

TRI-CITIES SENIORS PLANNING NETWORK

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday, May 17, 2016 - 1:00 - 3:00 pm Poirier Library, Nancy Bennett Room 575 Poirier St., Coquitlam

Attendees:

Stacy Ashton (end of meeting only)
Elaine de Koning*
Joyce Eborg*
Lois Fusaro
Jeanne Goodrick*
Brenda Hynes
Judy Jackson
Ken Kuhn
Pat McBlane (acting chair)
Roland Mitchell
Doug Mix
Barbara Muskeyn*
Mary Ong
Anna Stvrtecky*
Gerhard Tilicki*
Irene Turnbull
Shae Viswanathan*
Claus Wieneck*
Maxine Wilson (end of meeting only)

Regrets:

Linda Asgerssen
Bruce Bird
Ryan Drew
King Lum
Karen Tyrell

* new members

Introductions

Welcome to new members and guests.

We were joined today by eight new members, all representing their own communities. All of them had attended our Housing Forum in April and were interested enough to come and check us out. We hope that you'll stick around and give us a chance...we always need stronger support from within the community itself. Thank you for attending.

Pat gave us a quick update on King Lum, our Chair, who recently suffered a stroke. Glad to hear that he is recovering and working hard at his physical therapy...look forward to seeing him back when he's able.

Agenda

- Accepted with no changes
- Moved to accept - Brenda
- Seconded - Roland

Minutes of Previous Meeting (March 15, 2016)

- Accepted with no changes
- Moved to accept – Roland
- Seconded - Brenda
- carried

Business Arising from Previous Meetings

Housing Forum - debriefing

- Committee met last week
- Haven't been able to go through all of the evaluations
- Happy with vendors; vendors happy with us
- Venue was very positive
- Stacy will be sending thank you notes/letters to speakers, sponsors, vendors, etc.
- A report back will be sent to all of the participants once stats are collected and shared with the committee
- Participants seemed to like the pace
- Food was very well received; however, we need to provide some 'healthier' snack options for diabetics, gluten free, etc.
- Only real complaint about the food was lack of the healthy snacks
- Registration needs some tweaking
- Need to have the ability to have one person register for multiple participants by name AND generate nametags... too many manual name tags had to be made up which jammed up the registration area from time to time when these 'multiples' would arrive under one name
- Need a signup sheet for registration for people who wish to know more about TCSPN
- Seating was bumped up to 180 and it was virtually 'sold out'
- Need a larger committee when events like this are planned and executed
- Event was well received
- Many seniors asked for more 'exercise' breaks between presentations
- Need more aisles through the seating area; rows were well spaced
- Signage: needed for parking areas (with volunteers positioned outside) and directional to washrooms
- TCSPN not visible enough – need to include our brochure and/or information sheet about who we are in the portfolios we provide
- Provide a list of vendors and map within portfolio package
- Need more visual signage at event for TCSPN; need own table
- TCSPN should do more community outreach at other events/locations
- **For next meeting**, the committee would like to see:
 - Final analysis of the event summary; including, number of participants, vendors, evaluations
 - Financial accounting of the event
 - Assuming we have a surplus, it was suggested we use this to purchase event banners/signage (to be discussed at future meeting)
 - Review final report to be sent to all participants (attendees, vendors, speakers)
- What will be the next steps/follow up to the Forum
 - This will be easier to decide once we have analyzed the results
- General Comments from Committee members who attended included:
 - There was a need for better telephone follow up with people registering who had questions, etc. – complaints received about no one returning their calls after initial contact
 - Locations should be more city bus accessible. The shuttles were not effective as people were unable to get transit from their homes to connect with the shuttle locations. Shuttles

- should rotate for pickups (we coordinate route of registrants who need assistance), or we arrange for volunteers to pick people up and return them home afterward
 - The more choices you give people, the more complicated it can get
 - Phone registration should be made easier for ESL participants (SUCCESS can help)
 - We did not have translators this year, but it was not a big issue.
 - A couple of ESL speakers during registration could be helpful to give directions and answer questions prior to and after event
 - Selina has expressed that the Forum could be a very powerful tool if used correctly
 - We will try to work with Selina for guidance on this
 - Ken mentioned the City was looking for partners around affordable housing – we need to keep them in the loop as well as ensure we are being communicated with (use in presentation to Council)
- Unfortunately, Stacy was not present during the discussions about the Forum

New Business

CRN (Community Response Network)

- Planning a walk on June 15th for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
 - Selina Robinson's office will offer refreshments during the walk
- CRN want to make a presentation to the Tri-Cities' City Councils; they have asked if we could possibly do this together
- It was generally felt that although we are 100% supportive of their work, it was important for us to use this presentation

(Discussion then turned to OUR presentation, which is technically 'old business')

- Our ask needs to be more concrete and specific
- Onus is on us – if we want Council's attention, we need to be more effective
- We need to become an effective advocate for seniors' issues
- When we have results from the Forum, we can drill down and look at a concrete plan to present

All Candidates Debate

- As the spring of 2017 will give us a new elections, it has been suggested that we look at holding an open Political Forum (Ken/Roland)
- We provide the topics, but not the questions
- Perhaps have someone such as Marcy Cohen or Joanne Franks emcee the event (Home Support System in BC)
- Timing is right to bring in politicians\Should there be a Seniors' Ministry?
- Or other policy alternative i.e. residential care reports?
- Need a theme – response specific to topic
- Do some research on incumbents seeking re-election regarding their track history on seniors' issues
- Need a lot of awareness prior to event about what we're planning
- Seniors need a strong voice
- COSCO and CARP are two large, national advocacy groups (more info on COSCO attached)
- We need a seniors advocacy group within city hall\huge percentage of the population is not being represented
- Needs to be at the local level
- Housing report should be included
- Do we want to look at advocacy in the Tri-Cities for election?
- Group agreed to move forward
- Ken asked that everyone think about the timing and location for such an event
- Think about getting involved in the event committee for the next meeting

Updates:

Stacy Ashton:

- Confirmed that reports around registration and evaluations, as well as the financial statement would be completed for presentation at our next meeting
- Stacy has a volunteer coming in to do all of the data entry
- SHARE-Burnaby Community Services are creating a regional table around transportation and have invited seniors groups in the Lower Mainland
- New Horizon initiatives – huge barriers for non-English speaking seniors
- Need more social interaction for seniors

Doug Mix:

- Home Instead had a vendor space at the Housing Forum
- He felt it was useful, professional and he enjoyed being there as a vendor

Maxine:

- Seniors need to develop a stronger voice
- Need to become a major lobbyist

Barbara:

- Attended the Forum and enjoyed it
- Agree that seniors need to have a stronger voice

Roland Mitchell:

- June 4 – Shredding by donation at Crossroads Hospice Society – 9 to 2 pm, southwest parking lot

Brenda Hynes

- We should ask if the cities can send representatives to our meetings
- Need a Fraser Health representative; Brenda only represents Seniors Mental Health
- She will be sending this request to Jean Marc
- Also, the following was written by Jean Marc as an awareness piece for Fraser Health:

Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network:

The Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network started with a year-long series of focus groups and surveys with non-profits, for-profits, municipal planning staff, seniors' organizations, and health agencies, funded by the United Way.

Building an Age-Friendly Tri-Cities means looking at housing, health care, social inclusion, transportation, access for isolated seniors, bridging to immigrant seniors, lifelong learning, and coordinated services for seniors.

The group is comprised of people from local agencies who work with seniors and immigrants, such as SUCCESS, SHARE, FHA Older Adult MH representative, and members from the community and meets once a month. There are Seniors Planning Networks in 9 other communities in the lower mainland.

Ken Kuhn

- We need to find ways to connect
- Ken will work on ways to let retired teachers know who we are
- He suggested we create our own newsletter and our own website
 - He would be happy to help with both (to be discussed next meeting)

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 21, 1:00 to 3:00 pm , Poirier Library, BOARDROOM

