

Delta Seniors Planning Team

January 20, 2015

Deltassist North Delta Office

Minutes

Chair: Joanne Van Snellenberg

Recorder: Kay Dennison, Coordinator

Attendance: Gerry Bouman, Lynda Brummitt, ML Burke, Kay Dennison, Brittany Fyffe, Vicki Huntington, Christiann Munro, Doug Sabourin, Margaret Toews, Joanne Van Snellenberg, Rita Sager-Nunns, Lyn Walker Val Windsor, Angelica Wrobbel.

Item	Discussion/Information	Action
1. Welcome	Joanne Van Snellenberg chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and each person introduced themselves	
2. Approval of Agenda	Agenda – it was agreed to move Item 7 – Integration Project to after the approval of the minutes. Added – New business item, Transit Referendum. Agenda approved as amended.	Moved Margaret Toews Seconded Angelica Wrobbel
3. Approval of Minutes	Minutes on the November 2014 approved as circulated.	Moved ML Burke Seconded Christiann Munro
4. Integration Project	<p>Discussion facilitated by Doug Sabourin, Executive Director of Deltassist Family and Community Services.</p> <p>Announcement – Kay Dennison and Lynda Brummitt announced that United Way has confirmed that the funding for the Senior Planning Tables throughout the Lower Mainland will be ending effective March 31, 2015.</p> <p>In light of this development, the focus of the integration project will change to funding and sustainability.</p> <p><u>Introductory comments</u> – Doug Sabourin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern that senior issues are not being addressed by municipal or provincial governments and cutting of seniors programs by United	

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	<p>Way of the Lower Mainland without consultation with funded UW agencies. There is no dedicated ministry for seniors in the provincial government. The default funding for seniors support is becoming gaming revenues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The claim that health dollars have been relegated to seniors is bogus as there is no attempt to address the issues of dementia and Alzheimer's. There is also a claim that seniors are a drain on the system while not acknowledging the family caregivers to frail seniors are often seniors themselves and seniors help their families by providing childcare. • Seniors Advocate will advise but has no power to make change nor has funding to grant for services. The Advocate is working on issues of housing, health services and transportation. The Advocate's early comments are encouraging. • No recognition in the municipality for seniors, there is no active Seniors Advisory Committee to Council, no meetings for the past 2 years. Report done by municipality on seniors programs and issues but not in consultation with seniors or the senior serving providers in the community. • Delta Seniors Planning Team does consultation of seniors by going to all the community and having a membership that is made up of seniors. No other group does what the DSPT does. But there is a need for formal coordination. <p><u>Options for funding and sustainability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update - Letter of Intent has gone to the Delta municipality asking for \$25,000.00 to be added to the \$29,000.00 currently granted to Deltassist Family and Community Services to continue the Planning Teams work. Letter confirming receipt of the Letter of Intent has been received from the municipality. As there is no Social Planner in Delta, the work and ability of the 	

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	<p>DSPT to provide information to the municipality on senior issues is vital but we need to be realistic that funding from the Corporation may not come.</p> <p>After March 31 – need to be clear on what our priorities are for other funding requests and community support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep working on the issues of Transportation, Housing and Non-Medical Services. • Continue to be the advisory to the Better at Home program which brings \$300,000.00 over three years into the Delta Community. • The DSPT will continue and will need the support of a paid coordinator as there has to be continuity within a volunteer program, particularly since Delta has three distinct communities and the meetings of the general committee and the three sub committees meet in rotation through all the community. • Work will continue with the ongoing projects : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Services Action Team</u>: Getting funding for more Emergency Medical cards and distributing through the community. <u>Housing Action Team</u>: Vision for Paterson Park <u>Transportation and Mobility Action Team</u>: Scooter event in Tsawwassen <p><u>Funding</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up on application to Corporation of Delta by making contact with the Mayor and individual council members to seek their advice, input and support. • Follow up with Delta Community Foundation – Marg Kennett made a contact during Christmas and has forwarded the information on that she was given encouragement for DSPT to apply. • Gaming application has been made through Deltassist Family and Community Services to provide funds for the DSPT to continue. • Contact Vancouver Foundation, Social Engagement – this could fit with our mandate and activities. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancity – Parveen Sandhu (Vancity North Delta staff) has been a support to the Delta community but has recently transferred to Richmond. • Deltassist – willing to provide on-going financial administration (most grants allow a percentage for administration) and in kind contributions– staff time to support communications and meeting planning, meeting space and access to website/page • Asking our supporters for donations – how? • Use the Letter of Intent as a template for a letter to send to service clubs, requesting a donation. Include the list of accomplishments of DSPT that illustrates our track record. <p>Shift from “core funding to “project funding” – information from Lynda Brummitt: Up until now DSPT has had core funding – a fixed amount each year that is allocated through a budget to support the activities of the planning and action teams. In project funding the funds are usually time limited and have a specific focus. Other groups who have faced this change have been able to include some funding for coordination of the planning team by making the planning team the oversight body for the project.</p> <p>A consideration that is unique to Delta – there is an absence of government offices in Delta to serve our community – residents access services in Surrey or Richmond. This is evident by the number of service requests that come in to the MLA constituency office. When planning for Delta by senior levels of government, the specific community needs of Delta are overlooked and a lack of advocacy within the government for Delta that might occur if services were delivered directly in Delta.</p> <p>Other actions to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to the community to explain and ask assistance. • Possibility of joining with White Rock, Langley to explore funding. 	<p>Recap of actions</p> <p>Follow up with Mayor and individual council members</p> <p>Newspaper column – ML Burke</p> <p>Press Release informing the community of the situation</p> <p>Modify letter to send out to service clubs and other funding – a list of service clubs will be provided by Christiann at Deltassist.</p> <p>Keep our regular monthly meeting going with speakers on topics/issues important to seniors</p> <p>Look into possibility of working with the S. Fraser Senior Tables about forming a S. Fraser funders group.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ML Burke could do a column in the local paper. • Newspaper stories that highlight senior issues, age-friendly, aging in place and what that means for community. • Local service clubs, possibly the Chamber of Commerce 	
5. Follow up from November Minutes	<p>5.1 Letter to Council about Rental Index for Delta Due to preparation time for Letter of Intent, this task was not completed in January, tabled to February. Points to include in letter – rental properties are being converted to condominium developments as well as duplex housing, which is causing rental accommodation to plummet. Recently, the Marina Garden development included rental housing which was removed due to public concern.</p> <p>5.2 Letter to MP’s and Senior Advocate regarding postal home delivery letter has been sent. Meeting with Jinny Sims, MP has been arranged with Kay Dennison, Val Windsor and Joanne Van Snellenberg attending. Kay will make arrangements to meet with Kerry-Lynne Findlay, Delta’s other MP.</p>	
6. Updates Action Team	<p><u>6.1 Non-Medical Services</u> – Kay Dennison Kay met with Fire Chief Dan Copeland to ask for funding assistance for the Emergency Medical cards. Chief Copeland will ask the Firefighters Charitable Society to consider our request. The cards have been very successful, we only have approx. 150 left out of 1000. Services Action Team will need to wait for another printing before offering workshops on filling out the Emergency Medical cards to the Seniors Centres.</p> <p>Better at Home update - Light housekeeping and yardwork/handyman services are growing. The Volunteer Drive program will be transitioned to the Better at Home program sometime in Feb. Its very important to keep track of budgeting as services are added as the actual funding amount to run the program remains the same.</p> <p><u>6.2 Housing</u> – ML Burke Due to the holiday break, the work on Paterson Park Vision has</p>	

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	<p>slowed. ML will be reconnecting with key partners to get things going again. Looking at applying for a grant from CMHC for a feasibility study of the property. Next meeting January 29th at 10:00 at Ladner Library, new members welcome.</p> <p><u>6.3 Transportation and Mobility</u> – Marg Kennett Planning for event to focus on scooter safety in Tsawwassen is going ahead. The next meeting of TMAT is January 30th at 1:00 at KinVillage. If you are interested in helping, please plan to attend.</p>	
7. Updates from other Committees	<p><u>7.1 Access Transit</u> – Kay Dennison No report</p> <p><u>7.2 Seniors Advisory Committee</u> – The call for applications to the Municipal Seniors Advisory have gone into the local papers but no results have been posted, several of the DSPT members have applied but have not received any notification of either acceptance or denial.</p>	
8. New Business	<p><u>Transit Referendum</u> – Vicki Huntington Vicki provided details about the upcoming Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement tax referendum and was interested in what seniors are thinking regarding this issue.</p> <p>Referendum: Lower Mainland residents will vote on is a 0.5% increase to provincial sales tax that will be put towards transportation projects in the Lower Mainland. It should be noted that the Massey Tunnel- bridge replacement is not a project that would be funded by the referendum but people are assuming that Delta will gain a lot by the referendum because of the replacement of the tunnel.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the list of projects, improvements to HandyDart are included with no details • Delta improvements - improve and expand frequent all-day and peak service: service that runs at least every 15 minutes in both directions e.g. Highway 17 in Delta and bus exchange improvement at Hwy. 17A (the current exchange is on Harvest Drive, near Ladner Trunk). • Concern that the vote is turning into how Translink is run and not what the transit needs of the Lower Mainland are. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There does not seem to be any indication that bus service will improve within Delta and/or between communities in the South Fraser – as an example, people need to get to Surrey, White Rock and other surrounding areas for medical appointments. • Lack of understanding by Translink that cuts and changes to bus routes have increased the isolation of seniors in Delta. • Examples of cuts in S. Delta – loss of 601 direct bus to VGH/Vancouver and recent change to 404 in S. Delta, no longer direct route to Canada Line. Passengers have to transfer at Steveston Exchange. • Ideas for improvement – partial reinstatement of 601 – a mid-morning/mid-afternoon service even 2 days per week to give South Delta a direct transit link to VGH and downtown Vancouver. • Alternatives to current proposal – smaller toll on all bridges, including Lionsgate, Second Narrows, Alex Fraser, Pattullo • Think outside the box, toll bridges one way and reduced tolls for HOV lanes. • The PST increase will affect all purchases that currently are charged PST. Seniors are on fixed incomes that do not keep up with inflation, over time, this tax could be an increasing burden. 	
9. Announcements	<p><u>System Change for Seniors Care on February 6, 2015</u> at Metro Vancouver Hilton, in Burnaby, hosted by Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and supported by BC Health Coalition, BCGEU, Hospital Employees Union CUPE and BC Retired Teachers Association</p> <p>Speakers will include Kim Carter, BC Ombudsperson and Isobel Mackenzie, BC Seniors Advocate.</p> <p>Kay Dennison, Lynda Brummitt, Joanne Van Snellenberg, ML Burke, Val Windsor and Louise Long are attending.</p>	
10. Adjournment	<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting February 17, 10:00 to Noon Benediction Lutheran Church 5575-6th Avenue, Tsawwassen</p>	