

New Westminster Seniors Services Task Force (SSTF)
MINUTES of the Meeting
Wednesday, November 17, 2010 1:00 – 3:00
Century House, Birch/Cedar Rooms

In attendance: Annette Oakes, Chair; Marg McKee, Past-Chair; Mariam Larson, SSTF Co-ordinator; Dianne Clark, Joanne Robertson, Lorraine Logan, Freda D’Souza, Brian D’Souza, Diane Murakami, Judi Sofroni, Syl Helmink, Patricia Smith, John Stark, Lesley Cole, Bev Pitman, Bill Zander, Kara-Leigh Jameson, Pat Dunnett.

Regrets: Jan Greenhow, Heather Whiteford.

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

Guest Speaker: Mr. Don Henderson, Transportation Engineer, City of New Westminster.

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

Addition to Agenda: Under New Business was added “Report by Bev Pitman,” and “CPHO Report.” Moved by Bill, seconded by Syl to adopt the Agenda as revised. AIF. Carried.

Minutes of September 22, 2010.

Moved by Lorraine, seconded by Syl to adopt as circulated. AIF. Carried.

2. A slide Presentation by Mr. Henderson: “Pedestrian Crossing Times and Other Transportation Issues Related to Seniors.”

Mr. Henderson distributed Pedestrian Crossing Guide Brochure.

Discussion points:

- Timing standard for crossing 3 meters does not reflect that people who are 80 - 90 years old may take avg. 20 - 40 seconds to cover 3 meters or they are at risk of falling.
- A broad age range of pedestrians use mobility aids
- There is a large concentration of seniors in Uptown New Westminster.
- Bill took 16 seconds to stroll across 8th. St at 7th. Ave.
- Speeding cars are a big problem, esp. if lights are timed with assumption that drivers are not exceeding 30 k/hr limit (park zone).
- Cars running stop lights are also a big problem.
- Traffic volume and behaviour are problems.
- People with mobility challenges are particularly at risk.

- Crossings at Sixth Ave. and Sixth St., Belmont across Sixth St. and Century House are of great concern.
- Standards do not reflect real experience of senior pedestrians.
- Suggest speed signal signs as used in school zones.
- Etiquette and instruction for drivers is needed.
- Instruction for pedestrians would be useful, explaining timing of signs.
- There is tremendous stress and anxiety when crossing.
- Must balance information provided by flashing red signal with increase in pedestrian anxiety and stress.
- Speed, speed, speed - problem.
- Crossing signal settings should reflect user demographic at very local level; There are proportionately more people with multiple impairments, esp. low vision + mobility in Century House / Uptown areas.

Actions:

1. It was suggested that an education/information session be organized at Century House with Mr. Henderson as speaker.

2. It was moved by Bill that the SSTF recommend to the City to increase the crossing time on the 7th Avenue crosswalk from 22 seconds to 30 seconds to be reviewed in six months. Seconded by Syl. AIF. Carried.

3. Business.

A.i. Chairperson's Report.

Annette congratulated the group on the Agency Network Event held on October 20, 2010 which proved to be such a success.

She reported she and Mariam attended BC211 lunch on November 2. BC 211 is the information help line for community, social and government services provided in partnership with United Way.

Kara-Leigh remarked that individuals would find advice in more depth through Seniors Services Society.

A. ii. Seniors Services Society update:

Kara-Leigh reported her appointment as Executive Director of Seniors Services Society became official on October 15, 2010. She provided information on the SSS website, and said that there will be an insert in the SSScene Newsletter which has a circulation of 2000, reporting on the work of the Task Force.

Marg gave update on SSS Directory. Her husband, Barry, has volunteered to revise and update Directory. He will submit a monthly report on his progress.

B. Co-ordinator's Report:

- a. United Way will continue funding Task Force for 2011-2012. Bev congratulated the Task Force for successful work they are doing. Mariam attended a meeting of the Seniors Planning Table co-ordinators in November. Seven co-ordinators were present. They will meet again in December.
- b. Budget 2011 Consultation Submission: Mariam received acknowledgement from Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services in response to our request to have Fraser Health cuts reinstated. Reports can be viewed online at www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations. Mariam noted that consultation results do not reflect seniors' issues.

Sustainability Workshop: Mariam reported sustainability workshop was an excellent event. Community Solutions, Planning & Evaluation, will present the next workshop on Wednesday, December 8th, 9:30-4:00 pm at Small Business BC in Vancouver.

Healthy Communities Design Coalition: Also an informative event about community design for health; notes available on request.

CPHO: Chief Public Health Officer's 3rd Annual Report on the State of Public Health in Canada, 2010, from Dr. David Butler-Jones, Public Health Agency Canada, can be viewed at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cphorsphc-respcacsp/2010/fr-rc/index-eng.php

C. Action Group Reports:

1. IMBY Fair: Mariam.

The next IMBY Fair will be held at Royal City Centre. The date will be finalized in January but is expected to be April 30, 2011.

2. Seniors Engagement Guide: John.

John advised the Guide is making good progress. There have been five working group meetings to date. He suggested a presentation be made at the Feb. 16, 2011 Task Force meeting to share the information being developed and receive SSTF feedback.

3. Membership Committee: Lorraine

Lorraine reported the membership committee is working on a concrete plan to recruit members. The membership committee suggests that because of the changed face of the Task Force since its inception, a different name,

evoking a softer look would create a new image for the committee. She remarked that it will be a challenge to find a new, appropriate name and requested ideas from the Task Force members.

Action: Mariam will email/mail request to Members for name ideas.

4. Agency Network Event: Dianne

Dianne reported/presented on the first annual Seniors' Agency Networking Event, which was at Centennial Lodge in Queen's Park, Wednesday, October 20, 2010. The slide show illustrated the Event which was a great success, well received by all participants.

D. New Business:

a) November 5th Seniors' Secretariat Event.

Bev reported on Nov. 5 Seniors Secretariat meeting of province-wide stakeholders in seniors' transportation. She remarked that April 2010 meeting of the Secretariat powered this meeting on alternate forms of transportation for seniors, sharing idea of real issues for seniors re transportation. Lorraine mentioned many stakeholders were not present.

BEST (Better Environmentally Sound Transportation) is working with United Way and other groups to form transportation "hub" similar to U.S. Beverly Foundation.

The Foundation's annual STAR search programme exists to gather information about volunteer driver programmes across the country (ESA) and then present that information back to the community in the form of research reports and assistive products.

Bill observed a Seniors Ministry is required in British Columbia.

E. Announcements:

1. John announced Adaptable Housing Policy meeting in the Spruce Room, Century House at 3:15 that afternoon.
2. Syl announced Fund-raising Christmas dinner to be held at Queensborough on Sunday, December 12, 5:00 to 8:30 pm.

5.Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 1-3 pm. Century House.

6.Adjournment: 3:05 pm.