

Community Living BC – Simon Fraser Region
400-205 Newport Drive, Port Moody

Council Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2015, 5:30 pm

Present: Sue Mann, Vera Anderson, Courtney Dinahan, Laurie Geschke, Barb Paciejewski, Carol Broomhall

Regrets: Ed Kushner, Lynne Kennie, Bob Kashyap, Linda Wu, Deb Appleby, Maxine Wilson

CLBC Staff Present: Victoria Naisbitt, Soheila Ghodsieh

Special Guest: Paula Grant

1. Introductions

2. Adoption of Agenda

M/S/C To adopt the Agenda as presented.

3. Adoption of Minutes from May 25, 2015

M/S/C To adopt the Minutes as presented.

4. Special Guest – Paula Grant, Interim Advocate for Service Quality

- This position was put into place in 1992 as a result of the closure of the institutions and wanting to make sure families' voices were heard during the process.
- The last person in the role – Jane Holland – held it for 17 years.
- The role was always to support families having issues dealing with government ministries and worrying about how their children would integrate into the community.
- The position also morphed into supporting the staff at CLBC -- as a filter between staff and families.
- It is an internal advocacy position that reports directly to the Minister of Social Development & Innovation.
- The position identifies issues within the system and tries to help the system work.
- Identify trends in different areas – ie. Issues surrounding placement of young people in long-term care facilities.
- BC is the only province in Canada that has this position within government.
- Now the Minister wants to re-evaluate the role before a new person fills it long-term.
- Paula has been talking with families and service providers to get their input on how the role should be shaped.
- Want a 'Muse for the Minister' – an unfiltered view to work with the Minister

- Question: Is the voice of families important? Yes.
- Question: What would you like maintained in this role?
 - Important to be a voice for families – for support & direction
 - Advice ~ information ~ referrals
 - Consistent info on options – “what is real?”
 - Training of staff
 - Communication
 - Identify themes that may need addressing
 - Collaborative but not a push-over
 - Position/person respected by all sides, so everyone listens to them
 - Quick response
- Paula’s contact info: paula.grant@gov.bc.ca or 604-775-1238

5. CLBC Update – Soheila Ghodsieh

- Tomorrow Soheila has a discussion with BC Housing on possibility of CLBC securing more apartments.
- Discussion around person receiving a discretionary trust from parent, and still having BC Housing/Metro Vancouver Housing rental rates negatively impacted.
- July 5 is CLBC’s 10th Anniversary. Will celebrate it during Community Living Month in October.
- LAST (Life After High School) Committee in Maple Ridge – main topic is supporting youth to transition.
 - Last week, that Committee won the Macai Accessibility Award in Maple Ridge for excellence in accessibility work.
 - Are planning on hosting a big Bar-B-Q in Maple Ridge for CL Month
- CLBC is transitioning to an integrated management system province-wide.
- Positions in Victoria & Nanaimo are open now.
- Regionally, responding to some complaints based on the budget available.

6. Housing Sub-Committee Update – Vera Anderson

- The next meeting is Monday, June 29.
- The purpose is to define their vision and create a mission statement by the end of the meeting.
- The following meeting – with the help of a facilitator – would focus on how to move from vision/mission to reality.
- Many possibilities in housing – i.e. possibly some BOSA units available around the Burquitlam Skytrain.
- Had a very good prior meeting with lively discussion and everyone will bring their vision to this next meeting.

7. PAC Update – Barb Paciejewski

- Haven’t received minutes from the PAC in the past couple of months, so will follow up with Megan Tardiff, Director responsible for the PAC.
- One other Council hosted an event to recruit more members – created flyers, posters and a self-advocacy group. They will now focus on housing.
- Surrey-Delta group partnered with the Rotary & Surrey Board of Trade. Created a decal to recognize businesses that employed people with disabilities.
- South Central Okanagan increased public awareness and partnered with Parks & Rec and London Drugs for good digital prizes. Did a poster contest on “what inclusion means to me.”

- Another group is working with a graduate student to host a Pecha Kucha next year – 20 slides that are 20 seconds long – so are attending other Pecha Kuchas to learn about the event and process. It would be good to go to see the other Council's event when it occurs in the Fall.

8. Report from the Chair – Sue Mann

- Following up on the strategic planning done the last 2 meetings with Jule.
- One key topic identified was housing.
- The Housing Committee is very alive and will likely stay separate from the larger Council.
- So many ideas and models are being generated in that Committee, so will keep it separate and report back to the Council.
- Also identified Employment and Community Inclusion as other key areas to explore.
- Met a person presenting from a business perspective what the benefits are of hiring people with disabilities – much lower turnover rate; commitment to their work.
- At a recent FSI meeting, there was a list of the 7 key characteristics that employers are looking for. People with disabilities often have 6 of the 7. Gratifying to see.
- If we were looking at employment, we would need to narrow it down to something very specific and do-able – considering the time constraints of how often we meet.
- Where would we start? What aspect would we take on?
- Poster contest may be a good way to promote awareness about inclusion – maybe host an event where posters could be displayed during Community Living month.
- Typically we don't meet in the summer, and the next meeting is in September – very close to October Community Living month.
- Could meet in July if people wished.
- People could link with the LAST Committee in Maple Ridge and in Burnaby. Could join the Coquitlam City Accessibility Committee.
- CLBC is hosting a large employment event – Rotary at Work -- in Maple Ridge – partnering with the school district and with Rotary.
- Community events happen every year – it's a matter of how we could link with them.
- Soheila can find out when the Accessibility Committee meets in Coquitlam and if we could be a part of it.
- We could see if we could become a part of LAST.
- Comment: No point re-inventing the wheel. Good to join existing committees.
- So much is being done already by different agencies.
- Maybe this Council is better off connecting with existing events and activities.
- It is good to spend our \$5,000 annual budget on things we believe in.
- Next year CLBC will host a large self-advocates' event. We could help support that as well, if we wish.
- The changing structure of CLBC will not impact the structure of the Community Councils. We will still have all of the existing Councils.

- Carol will connect with Randy Schmidt at CLBC re: web design for the Council web page, then email Sue & then the rest of the Council re: ideas for web page design & content.
- Brenda Brown at CLBC has lots of pictures from different events.
- Comment: Like the idea of a poster (drawing or photo) contest – i.e. with a theme of What Inclusion Means to Me. CLBC can help promote.
- Comment: Also like supporting the Self Advocate Conference in March 2016.
- Two are interested in participating in the organizing committees for Self Advocate Conference, and for Rotary at Work
- Summary: Want Council to be involved with Rotary at Work, and a poster contest for the March 2016 Self Advocate Conference.
- We could sponsor those 2 events.

M/S/C That the Committee commit to supporting the Rotary at Work event in Maple Ridge with financial support, and also that we support a poster (drawing or photo) contest at the March 2016 Self Advocate Conference.

Laurie would be interested in representing the Council at the Self Advocate Conference re: the poster contest and will report to the Council on how it is developing. The poster could be any kind of visual art.

Sue, Barb & Vera are interested in being involved in the Rotary at Work event.

Vera is covering the housing.

NOTE: If the people who were not attending this meeting have any additional input regarding these decisions, or are interested in being involved in some way, please contact Sue.

Need to get some community prizes donated for the Poster Contest.

9. New Business

- None

10. Confirmation of next meeting date – August 31 @ 5:30 pm

Meeting ended at 7:50 pm.