

TRI-CITIES SENIORS PLANNING NETWORK

**Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, May 28, 2013 - 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Location: Poirier Library - Nancy Bennett Room**

Present:

Aida Alves
Masumeh Bakhshian
Cathy Burpee
Kay Fraser
Peggy Hendrickson
Jean-Marc Lemarche
Thor Larson
King Lum
Mike Oakley
Christine Spinder
Bill Summersgill
Suzanne Tempel
Denise Wells
Linda Western (acting chair)
Judy Jackson

Regrets:

Stacy Ashton
Silvana Harwood
Lisa Kwan
Sue Uremovich

Priority Topic

Housing & Housing Services in the Tri-Cities

Speakers:

Sandy Burpee, Tri-Cities Homelessness & Housing Task Force
Denise Wells, Senior Services Society

Introductions of Committee and Guest Speakers were made.

Linda asked that, during the presentations and afterwards, that we consider these questions:

1. Is there a role for this Committee?
2. If so, what should it be?
3. What do we need, or what information do we need...and where do we go to get it?
4. How do we want to move forward with this topic? Should we consider a subcommittee?

Sandy Burpee, Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Force was our first speaker.

Sandy gave some background on how this Task Force has evolved:

- In 2001, service providers first started to come together to discuss issues and look at solutions
- 2006, this group became the Tri-City Housing Coalition. This was the same time that the 2006 census identified 160+ people were living in the Tri-Cities area with no home.
- Since that census, there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of homeless persons
- In 2012, the Task Force name was changed to the Tri Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Force; the focus then changed more toward prevention of homelessness by finding solutions to housing issues
- Last month they issued the first Housing & Affordability Report. This report has established some benchmarks; however, data used was collected in the 2006 census. 2011 stats should be available later this year.

As your recorder became more absorbed and overwhelmed with all of the statistics and data Sandy presented, the full Housing & Affordability Report is attached for you. Some extremely interested and important data is included in this report and we encourage you to read through the material at your leisure. A few of the things that were discussed included:

- The Evergreen Line will have a big impact on the loss of affordable housing. Redevelopment of older buildings where units will be for sale, or at substantially higher rents.
- There is a good number of secondary suites available; builders being encouraged to include more.
- BC Housing has permanently funded a permanent shelter in the Tri-Cities located at 3030 Gordon. Land was donated by the City of Coquitlam. This shelter will provide 30 shelter beds as well as 30 transitional housing units. Rain City Housing is managing this project.
- The mat program continues in the Tri-Cities with a slight increase in the number of aging adults using the mats. Average ages are 40 to 50. With the redevelopment of the Cottonwood Avenue area, there could be an impact on the number of seniors who will become homeless.
- Coquitlam does have an affordable housing strategy based on the impact of the Evergreen Line.
- Changes for the future? The community is not focused enough on seniors. Currently they are more driven by people on the street. Focus needs to shift more toward seniors in crisis.

Denise Wells, Seniors' Services Society spoke to our group next. Denise is the Housing Outreach Worker for persons 55+. She is one of only two workers covering all of the Lower Mainland (except the North Shore). Her caseload in the Tri-Cities is usually around 25-35 clients.

A few points from her presentation:

- Options for housing through BC Housing in the Tri-Cities is 649 units. There is currently a waiting list of 10,000 province wide with BC Housing.
- Non Profits are another resource for housing. Currently in the Tri-Cities there are 356 subsidized units for seniors or persons with a disability. Housing facilities includes: Kinsmen, Christmas Manor, John Davies and Dogwood. Wait list is currently 6 months to 2 years.
- Most of their clients are eligible for the SAFER program. The Society uses mostly secondary suites or regular apartment rentals, where in most cases relationships have been established. For most, the subsidy makes things 'do able'.
- They also provide some short term 'individual' subsidies to help with moving costs, etc. and help individuals find other financing resources.
- There is a need to push the medical community to get involved when care needs to be provided.
- In home assessments need to be made prior to placements in assisted living environments.
- Better at Homes does not address assisted living issues; where many individuals would be able to remain in their own homes if adequate support was available.
- The BC Community Response Network looks at ways to work around issues and advocates on behalf of seniors.
- In Supported Housing, 60% of an individual's income usually includes 2 meals per day, laundry, cleaning, etc.
- The Society has information on their website on how to access housing.
- How do we connect and work with hospitals and other primary caregivers?
- It needs to be recognized that not everyone has a home or family to help.
- Our priority needs to be connecting with health care.
- We need to understand the services better and find out what's available.
- Call Seniors Services, contact Fraser Health for assessment, thru the City websites
- Ombudsman of BC has a special interest in seniors but there is a large disconnect when it comes to private care.
- Need to bring Fraser Health and Outreach together
- Need more public information
- Attached is the Seniors Housing Option Grid prepared by Denise for this meeting.

Again, think about our role in the future. We would like to ask Seniors' Services to help us identify what we can do.

Business Meeting

Review of Agenda

Minor email notes from Bruce will be amended.
Minutes will be posted on the website once approved.
Bruce, moved to pass; King seconded; motion carried.

Review of Priorities

- Again, Linda asked that we think about the presentations and bring comments, suggestions to the next meeting.
- We reviewed the list of priorities established at the April meeting.
- Service Coordination/Access to Services remains priority #2; however, King pointed out that we may need to address more of the other priorities before we can clearly define #2.
- The next speaker, hopefully, will be John Perry who is the representative for the Tri Cities on the Translink Seniors Advisory
- Amendment was made to include home 'safety' to priority 5 'home support'.
- Christine Spinder would like a presentation on the Community Response Network - how the community helps prevent abuse and neglect. She will discuss a meeting date with Linda.
- Christine advised that Leeann Lang will be doing a workshop on the Adult Guardianship Act in the near future. She will send us more information when available.
- Bruce advised that relative to our priority #9 'Lifelong Learning' that Douglas College they are developing a program for seniors. They are asking for suggestions regarding what should be included in this program. Bruce and Linda to meet and discuss.

Survey Monkey

- We haven't received the three test surveys back completed, so will be following up on those.
- Linda, Carolyn, Pat and Judy to meet to discuss prior to next meeting.
- Hope to finalize and send to all soon.

New Business

- Linda advised the Committee that Mildred and Peter Louw have resigned from the Committee. They have been waiting for housing to become available in Surrey, closer to their family, and they finally have it! We are thrilled for them and wish them great happiness in their new home. Thank you both for the time, commitment and contributions that you have brought to this Committee. You will be missed.
- Effie advised that Coquitlam Canada Day is being held at LaFarge Lake from 11 to 8 pm on Canada Day.

- This Committee has been given the opportunity to share a booth with CVS; we need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Linda directly.
- We are going to create a one-pager to pass out about the Committee.
- We will get more details sent out as available.
- Carolyn Sherrell and King Lum have both volunteered. Linda will confirm times with them later.

Updates

- Bruce showed us a copy of the June issue of Zoomer Magazine which has a very good summary of what age friendly community means. He encouraged all to read. If it's possible to get a scanned copy, we can try to send it out to the Committee.
- Thor Larson is the new Community Development Worker with SHARE and a new member of this Committee.
 - He worked on intergenerational project in South Vancouver
 - Many of the issues addressed are part of Better at Home
 - Will be working to set up a Better at Home Advisory Group.
 - Working with two drop in groups at Seniors Resource Centre
- Home Instead Senior Care had a program called "Salute to Senior Services Award" . I have included the link if you would like more information.
<http://www.salutetoseniorservice.ca/volunteer-contest/entries/>
- Port Moody is hosting a seniors' fair in November, we need to find out more information at possibly share a table there.
- Wilson Centre hosts a seniors' fair every two years.
- June 15th is Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- June 30th is the end date for the Tri-Cities Senior Caregiver Program. There are still caregiver support groups being offered in June. The hope is that this United Way program will be continued for the term 2013-2014 which will commence once again in the fall. To learn more please contact Karen Tyrell."

Meeting adjourned at 3 pm

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 18th, 1 to 3 pm - place to be determined.