

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

Council Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2012, 6:00pm – 8:00 pm

Present: Debra Appleby, Jim Wong (via phone), Vera Anderson, Sue Mann, Maxine Wilson, Jacqueline Jordon, Carol Broomhall (Minute taker)

CLBC Staff Present: Soheila Ghodsieh (Manager, Community Planning and Development)

Regrets: Barb Goode, Richard Faucher, Conrad Alberts, Barbara Thomas

1. Introductions

2. Adoption of Agenda – Moved/Approved

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

- February 28, 2012 Minutes adopted – Moved/Approved

4. Presentations

Soheila Ghodsieh – CLBC:

- Had hoped to present the Budget, but it is not finalized yet. Will have it finalized within the week.
- Held a Self-Advocates conference in Burnaby today – at Shadbolt Centre
- Soheila said Stephanie Cadieux sent a video, where she announced an additional \$179 million in funding over the next 3 years (including the \$40 million given to CLBC this year).
- No details given on how this new money could/should be allocated.
- A key focus is the transition of youth.
- Are combining some BC Housing funding to support a few Life Sharing situations. Looking at expanding that.
- Hosting a second Employer's Luncheon on April 17th, to inform more business people about the benefits of employing people with disabilities.
- Soheila met with 21 families at Ridge Meadows Recycling last week. Apologized for the anxiety CLBC caused, but stated CLBC cannot pay wages. They pay for staffing supports, but the City must pay wages.
- Every individual who worked there only worked 2 days per week, because if they made more than that, they would lose access to some benefits – i.e. their bus passes and some medical benefits. Some would like to work more than that, but worried about the consequences.
- One person questioned if they tried more full-time work and that didn't work out, whether they could access their PWD benefits again. Soheila said they could look at working that out.
- Told the individuals that CLBC would ensure that the people currently working at Ridge Meadows could continue to work there.
- Negotiations are moving forward.
- CLBC will meet again with the families over the next 2 weeks to update them on their new plan.
- CLBC is talking with School District 42 to create a new program for youth graduating in Maple Ridge to facilitate employment. Will create a program in that area, but still negotiating details.

- Have referred 12 individuals to employment programs at Fraserside.
- Soheila will ask a facilitator to sit with Maxine and provide an introduction to CLBC and its range of initiatives and services.
- BC Housing can widen their mandate if there is a demand for it.
- BC Housing currently has an 8 year wait list, but there are likely ways to navigate that more effectively.
- Soheila will be away from April 30 to May 22 – in the Middle East.
- Are many immigrant communities here that could benefit from more outreach to support their child with a disability.
- Need to advocate for more federal funding support.
- Q: How did the housing conference go in New Westminster?
- A: The weather was terrible, so turn-out not as high as had hoped – about 40
- It seemed a bit rushed – presenters didn't have enough time – only 2 hours total.
- There wasn't enough time for all audience questions either, but a lot of good information there.
- Would be good to hold it for 3 hours next time.
- At today's Self Advocates meeting, had people from Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Langley, but none from Maple Ridge. Had offered to arrange transportation for everyone.
- Agencies which receive funding from CLBC should support their self advocates to attend these meetings.

5. Update from the Chair:

- Vera and Deb are going to the provincial advisory council meeting on April 14th.
- Have sent the Board information on topics to be discussed.
- Please let Deb know if there is anything you would like her to address at the meeting.
- Council's Annual Report is due by June. Will address the report at the next meeting.
- The provincial meeting includes Council representatives from around the province.
- The Agenda for this provincial meeting has been released.
- CLBC's Budget presentation will be in May.
- The CLBC FAQ to address the Stop the Cuts document has not yet been released.
- Meaghen Taylor-Reid from CLBC will come to the next Council meeting to talk about Community Engagement in the Fraser Region.
- How can we find out more about what's going on in the community? Meaghen will help us learn more.
- Maybe we need to host a night to talk about what's going on in the community.
- Some parents in Maple Ridge have voiced concerns over lack of programs/information regarding individuals' personal hygiene, sexuality, etc.
- Need to focus on more outreach in that community – booths in the mall, transition fairs, build it into the IEP planning.
- Will discuss this more with Meaghen.
- Parents have certain rights, and they should be equipped with the information to fulfill those rights.
- Informing parents and the teachers are important.

6. New Business

- None.

7. Confirmation of next meeting date

- **Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 25, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, 400-205 Newport Drive, Port Moody**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.