

SENIORS SERVICES TASK FORCE
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, November 25th 2009
Dunwood Place, 901 Colborne Street. Bamboo Room

In attendance: Marg McKee, Chair; Mariam Larson, SSTF Co-ordinator; Joy Barkwill, Beverly Pitman, Judi Sofroni, Patricia Smith, Heather whiteford, Betty McIntosh, Andrea Wright, Lorraine Logan, John McKnight, Gabriele Scully, Kate Rexin, Freda D'Souza, Brian D'Souza.

Regrets: Jan Greenhow, Karen Van der Hoop, John Stark, Katie Harmer, Lynda Brind-Dickson, Julie Rogal, Joanne Robertson, Susan Didier, Diane Murakami, Cari Hoffman.

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

Marg McKee welcomed those present, and asked all to introduce themselves.
Moved by Lorraine, seconded by Joy to adopt the Agenda as presented. AIF. Carried.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of September 23, 2009

Moved by Joy and seconded by Lorraine to adopt the Minutes of the September 23 meeting as circulated. AIF. Carried.

3. Business

A. Funding for 2009-2010: Funding from United Way of \$25,000.00 for the Coordinator Staff Position has been received by Seniors Services Society.

B. Reports

1. Membership development

Mariam reported on the October 14 meeting at Queensborough Community Centre. Renee Chadwick, Manager of QCC. Mariam, Jim Mair and Patricia Smith met with some members of QCC to discuss the possibility of their participating on the Seniors Services Task Force.

Two members of QCC attended today's meeting: ***we welcome Brian and Freda D'Souza to the SSTF!***

On January 20, 2010, the Task Force will give a presentation to the Sapperton OAP to inform them about SSTF and invite them to participate.

Mariam distributed a copy of a leaflet describing the work of the Task Force and inviting volunteers. It was requested that the Seniors Services Society website be included on the leaflet. www.seniorshousing.bc.ca

2. Seniors' Directory online.

The Online Directory of Services for Seniors is now functioning. It can be accessed at: <http://communitydirectory.seniorshousing.bc.ca/>

Mariam will ask who at Seniors Services is managing the Online Directory in order to revise or add listings.

Joy suggested that information about the online directory be published on the City Page in The Record. As there is a process to be followed, Joy moved that Lorraine be asked to present a list of items that the SSTF would like to have included on the City Page at the next Seniors Advisory Meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2009. Seconded by Lorraine. AIF. Carried.

Two items are to be requested for inclusion on the City Page:

- i. The Seniors Services Society webpage address:
<http://communitydirectory.seniorshousing.bc.ca/>
- ii. An open invitation for volunteers of 50+ to join the Task Force.

Joy said that she is able to have the webpage information posted on the city's readerboard.

Bev Pitman reported that the 211 telephone line will be functional in March 2010. 211 is a service information line for anyone in the Lower Mainland, including Seniors. There will be a person rather than a machine answering the phone. It is hoped that 211 will become a province-wide service.

3. Wheelability Forum.

In the absence of John Stark, Mariam showed a DVD on the Wheelability Assessment Project, and gave an update on the Wheelability initiative. She believes that, in addition to the regular city budget for maintenance, \$55,000.00 has been designated for sidewalk improvements, including curb cuts. The City is reviewing research in other cities about crosswalk timing standards.

The Wheelability Project Report will be finalized in January 2010.

Mariam noted that, due to the Wheelability Project, New Westminster has been chosen as the site for a UBC study about improving the capacity of mobility aids. John Stark will be on their research advisory committee.

4. Fraser Health Funding Cuts

Mariam reviewed the steps taken by various organizations to respond to Fraser Health funding cuts. She noted that even agencies that met health representatives were unable to change anything; funding will not be re-instated.

Mariam distributed a sample postcard, which people can use to express concerns directly to Fraser Health. While Century House already wrote letters, other organizations may want to provide them to senior clients. She will make revisions if needed.

5. CASI: Community Action & Seniors' Independence

Bev Pitman, United Way, reported on the CASI initiative. This is a community-based pilot project by United Way and the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, about non-medical home support for seniors. The CASI team consists of six members, with a business analyst to be hired. The initiative is a three-year demonstration site project involving five communities: Dawson Creek, Osoyoos, Maple Ridge, Newton (Surrey), Collingwood/Renfrew (Vancouver). These communities represent BC Seniors in different locations with different determinants.

Public meetings will be held over the next few weeks so that the services can be designed to suit the individual communities. Bev stated that the non-medical home support service will be a bottom-up model with seniors and their families making the decisions for their particular community. She noted that the initiative will need government support and that United Way would play an advocacy role.

In January 2010 the first implementation committee will be chosen. The program will run for a year and be closely monitored.

Heather suggested that at a future date Bev give the Task Force a talk on the advocacy role of the United Way.

3. Project/Activity List review

Mariam circulated the Activity List, (based on ranking completed June 24, 2009)

It summarizes six projects:

- 1) Imby Fair 2010
- 2) Directory of Services for Seniors 2010
- 3) Agency/Service provider networking event
- 4) Health & Mental Health consulting & liaison
- 5) Seniors' Consultation Guide Development
- 6) Brochure Rack Project

3.1 The Imby Fair 2010

The general feeling of the group was to continue to hold an IMBY Fair on a yearly basis with a focus on Elder Abuse Prevention and Healthy Hearts for 2010, which would address Project #4 Health and Mental Health in a small way. It was also noted that there would be no funding for health projects this year.

ACTION: Joy was asked to check on availability of space at Century House in June.

3.2 Directory of Services for Seniors 2010

The Directory is receiving good comments and several communities are looking to follow our example. It was noted that the NewsLeader has produced an unauthorized edition which is inaccurate and outdated.

ACTION: Mariam will ask Lynda and Alison about SSS continuing ownership and responsibility for the Directory and related data.

3.3 Agency/Service provider networking event

The consensus was that it is important for the various services to get together at least yearly, which could be scheduled for April or May, prior to the IMBY Fair. Sapperton Hall was suggested as a venue for this event.

3.4 Health & Mental Health consulting & liaison. (See IMBY Fairs above).

3.5 Seniors' Consultation Guide Development

Heather and Judi expressed interest in developing this more.

3.6 Brochure Rack Project

John McKnight, Fire Inspector, Fire & Rescue Services, was interested in this project.

ACTION: Patricia will send him information on what has already been done, including the cost of the racks.

Ongoing: Senior membership development, diversification and capacity building. Consider membership development action group.

4. Action Groups: Develop Activity Plans

Mariam circulated an activity plan form using "Smart" goals. "Smart" = Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Relevant; Timebound. Mariam gathered resource materials for each of the projects.

Joy suggested an information package for new and/or prospective members of the SSTF be prepared.

ACTION: Mariam will develop a kit, which will include: SSTF Report 2007, The Year in Review, Current Project List, Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct.

Mariam will develop and circulate next steps for projects by Dec 15.

5. Announcements.

Andrea asked that the Agenda for the next meeting include a report from her on the changes in her department.

**Next Meeting: NOTE DATE CHANGE TO: Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010, 1 - 3 pm
Location TBD.**

Adjournment: 3:10 pm.