

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

Council Meeting Minutes
May 29, 2013, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Present: Debra Appleby, Vera Anderson, Maxine Wilson, Barbara Thomas, Sue Mann, Jacqueline Jordon, Diane Bruneau, Carol Broomhall (Minute taker)

CLBC Staff Present: Soheila Ghodsieh, Joanne Granek

Regrets: Jim Wong, Ed Kushner

1. Introductions

- Thanks to Deb Appleby, former Past Chair (presented with flowers)
- Welcome to Maxine Wilson, new Chair

2. Adoption of Agenda – Moved/Approved

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

- April 24, 2013 Meeting Minutes – Moved/Approved

Business Arising

- None

4. CLBC Updates

Presentation from Joanne Granek

- Working on contract with CLBC in response to feedback from Community Councils across BC.
- Over the course of a year, she will learn as much as possible from Councils, from the intention to the lived experience.
- Charged with coming up with a new Community Council handbook, better understanding issues of interest to Councils, how community planning and development can support Councils.
- Working on creating an updated Council Board handbook (using the Board Manual as a starting point).
- Re-wrote the Council Terms of Reference. But only the language has been refined – no substantive changes were made.
- Works directly with Brian Salisbury.
- Want to listen to Councils, create a more plain language handbook.
- Interested in a discussion around the word “Inclusion”, and whether it is jargon or not. Some may argue that a person can be “included” by being invited to an event, but still may not be engaged and feel that they “belong”.
- Trend for Councils to be focused on more service-related conversations.
- Want to clarify what Councils think about what they do, how they plan what they do, and how they advance inclusion in our communities.
- Think the primary role of Councils is to help build stronger communities that include adults with disabilities in all aspects of community life.
- Comment: frustrating to see how little the broader community is engaged in creating inclusion. Community involvement is key.
- “A good life” is not about how a person is in service, but how they are included in the community.

- Focus is on providing quality services that meet the needs, that address emerging issues, with the resources we have.
- The mandate of the Council is to take on the other tact – that people will have a better life when people are connected in their community.
- One role is to advocate for people with disabilities in the community – i.e. talk to TransLink about how to make sure new transit is accessible and takes people with disabilities into consideration.
- But to engage community, it does take funding – i.e. to put on community events.
- But can also advance inclusion by sitting with people who have influence in various areas. That may not have a financial cost.
- Councils may be the ones who can help create the openings in community for others to tell their stories and help educate others in the community.
- Some people advocating for people with mental health issues recently met with the editorial board of the Vancouver Sun to help educate them on ways of more respectfully representing people with disabilities in media.
- Think about who we can influence. Who can we engage and what can we help them to better understand?
- If influencing hospitals were part of a plan, who would you invite from the hospital, and what families would you invite to tell stories of their experience – in a non-blaming way. Then we could talk with them about how we could support them to help their staff better understand.
- What would be evidence of making a difference? For example, some groups might choose to look at how the City of Burnaby choose people to sit on various Councils. Could talk with someone at the City. Or could find a person who is interested in a particular issue (i.e. environmental issues) and just show up at a Committee meeting and participate. Maybe decide to join the Committee.
- This Council wants to be strategic around recruiting, since we are losing 5 Council members next March. The recruiting process can facilitate community inroads.
- In the Tri-Cities, there are 2 employees with developmental disabilities.
- Think about what is specific to our community.
- Secondary Role is to advise – as needed – CLBC at a local and regional level.
- If meetings become too focused on CLBC issues, there is a risk of losing our primary focus on advancing inclusion.
- Question about which community representation needs to be replaced next March.
- Comment that we need to recruit more self advocates. If we find a self advocate who could contribute well and benefit from the experience, then encourage them to join and participate.
- Need to be clear on how to support self advocates at this Council.
- Talked about challenge of holding some Council meetings via phone.
- It can be challenging, but if you have the right people – who are interested, who understand the concepts, who are not “meeting-ed out”.
- To advocate for self advocates, CLBC advertises.
- Clarification: A self advocate is someone who has a developmental disability. It doesn't have to be someone receiving services.
- CLBC will draft a recruitment process and post it on their website.
- A Council recruitment card has been developed to circulate.

- The Council's role is to help the community be more open to advancing inclusion. How can we insert more hope into conversations?
- Our job is to move the agenda forward in the community.
- We may not be able to do something in every community we support. We may target areas we don't have as much profile, or we may want to focus on where we have had success and build on it more before move forward to share the stories in other areas.
- Need to decide where our foci will be. Likely can't
- Joanne would like to connect with Council members at a later date.

Soheila Ghodsieh

- Will report on behalf of John Bergman.
- CLBC has been given an additional \$3.6 million, but have been told to find savings of \$1.7 million. So \$2 million net increase. (Had asked for \$5 million.)
- Every year, there is .6% increase in people being supported.
- Funding for supporting 25 transitioning youth. 50 youth are receiving Direct Respite funding. Other funds are being being directed to support health and safety, etc.
- Clarification by Joanne: the Board's role is not for advocating for more services and more money. It's for advocating for more inclusion in the community.
- Are exploring how CLBC can hire a self advocate at the Fraser Region office.
- More clarification on the Council role – struggle with the idea of the Council members not being able to advocate on behalf of community members for challenges they are facing.
- Suggest that conversations be as authentic as possible, and then refer people to appropriate CLBC contacts to address their specific concerns.
- Agencies are service providers, they need to figure out their relationship to community and CLBC. CLBC needs to figure out its role as well.
- Comment that this Council has struggled to figure out its role.
- Re-iterated that opportunities for people to have a good life is based on relationships, having a sense of belonging, and a community being welcoming. It is not dependent on the services they receive.
- Discussions with BC Housing are continuing. 13 individuals have been placed in the Lower Mainland.
- Meeting in September to increase the number of housing units from the non-profit sector.
- Are close to hiring a person to implement the employment initiative in the Fraser Region.
- Still working with District 42 to develop the new educational program for Grade 13 that is being led by posAbilities in Maple Ridge.
- Question about which parents were invited to the planning meeting.
- Hoping to create a similar program in New Westminister.
- Have received a new Regional Operational Plan. Soheila will circulate to the Council. The Council may want to consider this plan when developing their own strategic plan – possibly aligning with it.

5. Update from the Chair – M. Wilson

- Priorities identified by Provincial Community Council Chairs through a recent Survey Monkey vote include:
 - Increase the capacity of individuals and families to build, nurture and sustain personal support networks.
 - Implement the Community Action Employment Plan.
 - Improve CLBC's approach and relationships with individuals and families
 - Identify ways that individuals, families and service providers successfully engage with services that are used by all citizens (public transportation; recreation centres, local clubs and interest groups, etc)
 - Increase the use of individualized funding
 - Collect and share stories about innovations that make a difference for individuals and families
 - Identify what types of information and knowledge should be gathered and ways that it could be shared in community living
 - Better understand barriers to, and incentives that promote, innovation.

6. Action Items - Update

- All action items were completed except for work around finding more Council members, create business cards for Council members, emailing Sandy's Housing Report, and need input on the Council's Annual Report (# meetings, # new members, # events).
- **Soheila will ask Lisa Porcellato to facilitate the Strategic Planning discussion.**
- **Soheila will let us know if Lisa is available.**
- Annual Report – Draft was developed by Deb Appleby. Deb and Soheila will fill in a few more details, then will submit.
- Thanks to Deb for writing it.
- Regional Director of Operations' role to ensure that CPD Managers make sure that the Board operates within its stated mandates.
- Think there needs to be a specific recruitment strategy developed.
- InclusionBC Conference – Jacquie passed around info on it. She was very impressed with the conference.
 - Presenters included Joe Erpenbeck, Asset-Based Community Development; Cinthia Page, Can You Dig it;
 - Think this Council needs to better understand concepts like Customized Employment, Representation Agreements, etc.
 - Some Councils are going out to lawyers to say that you're missing out on a market/business opportunity
 - Great to see so many self advocates in one place
 - Schools are communities – where community inclusion begins.
 - Some community councils talk about where they meet. Some meet in libraries, other community space. Then they put up signs about the meeting, so they are advertising. Promotes inclusion through visibility.
 - Sharing success stories is important.
 - Deb's son has been included in the Jazz Band for the past 4 years. Nominated his teacher for an Inclusion Award and he was one of 2 provincial winners. Also, video made of her son for the Canucks

Autism Network. Won an award for the video.

7. New Business

- **None.**

8. Confirmation of next meeting date:

Wednesday, June 26, from 5:00 – 9:00 pm, at Soheila's house.
Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.