

TRI-CITIES SENIORS PLANNING NETWORK

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2015 - 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Poirier Library, Nancy Bennett Room
575 Poirier Street, Coquiltam

Attendees:

Regrets:

Stacy Ashton	Bruce Bird
Judy Costiuk	Ruth Cox
Ryan Drew	Bob & Pat Danbrough
Harvey Grigg	Marg Gordon
Peggy Hendrickson	Gina Hortelano
Brenda Hynes	Mike Oakley
Ken Kuhn	John Schofield
King Lum, Chair	Suzanne Tempel
Pat McBlane	Karen Tyrell
Doug Mix	
Irene Turnbull	

Introductions:

- New members:
- Judy Costiuk, Home Instead
- Doug Mix, Home Instead
- Harvey Grigg, Council of Advisors for Senior Advocate
- Ken Kuhn, Retired Teachers' Association

Agenda:

- Accepted with no changes or additions

Minutes of Last Meeting (March 17, 2015):

- Motion to accept, Pat McBlane
- Seconded by Ken Kuhn
- Carried

Old Business Tri-Cities Community Seniors Forum

- Report from Ken Kuhn
- 260 in attendance
- Three Mayors from the Tri-Cities, 3 out of 4 MLA's and 1 of 2 MP's

- 17 exhibitors
- Key speaker: Isobel MacKenzie, Seniors Advocate
- Food trucks were a success
- 40-50 emails from attendees encouraging more similar activities
- Winslow Centre was a great venue
- Key Issue: desire to be heard and listened to from seniors
- Lack of family doctors, especially with wave of retiring physicians

Tri-Cities Fraser Health Partnership

- Fraser Health and Tri-Cities municipal councillors on a task force to address health care concerns, such as recruiting family doctors into the Tri-Cities
- King and Linda presented the Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network to the partnership
- Ken raised the issue of centralization of hospital services (e.g. food services and laundry) as an issue impacting quality, environment (more trucks on the road) and local jobs

Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership

- King, Linda and Stacy helped facilitate table discussion at a Roundtable on Immigrant Community Engagement on March 24
- Issues facing immigrant seniors include language barriers, cultural barriers, child care issues, as many seniors are coming to support their adult children to raise their children; also access to political information to help determine how to vote

Communications with Local Papers

- We should be focussing upcoming communications on housing
- Look also to increase visibility of Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network (TCSPN) in the community

Ideas:

- Set up a volunteer writing/press team to review Tri-Cities papers to pinpoint seniors issues and prepare responses
- Set up a weekly/monthly newsletter and begin a larger distribution
- Capitalize on the coalition nature of this network to feed out to their networks
- Get the TCSPN meetings into the ongoing events page in the local papers
- TCSPN could organize discussions in community around key seniors issues

Upcoming Issues:

- Mike Clay identified a closed fire station as a potential place for a seniors centre
- Ken Kuhn has followed up with Clay with a letter and a piece in the Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association newsletter outlining Clay's suggestion
- Isobel MacKenzie suggested the Tri-Cities should have its own seniors advocate
- Ken could look at writing a grant application and approaching Mayors to fund a position
- Federal Election – October 2015
- TCSPN could support and encourage advocacy and discussion related to the issues that impact seniors:
 - Pension ○ Housing ○ Health Care

- Child Care
- “Have Your Say” ○ Pharmacare ○ Hospitals
 - Family doctors
- Publish a list of organizations and businesses who are part of the TCSPN
- Publish a list of seniors involved
- Contacts at Tri-City News are Don Layfield and Diane Strandberg

Follow up re: Survey Draft

- Change focus to Housing Alternatives or Housing Options for Seniors □ Add in:
 - Co-housing as an option
 - Life lease (not strata)
 - Reverse mortgages
- Typo in question #5 – 2 be’s
- Add question: Are you currently struggling with cost of housing?
- Change contact person in the survey
- Check end of survey for duplication

New Business/Updates Series of Community Discussions around Federal Seniors Issues

- What are platforms for the seniors’ advocacy groups re: election? (CARP, COSCO, CRTA/BCRTA) □ What are their discussion/engagement plans to mobilize seniors?

CRTA/BCRTA

- Pushing for health care issues e.g. health care accord and pharmacare
- CRTA will be organizing forum around health care for September

Dan Doyle

- Prominent principal and community worker in Tri-Cities
- Passed away last month
- Celebration of Life at Como Lake Middle School, Saturday April 25 at 1:00

Council of Advisors for Seniors Advocate

- Harvey Grigg has been picked as one of the 30 member Council of Advisors to the Seniors Advocate (Isobel MacKenzie).
- 400 applicants applied; COSCO (Council of Seniors Citizens’ Organizations of BC) reviewed applicants and presented short list for final selection

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 19th, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Poirier Library, Nancy Bennett Room