

The **Minutes** of the **Mission Community Wellness Committee meeting** held in the Board Room at Riverside College, 33919 Dewdney Trunk Road, Mission, British Columbia, on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bob Ingram, Acting Committee Chair, Mission Seniors' Centre Assn.  
Patti Brown, Mission Friendship Centre Society  
Cynthia Coyle, Fraser House Society  
Sanjay Gulati, Mission Community Services Society  
Jennifer Hawkins, Fraser Health Authority  
Paul Horn, Member-at-Large  
Robert Jeffery, Centennial Place  
Nicole Martin, Mission Division – Divisions of Family Practice  
Judith Ray, Member-at-Large  
Elizabeth Thomas, Member-at-Large  
Laura Wilson, Mission Early Childhood Development Committee  
Kirsten Hargreaves, Manager of Social Development, District of Mission  
Maureen Sinclair, Parks, Recreation and Culture, District of Mission

Others Present: Jenny Hill, Corporate Administration, District of Mission  
Danny Plecas, District of Mission Councillor

**1. CALL TO ORDER** at 4:04 p.m.

Bob Ingram chaired the meeting.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Judith Ray, and

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the following item be added to the agenda:

Item 4(j) "Fraser Health Frail Seniors Prototype Steering Committee Update – Brynn Fominoff".

2. That the agenda for the March 14, 2017 Mission Community Wellness Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

**3. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Moved by Paul Horn, and

RECOMMENDED:

1. That section 4(e) of the January 10, 2017 Mission Community Wellness Committee meeting minutes be amended to read as follows:

**Sustainable Housing Committee – Judith Ray**

There is now an official Sustainable Housing Committee that reports back to Council. To date, the new committee has held one meeting and plans to address the issue of the lack of available and affordable housing in the District.

As there is a lack of hard data around the issue of sustainable housing in the community, there are preliminary plans to implement a database in order to compile current community information in regards to the age and demographics of the people who are finding a barrier to affordable housing and the kinds of low cost housing available. It was noted that it is imperative that all stakeholders participate and contribute to the input of this data in order to get an accurate picture of the housing needs within the district. Further information will be distributed to the Mission Community Wellness Committee at a later date.

2. That the minutes of the January 10, 2017 Mission Community Wellness Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

Moved by Maureen Sinclair, and

RECOMMENDED:

That the minutes of the March 14, 2017 Mission Community Wellness Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. FOLLOW UPS, UPDATES & PRESENTATIONS**

**a) Volunteer Centre Update – Joanna McBride**

The update on the Volunteer Centre was deferred due to Joanna McBride being absent from the meeting.

**b) 2017 Homeless Count Results – Kirsten Hargreaves**

Kirsten Hargreaves gave a presentation on the “Preliminary Findings: Mission 2017 FVRD Homeless Count” and distributed a hard copy of the report. Ms. Hargreaves noted that although Mission is the only community which, according to the report, appears to have experienced a decrease in the homeless population, overall the Fraser Valley’s homeless population has increased by 74%. Also, these numbers are believed to be under representative of the actual homeless population. Addictions and medical conditions were identified as the highest reasons for homelessness in Mission. The outreach group will be conducting another homeless count during the third week in August to obtain further data. Discussion ensued and it was noted that there is currently no observation unit or emergency mental health facility at the Mission Memorial Hospital. It was suggested that members of the committee could arrange a meeting with the local MLAs to discuss this issue.

**c) Mission Food Access Network (MFAN) Update – Elizabeth Thomas**

Elizabeth Thomas provided an update of the food security program in Mission. Although the Food Security coordinator has stepped down, the hiring of another coordinator has been postponed due to funding limitations. Currently, an email can be sent to MFAN or Ms. Thomas can be contacted in regards to food projects and issues.

A new agricultural food hub program is being started which will provide local farmers with education and support with the goal of increasing local food production to help support people in need. The Ceed Centre Society, based out of Maple Ridge, will be taking the lead for the Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Abbotsford and Chilliwack areas, whereas the Mission Community Skills Centre Society will be leading the program in Mission.

On May 7, 2017 Building Resilience in Mission (BRIM) hosted an open space workshop in regards to food resilience. During the workshop, several good action points were identified which will be brought back to MCWC once they are compiled.

Ms. Thomas advised the committee that the Mission Farmers' Market has now moved to the Mission Leisure Centre and will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the central parking lot.

Ms. Thomas also noted that Lexi Richards is the new coordinator for the MCSS Food Centre. They are currently looking for donations of quick oats, peanut butter and pasta.

**d) Pulling Together Conference Update and Conclusions of School-Based Social Work Pilot Projects – Laura Wilson and Kirsten Hargreaves**

Kirsten Hargreaves and Laura Wilson provided an update on the School-Based Social Work Pilot Project which is a partnership between Mission School District #75, the University of the Fraser Valley and the District of Mission. The program provides a meaningful practicum placement for Bachelor of Social Work students from the University of the Fraser Valley. Six practicum students were put in teams of two and assigned to three different schools. The students were assigned the task of making contact and working alongside families which were identified by the principals as needing support. Specifically, they were directed to obtain data on the systematic barriers facing families and to act as community navigators.

At the program's conclusion, the practicum students completed family risk factor forms which were used to identify the issues these families are facing. The main issues were found to be: child mental health, lack of social and family supports, lack of social skills and peer connections for the children, food insecurity and caregivers in need of support.

The findings will be presented to Council, Mission School District #75, the Child and Youth Committee and the Community Wellness Committee. Several possible action items were identified such as:

- reinstating the Wellness Group at the leisure centre to address the Child and Youth Mental Health Services waitlists;

- dialoguing with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and non-profit organizations in regards to creating more community education opportunities for caregivers; and
- dialoguing with the District of Mission Parks and Recreation Department, Mission Association for Community Living, community groups, and others on how to address gaps in social/family supports and skills and peer connections.

**e) Mission Action Situation Table (MAST) Update – Kirsten Hargreaves**

Kirsten Hargreaves provided an update on the Mission Action Situation Table (MAST) model, which is a proactive response to the numerous social issues that result in calls to the police. She noted that the first community partners' meeting was held in March as a trial to gather further information in regards to this model and assess the level of community interest in implementing the program. Remuneration for the speaker was obtained from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy grant funds. March 31<sup>st</sup> was the deadline to provide deliverables from the grant funds. Due to the appointment of a new Mission RCMP Inspector, and other recent changes in the community, this deadline was not met. The remaining grant funds were returned to the federal government along with a proposal and rationale requesting the funds be returned. A response to this request has not yet been received.

Ms. Hargreaves noted that logistically, the MAST model would be difficult for a small community like Mission to put into practice. If this model is implemented, she suggested a meeting held every two or three weeks would be a more feasible option.

**f) Bridges Out of Poverty / Circles of Support Introduction – Paul Horn and Greg Elford**

Paul Horn distributed a 'Stone Soup Initiative Planning 2017 – Draft Notes' document to the committee, and reviewed some of the items listed in the handout as follows:

- Data Collection: Mr. Horn advised that they are looking for volunteers to help with outreach and data collection in regards to the homelessness issue.

Bridges Out of Poverty and Circles of Support: are two programs that Hope Central began looking into last year. They were successful in receiving a grant from the United Way and have asked Stone Soup to assist them with this initiative. A letter of understanding has been drafted and the curriculum will be developed after consultation with the authors of the program. This program facilitates community-based teams which help to empower clients. These clients then have the opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the support services they receive. Bridges Out of Poverty provides initial services and support to people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, whereas Circles of Support provides support services as a second step after clients have received initial foundational support.

- Stone Soup Budget: Mr. Horn clarified that the current budget for the Stone Soup Initiative is approximately \$6,000.00. In addition, Council has

agreed to provide funds to match the Homelessness Partnering Strategy grant. He noted that the Stone Soup Initiative's intention is to avoid cash dependence.

- Effective Dinners: it was noted that each Stone Soup dinner should have a specific purpose and needs to engage all citizens who attend, including service recipients, service providers and volunteers. A Community Planning meeting has been tentatively booked for Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon to six at the Mission Fire Hall. At this meeting, the draft planning that was prepared at the Stone Soup meetings will be presented for update and engagement at the community level.
- Engaged Community Guides Project: working in conjunction with Volunteer Mission, this initiative will establish basic volunteer training to engage people, particularly in the downtown area. A subset of the volunteer group will include individuals who themselves have experienced homelessness who can act as community navigators. Patti Brown of the Mission Friendship Centre expressed an interest, and will be included in this program. Mr. Horn advised he will be developing the curriculum around the training and evaluation of volunteers and will also be looking at the capacity for continuation of this training. The Committee was asked for their input in regards to this project.
- Meeting with Council: Mr. Horn and Ms. Hargreaves are scheduled to meet with Council on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in regards to the Stone Soup Initiative. This meeting will provide Council with information as to the Stone Soup Initiative's level of community engagement. Any committee members who are engaged or supportive of the Stone Soup Initiative were also invited to attend. Ms. Hargreaves will send out the time and details for this meeting.

**g) Sustainable Housing Committee Recommendations and Housing Congress Update – Judith Ray and Kirsten Hargreaves**

Judith Ray provided an update on the initiatives the Sustainable Housing Committee is currently undertaking. The committee is in the process of preparing recommendations in regards to secondary suites, are attempting to compile better data on current local housing needs, and would like to implement a sustainable housing pilot project. The Sustainable Housing committee will be providing a report with further details.

**h) MCWC Recommendations to Council / Next Steps – Paul Horn and Kirsten Hargreaves**

Paul Horn advised the committee that he, Kirsten Hargreaves and members of the Stone Soup Advisory team are in the process of preparing a report to present to Council at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. As a need for coordination was identified as a key issue, they will be recommending a 'navigator' who could work one-on-one with members of the community to provide resources and coordinate services for them. This would be a permanent position that would report back and be accountable to the District of Mission. The committee members were invited to provide input for the report in regards to suggested models of delivery and funding.

**i) Spring Connect Event – Kirsten Hargreaves**

Kirsten Hargreaves distributed the Community Spring Connect Event poster to the committee. This event will be held on June 20, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at All Saints Anglican Church. Approximately 100 to 150 people are expected to attend. Ms. Hargreaves expressed her appreciation for the local outreach workers and noted that this event is a good way to recognize them for their hard work.

**j) Fraser Health Frail Seniors Prototype Steering Committee Update – Brynn Fominoff**

The Fraser Health Frail Seniors Prototype Steering Committee update was deferred due to Brynn Fominoff being unable to attend the meeting.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Aboriginal Day Event – Patti Brown**

Patti Brown of the Mission Friendship Centre advised the committee that they are in the late planning stages for an event which will be held at the Friendship Centre on June 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate Aboriginal Day.

**b) Mission Attachment Clinic – Nicole Martin**

Nicole Martin of the Mission Division of Family Practice advised the committee that there is now a nurse practitioner at the Mission Attachment Clinic who provides care and services to pre-frail and frail elderly Aboriginal and refugee populations. The nurse practitioner is available at the clinic for a full day once each week.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Paul Horn, and

RECOMMENDED: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** September 12, 2017