

Surrey – Delta – White Rock Community Council

#2017 – 7495 – 132 Street, Surrey, BC V3W 1J8

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Community Council Minutes Wednesday, January 25, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.

Present: Marie Sabine (Chair), Sherry Adam, Vicki Stratton, Alison Scholefield,

Guests: Tracey Chan and Erin Dove

CLBC staff: Anthony opden Dries, Integrated Services Manager

Recorder: Edwina Jeffrey

Regrets: Vernon Hudson, Linda Beck and Laila Karim; CLBC staff: Dawn Kennedy, Community Engagement Facilitator

1. **Call to order:** Marie Sabine (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.
2. **Welcome to All and Introductions**
The Chair welcomed everyone including potential council member Erin Dove.
3. **Review and approval of the agenda for the January 25, 2017 meeting**
It was moved by Sherry, seconded by Alison, to adopt the January 25, 2017 Agenda as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Review and approval of the minutes of the November 23rd, 2016 meeting

Motion: *It was moved by Vicki and seconded by Alison, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 23rd, 2016.*

Carried Unanimously

4. **Inclusive Employer Awards Update**

The Community Council subsidized 13 self-advocates to attend the Awards covering 2/3 (\$20 each) of the registration cost.

The committee values the continued support in terms of funding and manpower from CLBC.

In December the committee met and reviewed the September 29th event resulting in how to continue with a strategy for growing the Awards and provide education for employers.

On January 17, committee members met with a facilitator for a Visioning Session to determine our strengths, challenges and priorities. Members completed a

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skills inventory matrix which showed our strengths, and the matrix also revealed what the committee needs to move forward.

Simple Rules were created for the committee to follow for each meeting, along with priorities and action planning, specifically communications.

The committee agreed that this year would be used to educate and market to more employers about the benefits of inclusive hiring asking, “do we need to focus on CLBC or other populations”? An awards ceremony will be slated for 2018.

A Strategic Planning session is necessary for the committee to move forward. Funding for this is requested through CLBC and the City of Surrey.

A Strategic Planning meeting will be organized with the same facilitator upon her availability; however, the next committee meeting will be March 3 to review the January 17 committee goals/results.

5. **Upcoming PAC Meeting**

Vicki provided an overview of the Provincial Advisory Council. At the upcoming PAC meeting Vicki will report on the Housing Forum with Janet Klees. Also, Vicki and Edwina attended a Housing Forum at Surrey City Hall; where, breaking into groups there were discussions about current housing needs for seniors and the issue of homelessness. The meeting was to get feedback to work on a future plan for an inclusive strategy for housing.

Edwina will forward the survey link from City of Surrey’s Affordable Housing Strategy. The survey takes about ten minutes and it needs to be completed by January 31.

6. **Housing for Persons with Developmental Disabilities – My Personal Story**

Fourteen years ago, Semiahmoo House Society invited families and self-advocates to talk about the two most important issues in their lives. Discussions showed that housing and getting jobs were the two top issues. As housing was the higher priority, four lots were gradually purchased and the foundation for ‘Chorus’ Apartments was laid.

Chorus Apartments opened in September, 2016. A total of 71 units were built with 20 set aside for self-advocates. Apartments included studio, one, two and three bedroom apartments as well as adaptable units for wheelchair access.

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CLBC funds support staff (Semiahmoo hired appropriate staff). Self-advocates were invited to attend 4-day course on how to live independently. The course included discussions about security and safety issues.

Residential tenancy agreements include addendums covering no smoking and no illegal activity.

There is a 24/7 cell phone number for self-advocates to call if they need assistance. Chorus Apartments is a benefit to the whole community, not just those with developmental disabilities.

Request for portable rent supplement:

Self-advocates pay the shelter portion of their PWD for their rent (\$375). The remainder of the rent is paid by the self-advocate's family. As an example at one-bedroom apartment is \$825 to \$850 per month. Realizing this arrangement is not sustainable, the families helped their sons and daughters to apply for portable rent supplements. BC Housing sent letters to each applicant advising they were not eligible for rent supplements.

Families are helping their sons and daughters to appeal this decision. An Appeal/Reconsideration has been retained to assist. Families have met with MLA Gordon Hogg and other MLA's to apprise them of what has happened. Other tenants in the building receive rent supplements. The families are asking, "why can individuals with complex health issues, addictions, barriers to employment, etc., receive rent supplements, but persons with developmental disabilities are not eligible. It is likely living independently with supports is more cost-effective than home-share arrangements.

7. **Update on CLBC**

Anthony distributed information from CLBC on Inclusive Housing. The information is on the CLBC website. It will be distributed to all service providers, parents, and a plan of action will be sent to the City of Surrey.

There was discussion about the Council sponsoring a second Housing Forum, as this could be an opportunity to engage with the non-profits who have received funding for housing as well as other housing professionals and BC Housing.

There will be updates coming on employment, and the strategic plan for the future. Person-centred planning will be rolled into the strategic plan.

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8. Planning for the Next Community Council Family Forums. (review feedback from Housing Forum and decide what the 2017 Family Forum topic will be)

Following a review of the feedback from the 2016 Housing Forum hosted by our Community Council there was discussion about having the second Housing Forum in May 2017. (Note: Housing First did an excellent forum.)

Discussions included the following:

- Have self-advocates and families speak about their experiences;
- Provide financial information for families and individuals;
- Help or train people on what is necessary to rent;
- Invite non-profits who will be constructing the buildings and provide success stories; and
- Invite BC Housing and other stakeholders.

Hosting a Family Forum to provide information about wills, trusts and estate planning or positive behaviour supports will be further discussed at the February Community Council meeting.

Note: CLBC administrative staff will be asked to search out venues for the May Family Forum on housing .

9. Adjournment at 8:40 pm & Reminders:

Next Council meeting: February 22, 2017

Ladner May Days Parade: May 29

Meeting with CLBC Board: June 20