

New Westminster Seniors Services Task Force (SSTF)
MINUTES of the Meeting
Wednesday, April 21, 2010 1:00 – 3:00 (REVISED June 16, 2010)
Century House, 620 Eighth Street, New Westminster

In attendance: Marg McKee, Chair; Patricia Smith, Recorder; Mariam Larson, SSTF Co-ordinator; Joy Barkwill, Sandy Hoath, Aida Charmley, Annette Oakes, Dianne Clark, Corey McLaren, Joanne Robertson, Reena Singh, Heather Whiteford, Lorraine Logan, Freda D'Souza, Brian D'Souza, Gabriele Scully, Diane Murakami, Betty McIntosh, Judi Sofroni, Lynda Brind-Dickson, Jan Greenhow, Morgan McGrath, Syl Helmink, John Stark.

Regrets: Kate Rexin, Bruce Ballingall, Pat Dunnett, Katie Harmer.

Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Heather Whiteford, seconded by Syl Helmink to adopt the Agenda as presented. AIF. Carried.

Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 24, 2010.

Moved by Lynda Brind-Dickson, seconded by Lorraine Logan to adopt the Minutes of the February 24 meeting as circulated. AIF. Carried.

Business.

Chairperson's Report. Attached.

Terms of Reference: Discussion concerning the possible revision of the Terms of Reference. Mariam will circulate the current Terms of Reference to SSTF Members for their perusal. Member input is strongly encouraged; please forward comments and feedback to Marg or Mariam.

The next Governance meeting is on Wednesday, May 19th, 1 – 3 pm, at the Seniors Services Society Boardroom, Royal Square Mall, Second Floor.

Co-ordinator's Report.

SSS: Alison Marshall's contract at Seniors Services Society (SSS) has finished. Lynda Brind-Dickson will represent SSS at the SSTF planning table. Kara-Leigh Jameson, SSS Director of Operations and Housing Manager will represent SSS on the SSTF Governance Committee

United Way Funding for the SSTF will continue until September 2011.

United Way Transportation Report:

The Spring 2010 United Way of the Lower Mainland publication was circulated. This edition reported on the Impact Meeting held at the United Way

HQ in Burnaby, in January 2010, and attended by Task Force representatives Mariam Larson, Marg McKee and Patricia Smith, and Wheelability participants Hans and Trudy Langer. The Impact Report praises the New Westminster SSTF planning table and the success of the Wheelability Assessment Project in helping to create age-friendly spaces.

The new SeniorsBC.ca website has information on challenges and solutions to transportation for seniors.

Mariam attended the Age-Friendly Leaders Partnership meeting and panel presentation about transportation, held on April 16. Representatives were from the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, Seniors Secretariat and Active Living, Minister of Transportation, BCAA, Translink, BC Transit and others. Regulations about fare-paying systems appear to be key obstacles to proposed options.

Action Group Reports:

Membership Committee: will meet May 21, 2010 at 3:30 pm at Family Services Office, 321 Sixth St., 3rd floor.

Seniors Directory: Lynda reported on the print version and online community directory. What is the next step for the Directory? Lynda suggested that an updated print version is important for those seniors who do not use a computer, and showed different styles of booklets. It will soon be possible to know how many “hits” there are on the SSS website. The online version of the directory can now be edited very simply online. Assistance is required to manage the website and directory, and Lynda suggested that the LEADS Group of Century House might be a source of volunteers. She remarked that volunteers on any SSS project would be welcome.

Seniors Engagement Guide: John announced that Funding of \$20,000.00 has been confirmed, and that the project can now begin. The end date is March 31, 2011. The LEADS Group representatives at the last SSTF meeting expressed an interest in being part of the working group. All volunteers are welcome to work on this project.

Agency Network Event: Joy gave a brief overview of the event - see Item d, page two of February 24 Minutes. The event will take place in the Fall of 2010. Interested volunteers are asked to contact Joy at: 604-519.1060, or Email: jbarkwill@newwestcity.ca

IMBY Fair 2010: Will be held on May 1, at Royal City Centre.

The focus for this fair will be on 'not-for-profit' agencies. 39 tables have been booked. Royal City Centre are providing the venue and tables free. The Jazz Quintet of New Westminster Secondary School will entertain.

The City voted to pay \$200.00 for the SSS bus to take people to IMBY. However, there have been no registrations for the bus. After discussion it was decided that if no-one has signed up for the bus by Friday April 23rd it will be cancelled, and should one or two persons require transportation to the Fair it will be provided by private car or taxi.

New Business:

Lynda reported that the website of Seniors Services Society is being refurbished in several languages, and for the deaf and hard of hearing. Vancouver Coastal Health is funding the technology.

Announcements:

Betty McIntosh announced the date of Family Day at Royal City Centre: ~~Saturday, October 10, 2010.~~ Saturday October 2, 2010

Open House at Firehall # 1: ~~Saturday, October 10, 2010.~~ Saturday October 2, 2010

Celebrating Seniors Festival 2010 will be held on Sunday, September 26, from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm, at Century House.

Corey McLaren gave details of a Emergency Preparedness Week, May 3 - 9, 2010.

3.Presentation: Patient Voices Network: Rachelle Rebman

Rachelle explained that the Patient Voices Network (PVN) is a network of people from across BC who believe that they can shape the primary healthcare system in ways that are centred on what patients want. It is an initiative of Impact BC, partnered by the Healthy Heart Society.

Rachelle answered questions from the table and distributed explanatory leaflets. PVN can be visited at: www.patientvoices.ca, Tel: 604-742-1772, or Email: connect@patientvoices.ca

4.Next Meeting: Wednesday June 16, 2010, 1-3 pm. Location TBD.

5.Adjournment: 3:09 pm.

SSTF – April 21, 2010 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Seniors Services Task Force of New Westminster was established in 2005. With funding from New Horizons, Canada, committees were formed to discuss topics such as health, housing, security and transportation. A report with 29 recommendations was presented to City Council and the public in June 2007.

In October 2008 the SSTF presented new ***Terms of Reference***, which included its

Purpose: *To co-ordinate and address the needs of seniors in New Westminster.*

And its three **Principles** were:

Is Seniors based and led.

Encourages the participation of the aging population.

Is inclusive of, welcomes, collaborates and encourages the participation from all older adults, agencies and organizations with an interest in the needs of an aging population.

With encouragement from our Past Chairperson, Jan Greenhow, I attended my first Task Force meeting in September 2008. I was very excited about helping to implement the recommendations and making life better for our seniors in New Westminster.

On February 25th 2009 I took on the role of Chairperson, working alongside Mariam, our most capable staff person, to pursue the goals of the Task Force. I'm proud of what **OUR TASK FORCE** has accomplished to date – a Seniors' Directory, a print copy, and now an online version – plus, an annual **IMBY** Fair – connecting seniors to services – to name a few.

Mariam's position as Co-ordinator is funded by the United Way of the Lower Mainland. It is exciting that in their recent mailing to donors they feature our **New Westminster Seniors Services Task Force** as a leader and pioneer in what they call Planning Tables for Seniors.

With regret, for personal reasons, I must resign as Chairperson by the end of this calendar year. Now is the time to be looking for a new Chairperson, perhaps for a two year term. And at this time, we might appoint a vice chair who would be available for ongoing succession. Some changes to the SSTF Terms of Reference may be necessary.

In the meantime, I'm happy to continue encouraging more seniors to participate in the New Westminster SSTF.