

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

**Council Meeting Minutes**  
November 28, 2013, 6:00 pm

**Present:** Maxine Wilson, Diane Bruneau, Jacqueline Jordon, Vera Anderson, Sue Mann, Ed Kushner, Jim (via phone) Carol Broomhall (Minute taker)

**CLBC Staff Present:** Soheila Ghodsieh, Jai Birdi

**Regrets:** Debra Appleby, Barbara Thomas

1. **Introductions**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Adoption of Previous Minutes for September 25, 2013**
4. **Reviewing and revamping the role of the Simon Fraser Region Community Council**
  - Jai is here to address any issues or challenges there may be from an organizational or communications perspective.
  - Maxine commented that in interviewing past and current Council members, there is a desire for Board members to be more directly involved and proactive.
  - Would like there to be communication – a 2-way dialogue – to ensure that the Council's work is aligning with CLBC key initiatives.
  - Important to identify ways that we each can participate in an effective way.
  - It's a fine balance between how much information CLBC presents vs. the projects that the Council is interested in initiating.
  - CLBC wants to make sure they are meeting the needs of Council members. Want to make sure that it's a meaningful experience for both the Council and CLBC.
  - Question: What checks and balances can be put in place to ensure this happens?
  - Comment: A check would be consulting with the Council to see who from the community could be involved in particular CLBC initiatives.
  - Comment: The way the board aligns is dependent on the Council leader. There is a change in process needed when there is a change in leadership. Need to set up a process where Maxine as Chair feels involved and consulted.
  - Everyone needs to work together to make sure that contact with community is maximized.
  - CPD Manager and Council Chair are equal partners. Other managers can bring in resources when needed.
  - How can we strengthen the Council so that all voices are heard?
  - For the last 2 years, Council and CLBC did a great job working together to foster initiatives in housing.
  - Now there is a focus at CLBC on employment. Meaghen Taylor-Reid and Jack Styran have both presented on this to Council.

- Maxine has had conversations with key people regarding housing partnerships in Tri-Cities. The time is ripe, as housing and business developments arise along the Evergreen Skytrain Line.
- The City is quite interested in partnering with BOSA – we just need to find an agency who would like to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> collaborator in a P3.
- Council is very interested in housing – it is a foundational issue.
- Because we are volunteers, the council members have limited opportunity to work on this. How can we partner with CLBC to move this forward?  
We can start the initiative with our community contacts, but need help advancing it.
- At CLBC, we talk about inclusion and we need to practice it. We need to make sure that all Council members are able to speak their minds.
- How can we support each other to be a more cohesive group?
- We can have a follow-up meeting with a more focused conversation where we can create a plan for creating a culture for openness.
- Want to make sure we're modeling our philosophy.
- Suggest: It would be great if there were a document that highlights what the Council has done in the past.
- The Annual Reports for the Council for the past 7 years can be pulled together to give an overview, and help give the current council a better idea of what has been done and how.
- Housing is a huge initiative – as is employment. What little piece of the pie are we going to focus on?
- Still not clear what we can do as Council members to move forward.
- Some Council members operate in their community as well as at this Council – primarily because some have children in transition in the community.
- Comment: parents are invaluable experts.
- Will meet with Brian Salisbury and Joanne Granek in early January to review the results of the Orientation Manual and Terms of Reference for Community Councils.
- We need to operate within the Terms of the Council, but also need to operate within our own parameters.
- We know what we want to advance, but are struggling to define which pieces we want to go after, how big a piece to go after, and how can we work with CLBC.
- Housing is definitely an area that is of interest to the Council.
- It is not overtly listed as one of the four key CLBC initiatives, but it could relate to #4 – Identify ways that individuals, families and service providers successfully engage with services that are used by all citizens.
- Suggest after we meet with Brian and Joanne in early January, decide how we can support CLBC and how CLBC can support us so that we can be an effective Council. We also need to ensure that every person's voices are heard at the Council.
- This Council has to decide what we want, not wait for others to support us to make that decision.
- Want both CLBC and Community Council to work together as a team.
- Need a planning meeting on how to develop specific strategies or plans.
- Once we work out logistics, then we can figure out the different roles of the Council and CLBC can play in facilitating.
- We need to spend more time exploring different housing models, then develop a pathway forward.
- Want to make sure that housing is a priority for everyone on the Council.

- Need to think about how housing would link to CLBC's key change initiatives.
- Would like more information on P3 Partnerships. Carol will share links.
- Jai summarized the conversation:
  - Need for having checkpoints and processes;
  - Council's value is in providing consultation, and also having a dialogue;
  - Importance of aligning expectations and understanding roles;
  - The work done here is a joint responsibility of Council and CLBC management;
  - Information sharing is important, but still need to specify what kind of information we would like shared;
  - Want to create partnerships – that is our ultimate goal;
  - Recognition that no one person can do everything, so need to partner – with CLBC, with local municipalities, with local agencies.

Question: What is the scope of our role in housing development? Can we leverage and work with others who may know more about housing?

Maybe a good idea to meet with a few local service providers to see if they are interested in participating in a partnership.

A few years ago, Soheila negotiated with BC Housing for 20 units of affordable housing for people throughout Metro Vancouver. Soheila also has met with Non Profit Housing Association. These relationships can be further explored for future collaboration.

## 5. Recruiting and keeping members

- Before we start inviting other potential members, suggest we need to crystallize the Council's mandate first.
- But we will keep the momentum going with new potential Council members so that they are still interested in participating at a later date.
- Jai asked Council members to share their expectations of Soheila and Jai as supports to the Council. Then they can clarify whether the expectations can be met. Council members said:
  - We all need to help one another, and encourage the thinking ahead that the Council is doing;
  - Think we need one more meeting to discuss it further, and to further understand the new Terms of Reference and Council Orientation Plan;
  - Make sure that it's a shared direction;
  - Think it's a good idea that Soheila gives the Council information; need to make sure that we're all on the same page, that the best interests of the people with disabilities are the priority; importance of CLBC management to listen and help us bring the issues to the table;
  - Was encouraged by what was discussed tonight; thought that before the Council was not focused enough, with not enough tangible goals or actions; want to be a constructive member and work on a team; if that isn't accomplished, nobody gets anywhere; we're here as the eyes and ears of the community; would like to stay involved once her memberships expires in March;
  - We have to understand that whenever a group of passionate people come together, it takes a while to settle down; there has been some floundering because of lack of information of newer members; CLBC

can support newer members by providing education – an information package – strategic guidance (there was strategic planning process support offered by CLBC in the past); need to interact/dialogue respectfully;

- What's been missing is the sense of partnership, trying to figure out her role; we need to know what CLBC's doing – not here to re-invent the wheel, need to add to the wheel so that we can all move together faster; we all need to look at the goals – housing and employment are both huge pieces; need to get information from CLBC to understand what others are working on so that we can fully understand what piece of the pie we can contribute to;
- Jai would like to know how many Council members are interested in continuing with the Council, and how many positions will be vacant.
  - Jai also wanted to remind the Council that 6 member terms are ending in March.
  - **Ask people to let Soheila know by the end of December if they are interested in participating.**
- Jai gave an example of a well-functioning Council. He shared that the Surrey Community Council identified one Council member who was a champion for a particular initiative, asking CLBC for specific support, finding champions at the City of Surrey, and at other key organizations. Then they reported out to the Council and everyone gave feedback.

#### **6. Employment Initiative Pilot Region**

- Meaghen is doing a lot – she presented to the Council in September.
- The next step is for the Council to meet again with Meaghen to see how we can support her process in ways that are of interest to us.
- Suggest we ask Meaghen to provide a document to us ahead of the next meeting so we feel more prepared for the discussion.
- Again, need to make sure that all Council members are interested in the initiatives the Council is championing. That may mean that we lose some Council members and recruit new ones that are more closely aligned.

#### **7. Report by Soheila:**

- Commented that this Council has done a lot of important work over the past several years. Want to make sure that this Council recognizes that.
- Soheila is here to support the Council – to make the Agenda, to develop our Strategic Plan. She is not here to direct us, or deliver for us.
- Jai typically takes a hands-off approach until support is requested of him by the Council, or he understands that there is a need to have a dialogue with Council.
- Soheila has asked Brian for the Terms of Reference. She will share them with the Committee as soon as she gets them.

**Next meeting date: Carol will email people – asking if 6:00 pm, Tuesday, Jan 7<sup>th</sup> works well for most.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm