Be Well', March 19th 'Be enriched'. March 23rd 'Be Connected', March 26th 'Be Secure.' Workshops will be held at Century House.

6. Announcements:

- a) Kara announced a Celebration of Val MacDonald Event in appreciation of her contribution to the community. This will be held on Wednesday February 23rd at Centennial Lodge, 6 – 9 pm. The \$35.00 cost includes a contribution towards a bench which will be placed in Queen's Park to honour Val.
- b) John announced the unveiling of a permanent display of historical photographs in the mall corridor of the Westminster Centre between London Drugs and Save-on-Food. Ribbon cutting by Mayor Wayne Wright on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 1 pm.
- c) Heather reported that Andrea is now back from her maternity leave, with thanks going to Reena Singh for her work with the Elder Abuse Unit.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20,2011, 1 -3 pm, Century House.

8. Adjournment: 3:07 pm.