

Delta Seniors Planning Team

March 19, 2013
Ladner Pioneer Library
Minutes

Chair: Joanne Van Snellenberg
Recorder: Kay Dennison, Coordinator

Attendance: Margaret Toews, Angelica Wrobbel, Virginia Lesosky, Gerry Bouman, Don Browning, Lyn Walker, Lynda Brummitt, Sheila Zerr, Cynthia Vallance, Kay Dennison, Cecelia Duncan, Jenn Fancy de Mena, Bev Pitman, Vicky Huntington, Joanne Van Snellenberg, ML Burke, Bernadette Kudzin, Deirdre Goudriaan, Adrienne Johnson
Regrets: Val Windsor

Item	Discussion/Information	Action
1. Welcome	<p>Joanne Van Snellenberg welcomed everyone and introduced the meeting agenda for doing the Check-in component.</p> <p>Joanne also introduced Bev Pitman, Planner for Seniors with United Way of the Lower Mainland and asked her for an update from UWLM. Bev reported that Better at Home is now in the consultation process for Delta. Grant of \$15 million from the province will fund the program province wide based on a three year pilot in 5 communities: Dawson Creek, Osoyoos, Newton, Maple Ridge and Collingwood. These areas have a diverse population of low income, middle income, lack of services, etc. United Way released a new report: Seniors in the Lower Mainland: A Snapshot of Facts and Trends. This is their third statistical report and SPARC BC prepared the information. The report has a break down of communities of census data regarding seniors.</p> <p>Highlights: 3 out of 5 senior women have an individual income of \$25,000 or less. In light of high housing costs, this income information is</p>	

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	<p>important to understand in terms of how it impacts women. Homeless population is growing in the senior population. More seniors are being seen in shelters.</p> <p>More people over 65 are carrying mortgages on their homes as they retire or prepare to retire.</p> <p>Delta has seen a growth of seniors of 15.5% since 2001; Surrey has seen a growth of 12.1%.</p> <p>SPARC is also working on a study on housing issues. For example the rental situation is critical - displacement of seniors from rental apartments and condos due to renovations, private sales etc. Delta does not have enough appropriate and affordable housing for seniors to downsize to.</p>	
2. Approval of Agenda	Agenda approved as circulated. Moved by Gerry Bouman, Seconded by Virginia Lesosky.	
3. Approval of Minutes	Minutes approved as circulated. Moved by Lyn Walker, Seconded by ML Burke.	
4. Follow up from Minutes	Committee members agreed to table follow up items until the April meeting due to the need for time to work through the Strategic Plan (Check-in)	
5. Updates Action Team	<p>Services Action Team: Lyn Walker reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on emergency resource card for first responders that will list emergency information such as family contacts, medications, personal information, doctor, etc. Partnering possibilities for funding are being explored. • Elder abuse, Frauds and Scams, Problem Gambling workshops have been arranged at the George Mackie Library in North Delta for June 12, 19 and 26. BCCEAS will present information on Frauds and Scams, Const. Steve Wilson for the Delta Police will attend to provide community information and support. B.C. Responsible and Problem Gambling program will provide information on problem gambling. • Better at Home program: Deirdre Goudriaan is the consultant for the 	

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	<p>program and will be setting up community meetings in North Delta, Tsawwassen and Ladner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning a Community Forum in the fall for the Ombudsperson, Kim Carter to come and speak. Develop questions for upcoming political candidates. <p>Housing Action Team: ML Burke reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching housing options: touring In Maple Ridge and Surrey, looking at cooperative housing, privately funded housing, subsidized housing, co-housing, assisted living etc. • Promoting universal design and ability to adapt housing to meet changing physical needs of seniors – SaferHOME program for use in new construction. • Our own survey results and the Ombudsperson report highlight need for choices in housing for seniors. Also need for grants/ Income assistance, subsidies. • Developed and circulating pamphlet: Making your Home Safe. Information on grants and subsidies for seniors for housing, adapting home as well as the community assessment process used by FHA to determine the home support or residential care needed by seniors. • Currently considering a housing panel or forum to discuss housing options for seniors including a vision for Paterson Park – to include seniors housing using a village within a village approach (cohousing). • Discussion: seniors housing has been in the news lately- a seniors housing complex in Abbotsford is proposing rebuilding to include 300 sq. ft apartments. If this is approved they would be able to provide twice as much housing and placement for seniors who are currently on their wait list – debate about the size is 300 too small? CBC Radio Sunday Edition on March 17th had a piece with Judy Torge entitled Alternative Living Arrangements for the Elderly – Radical Rest Homes – Baba Yaga Seniors housing in France. On March 17 a column in the North Shore News written by Tom Carney provided information on 	

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	<p>subsidies and grants available to seniors for making their homes more accessible and safer. Don Browning thanked Vicky Huntington for her work on housing.</p> <p>Transportation and Mobility Action Team: Joanne Van Snellenberg Walkability Study is current project: Workshops provided by Sepia Sharma, Fraser Health, on walking and exercise. Walkability Survey now completed in Tsawwassen, Ladner and North Delta. Pictures and written text now being developed into a report and near completion.</p> <p>Lynda Brummitt gave background for the project. It grew out of the original work the TMAT did for the presentations to mayor and council – mapping of the seniors population in Delta, location of the services and amenities used by seniors and bus service. The maps prepared for the council report were eventually digitized and are now incorporated into the hard copy of the Planning Team report that was circulated to Mayor and Council, provincial and federal politicians in December/January. Ralph Sultan, Minister of State for Seniors was also given the report.</p> <p>ML Burke announced that she and Angelica Wrobbel and Joanne Van Snellenberg, are working on a Seniors column for a newspaper. They will also be looking for guest columnists to help with the writing. They are currently approaching the Optimist and NOW newspapers about hosting the column.</p>	
6. Check In	<p>A) Each corner of the room will have a facilitator to discuss, Transportation, Non Medical Services, Housing. Members were asked to go around to each corner and within a time frame give their ideas of where the committee and subcommittees will proceed in each of the areas for the coming year. Flip chart notes will be transcribed for review by action teams and the Planning Team as a whole.</p> <p>B) Input on priorities for Planning Team – discussion by everyone.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy – Office of the Seniors Advocate <p>Vicky Huntington, MLA for South Delta was able to provide us with an update. She started by acknowledging the work our committee has been doing. She reported the Seniors Advocate Act was passed. Opposition/ Independent members were in opposition to the Act because this WILL NOT BE an independent office. The office will not assist individuals, only address systemic challenges. Government defence of Act: felt the bill was adequate. Did not believe an independent office was needed as there is no budget for funding of an independent office. This will be a deputy minister position. Individual concerns will be referred to the jurisdiction where the concerns are happening (the Act was sponsored by Minister of Health). The Act will not have authority on First Nations seniors concerns. Vicky commended Katrine Conroy, opposition critic who did a lot of work in preparation for this issue and the points she made for having an independent office.</p> <p>ML asked what the cost for an independent office would be. It costs 7.3 million dollars for the Advocate for Children and Families.</p> <p>Bev Pitman asked “Why is this position to be housed in the Health Ministry?”</p> <p>Aging is not a disease, seems to be ageism when seniors issues are all collected under the health banner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase membership of our Planning Team– to ensure we have the diversity of seniors views represented and additional help with our projects. Need for co-chairs on the Action Teams. Recruit members for the Regional Table. Possibility of doing a community Conference, look at funding, possibility of getting someone in the community to help plan the event. • Questions for candidates of the provincial election – agreed we can do 	

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	<p>something similar as we did with Municipal Election – Action Teams asked to propose questions at our next Planning Team meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy – Delta Seniors Advisory Committee – advocate for more representation of seniors on Advisory Committee. 	
7. Better At Home	<p>Deirdre Goudriaan, Community Developer – Better At Home. Deirdre will be organizing and implementing the community development process for the Better At Home program for Delta. The non medical services that Better at Home can provide include transportation, grocery shopping, food preparation, light house work, yard and home maintenance and friendly visiting. The purpose of the community development process is to reach out to as many seniors as possible for input as to the services from the list that is most needed in Delta. In addition, Delta agencies will be canvassed to help determine the lead agency to manage the program in Delta. There will be focus groups, surveys and a community meeting within the next few months. Members are asked to spread the word and encourage their friends and neighbours to participate. Information on the focus groups and other events for Better at Home will be circulated through our weekly FYI emails and information will also be in the local papers.</p>	
10. Motion to adjourn meeting	Meeting Adjourned	
Next Meeting	<p>Tuesday, April 16th 2013 at 10:00 am Deltassist Family and Community Services 9097 – 120th Street, North Delta</p>	

NB: The notes from the flip charts for the Action Teams will be transcribed and circulated to all members of the Planning Team and given to the Action Teams for review and action.