

**MINUTES** of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **COUNCIL** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION** held in the Conference Room of the Municipal Hall, 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on May 14, 2009 commencing at 3:40 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor James Atebe  
Councillor Terry Gidda  
Councillor Danny Plecas  
Councillor Jenny Stevens  
Councillor Heather Stewart

Council Members Absent: Councillor Paul Horn  
Councillor Mike Scudder

Staff Members Present: Dennis Clark, director of corporate administration  
Kirsten Hargreaves, manager of social development  
Christine Brough, administrative clerk

## **1. TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION**

SC09/089  
MAY 14/09

### **Mission Clubhouse Society**

Mayor and council welcomed Margert Tomkinson, Anne Trainer and Jerri Laidlaw to the meeting. Ms. Tomkinson, the coordinator for the Mission Clubhouse Society, stated that the clubhouse provides refuge and a supportive environment for people with mental health issues and that her goal is to create awareness of mental health challenges as well as her organization.

Anne Trainer introduced herself and provided council with an overview of her experiences as a person living with debilitating depression and related mental health issues. She discussed the impact that the clubhouse has had on her life, noting that when she first started attending approximately seventeen years ago she suffered from agoraphobia and would only go to the clubhouse for short periods of time in the company of a support worker. She said that she now volunteers and is actively involved in the mood disorder group that meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 1:00~3:00 p.m.

In response to questions from council, Margert Tomkinson stated that the Mission Clubhouse Society regularly sends out notices of events to group homes to encourage participation and that, on any given day, approximately twenty-five people frequent the clubhouse. She also noted that space is an issue and that their current needs include a laptop and a portable dishwasher.

Liana Rudolph of Mission Mental Health joined the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Responding to council, she stated that there is a lack of sufficient psychiatry time in the region and it is a struggle to meet the existing demand. She said that while recruitment efforts are ongoing, this has met with limited success thus far.

Jerry Laidlaw, an advocate for people with mental health issues and a member of the Mission Clubhouse Society, spoke about his experiences. He said that the clubhouse provides a safe and welcoming place for people with a mental health diagnosis to meet, volunteer and experience a sense of community and inclusion.

Margert Tomkinson concluded the meeting with a presentation on the Mission Clubhouse Society's Partnership Program, which is an education program that uses story-telling as a basis for educating people about mental illness. She stated that the primary goals of the Partnership Program are as follows:

- to help build relationships between professionals and the consumers of mental health services and their families;
- to provide a vehicle for educating the public as well as the consumers of mental health services and their families; and
- to maintain ongoing communication on the needs of those dealing with mental health issues.

Ms. Tomkinson outlined some of the challenges facing people with mental health issues as well as the many benefits of a partnership approach, noting that better health education programs can help dispel myths and misunderstandings and lead to a more tolerate and inclusionary community.

The mayor and council thanked Ms. Tomkinson, Ms. Trainer, Mr. Laidlaw and Ms. Rudolph for their presentation and for sharing their experiences.

## 2. ADJOURNMENT

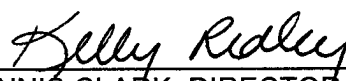
Moved by Councillor Plecas, seconded by Councillor Gidda, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.



JAMES ATEBE, MAYOR



DENNIS CLARK, DIRECTOR OF  
CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION