

**SPAN: Seniors (55+) Planning and Action Network of  
New Westminster  
Minutes of Meeting  
Wednesday, June 15, 2011. 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Century House Birch/Cedar Rooms**

**In attendance:** Dianne Clark, Marg McKee, Lesley Cole, Krista Frazee, Lorraine Logan, Heather Whiteford, Diane Murakami, Jagtar Sangha, Syl Helmink.

**Regrets:** Mariam Larson, SSTF Co-ordinator, Pat Dunnett, Freda D'Souza, Brian D'Souza, Jan Greenhow.

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

**Guest Speaker:** Mr. Marty Frost, Project Manager, STAR.

**1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda.**

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

**Minutes of April 20, 2011.**

Moved by Marg, Seconded by Syl to adopt as circulated. AIF. Carried.

**2. Presentation: STAR: Seniors Transportation access and Resources Strategy, by BEST: Better Environmentally Sound Transportation.**

Mr. Marty Foster, Project Manager, STAR, gave a detailed and informative Power Point presentation on STAR which is an initiative of Vancouver based Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) a non-profit society that has worked since 1991 to make transportation sustainable and affordable for all British Columbians.

Further information on this initiative can be obtained from Margaret Mahan, Executive Director of BEST at [Margaret@best.bc.ca](mailto:Margaret@best.bc.ca)

**3. Business.**

**3.1 Chairperson's Report:** Annette reported on what SPAN has accomplished this year which includes the Seniors Agency Network Event held on October 20, 2010; the forming of the Membership Committee who worked on the task of changing the name from the Seniors Services Society Task Force to what is now known as SPAN; the completion of a Seniors Engagement Guide under the direction of John Stark and Mariam Larson; the on-going work on the Directory of Services for Seniors, both online and in time in print; and the April 30, 2011 IMBY (In My Backyard) Fair, held at Royal City Mall.

- 3.2 Seniors Services Society Report:** Krista read an email from Mariam's husband updating the committee on Mariam's progress following her recent surgery. Krista announced that a Focus Group on Homelessness will be held on June 28, 2011 at 9 am, at the Seniors Services Society Offices, Royal Square Mall. A maximum of 10 persons can be accommodated. The group should consist of seniors and service providers who can contribute to a dialogue to develop a new community Homelessness Plan that reflects the needs of seniors throughout metro Vancouver. Krista distributed the latest brochure of the Seniors Services Society, and "SSScene", the Society newsletter, and drew attention to the 2010 Statistics detailed in the newsletter. The Senior Services Society Annual General Meeting will be held on June 29, 2011 at Dunwood Place, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor. Meeting starts at 11 am. A Volunteer Appreciation Tea follows at 12 noon.
- 3.3 Election of Table Officers:** Marg McKee, Past Chair of Seniors Services Task Force (now SPAN) conducted the Annual Election of Table Offices. After reviewing the highlights of the Terms of Reference, and the ratification of changes as of June 16, 2010, Marg announced the names of the nominees and asked for nominations from the floor. None were heard, and the Table Officers elected for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 are:  
Chair – Annette Oakes  
Vice-Chair – Dianne Clark  
Recording secretary – Patricia Smith

#### **4. Action Group Reports.**

- 4.1 Imby Fair 2011 Summary:** The 2011 (and 2010) Entry Survey Results were circulated. There was discussion around the participation by the public in the Fair. Syl noted that he believes participants felt more comfortable at Century House where the Fair was held last year. He remarked that people passed by the Registration desk without registering and were reluctant to answer the statistics questions. It was agreed that the Mall atmosphere is very different from that of Century House. Annette said that Mariam felt that the number of public attending was about the same as last year but the survey does not reflect this. It was suggested that the Speaker needs to be advertised in advance to guarantee an audience, and that the music be controlled as people at the booths had difficulty hearing each other. Lorraine noted that the event should be fun and suggested thought should be given to engaging seniors with some games.

- 4.2 **Directory of Services for Seniors:** Marg reported that Barry is recovering from his surgery well and will continue his work on the Directory.
- 4.3 **Agency Network Event:** Dianne reported that her group met on May 27, 2011 and went over the evaluations of last year's event. They will meet again on August 23, to organize the paperwork for this year's event, by which time they will have the banner. This year there will be three new booths:  
Union Gospel Mission; B.C. housing, and Lookout Emergency Aid Society.  
Lorraine will be contacting agencies to provide refreshments.  
Century House will provide coffee and tea. The event will be held at Centennial Lodge in Queen's Park on October 19, 2011.
- 4.4 **Elder Abuse Awareness Day Event:** Heather circulated information on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day which was June 15, 2011, noting that there was a booth at Royal City Mall which was a partnership between the Fraser Health Authority staff and Family Services of Greater Vancouver staff.

**5. New Business:**

- 5.1 **New SPAN Ambassador Cards:** Annette encouraged those members present to take as many Ambassador cards as they wished to promote and inform about SPAN.
- 5.2 **Carraresi Foundation Research Project:** Heather brought the group up to date on the new Senior Peer Counselling Research Project which will study the outcomes of the Senior Peer Counselling, Vital Connections and Sharing Insights programmes. The research will be supervised by Deborah O'Connor, Ph.D., R.S.W. Director, Centre for Research on Personhood in Dementia, and Professor of Social Work at UBC. Ms. Stephanie Davis has been appointed as Counsellor for the Vital Connections Programme.
- 5.3 **Letter to Century House:** Lorraine asked that a letter be sent to Century House with thanks for accommodating SPAN with meeting space and other much appreciated support.

**6. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 21, 2011, 1 -3 pm, Century House.

**7. Adjournment:** 3:00 pm.