District of Maple Ridge

SOCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee, held in the Blaney Room at Maple Ridge Municipal Hall, 11995 Haney Place, Road, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT
Councillor Cheryl Ashlie Council Liaison
Councillor Linda King Council Liaison
Candace Gordon Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows-Katzie Community Network
Andrea Walker Community at Large
Linda Morgan Community at Large
Eleanor Palis School Trustee (alternate), School District No. 42
Grover Telford Ridge Meadows Seniors Society
Valerie Spurrell Fraser Health Authority
Alanna Robson Community at Large
S/Sgt. Andrew Martin Ridge-Meadows RCMP

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
Sue Wheeler Director of Community Services
Shawn Matthewson Recreation Coordinator
Pat Shiratti Administrative Assistant - Parks & Leisure Services

REGRETS/ABSENT S
Treena Innes Community at Large
Ineke Boekhorst Business Improvement Association
Ken MacDonald Fraser Health Authority (Alternate)
Lyn Taylor-Scott Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living
Mike Huber School Trustee, School District No. 42

Please note this meeting was chaired by Councillor Linda King

1. Call to Order and Introductions
The meeting was called to order 7:05 p.m.

2. Agenda Approval
R11-012 Motion was moved and seconded
That the Agenda for April 6, 2011 be adopted.
3. **Minutes of March 2, 2011 Meeting**

   R11-013 Motion was moved and seconded

   **That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2011 be adopted as circulated.**  

   **CARRIED**

4. **Delegations & Presentations**

   4.1 **RCMP Community Response Team- Constable Cara Thomson**

   Constable Cara Thomson provided an overview on the RCMP Community Response Team (CRT) which works with local service providers to coordinate timely crisis response services to people in need. Often these people repeatedly tax emergency response services such as RCMP, ambulance, hospital, fire, etc. However, these are not the appropriate services to support them. The goal of the CRT is to coordinate response to ensure that the appropriate services are available in an outreach format. This approach has been highly effective to date however; it would be strengthened if access to concentrated mental health outreach services could be provided to support this work. RCMP is currently working with the local Fraser Health Mental Health Manager to explore a proposal to acquire a new mobile crisis intervention unit that would enhance the CRT work.

   The Committee Chair thanked Constable Thomson for the presentation and for the great work of the CRT, and also offered support to assist with the work to acquire the mobile unit proposed.

5. **Roundtable**

   **Eleanor Palls**
   Eleanor reported that School District #42 voted on a new calendar proposal for next year in order to lower deficit in budget.

   **Valerie Spurrell**
   Valerie reported that Mental Health housing expanded from 4 beds to 8 beds. Fraser Health has no plans to reduce beds in this region.

   **Cheryl Ashlie**
   Councillor Ashlie discussed the possible sale of a property currently leased to house Mental Health clients. The possible impact on the residents currently residing there was discussed.

   **Linda King**
   Councillor King reported that there is a Grandmother to Grandmother meeting on April 11th in Maple Ridge Library, Fraser Room from 1 - 3pm. This group is being formed to support Grandmothers in Africa that are raising their grandchildren.

   **Shawn Matthewson**
Shawn reported that she recently attended a local workshop called “Doing Time” which shared the findings of a project that researched the progress of women one year after their release from Alouette Corrections Centre. The goal of this research is to develop recommendations that will ensure successful reintegration of this population.

The Early Childhood Development Committee is hosting a free workshop about behaviour as a form of communication and parenting through attachment presented by Dr. Deborah Bell on April 16th, from 10am to 2pm at Highland Park Elementary.

Earth Day is on April 16th and a celebration will be held in Memorial Peace Park along with the Haney Farmer’s Market.

**Grover Telford**

Grover Telford reported that the Ridge Meadows Seniors Society is currently focusing on transportation and safety issues. He is looking forward to the new light being installed at 224th and Brown Avenue for safety reasons where seniors are crossing a very busy road.

**Candace Gordon**

Candace reported that the new Golden Ears FEAST Seniors Food Resource Guide has been circulated. This seven page resource book offers information on healthy food choices and identifies venues within Maple Ridge serving nutritional food at a lower cost.

**Action Item:** Seniors Food Resource Guide to be sent by email to Committee Members

### 6. New Business

6.1 Committee Chair and Vice Chair Election

Councillor King reviewed the election process and asked if any members were interested in becoming Chair or Vice Chair for 2011/2012. Councillor King or Shawn Matthewson said they were willing to meet with interested candidates and answer any questions about these roles. Nominations are deferred until the May meeting.

6.2 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan: Working in Partnership towards Reducing Poverty in Canada - Overview

Sue Wheeler reviewed a staff summary of the “Federal Poverty Reduction Plan: Working in Partnership towards Reducing Poverty in Canada”. Ms. Wheeler noted that in 1989, the House of Commons unanimously resolved to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000 and the work to prepare this report began on the 20th Anniversary of this resolution.

The report, which has been endorsed by many Poverty Reduction groups across Canada, suggests that there must be a fundamental shift from a philosophy of poverty reduction measures being seen as charity to a human rights framework, specifically recognition that governments have a role in ensuring the rights of all citizens to have their basic needs (shelter and food) met.

The research for the report included the engagement of many citizens faced with poverty and the agencies supporting them across the nation. Ms. Wheeler reviewed some of the key recommendations outlined in the report including the ones that had significance to the current work of this committee.
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Ms. Wheeler specifically highlighted the recommendation regarding the need to develop a long term national housing strategy to address the problem of homelessness, as well as the need for adequate and affordable housing across Canada. The recommendation is that a range of housing solutions is needed to meet the needs of Canada’s diverse population and that sustained funding is required to address these issues and that measurable goals, timelines, and accountability mechanisms need to be developed.

6.3 Community Gaming Facility - Information and Status Update

Shawn Matthewson gave an overview on the development process that the new Community Gaming Facility in Maple Ridge underwent prior to approval. She also shared the current status of the project indicating that the rezoning application is complete and site preparation has commenced with the new facility expected to be opened sometime in 2013.

The Committee discussion focused on additional questions regarding ATM’s and withdrawal limits at Gaming Centres and on-line gambling and the potential negative social impacts. Questions were also raised regarding whether or not Council would request recommendations on how gaming revenues received would be spent and on whether there would be tracking of impacts on social issues due to the introduction of the new gaming centre.

**Action Item:** Staff to prepare a recommendation of motion for consideration at the next meeting

7. Unfinished Business

7.1 BC Provincial Gaming Grants - SPAC Recommendation review

At the March, 2011 meeting the following resolution was passed:

**That council on SPAC’s advice write the provincial government on the negative impacts on non-profit social services agencies of the recently adopted procedures for accessing gaming funding.**

**And that a letter describing the specific social impacts in Maple Ridge be attached including impacts on sports and arts organizations.**

**And that the local MLA’s be sent copies of these letters**

In the meantime, the Provincial Government issued a press release indicating that they would be restoring some of the gaming funding that had recently been reduced. Staff brought this resolution back to the committee to discuss the potential impact of this announcement and whether the committee would like to amend the resolution.

Shawn Matthewson shared the highlights of the research that she had completed in preparation of the report to council that would accompany this resolution. After a brief discussion, the committee asked staff to work with the Community Network to gather information on the impact of the recent Provincial announcement and provide that information to the committee at a future meeting.
ACTION ITEM: Staff to prepare a recommendation of amendment of motion for consideration at next meeting

7.1.1 BC Premier News Release - Gaming Funding (attached)

The Committee reviewed the BC Premier News Release regarding Gaming Funding.

7.2 Big Brothers and Big Sisters in the Fraser Valley - Staff update

Sue Wheeler provided an update on the Big Brothers and Big Sisters (BBBS) in the Fraser Valley and their Board’s recent decision to suspend and close services in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows due to a loss in Gaming Funding. A group of volunteers and parents that were previously involved in the program have formed a group called the “Coalition for Kids Sake” with the goal of working to support the reinstatement of this mentorship program for children in our communities.

Sue Wheeler also advised that the MRP MK Community Network has offered their support to both the “Coalition for Kids Sake” group and to the Abbotsford BBBS organization in their work to obtain the funding required to support this service continuing.

7.3 Work Plan update and 2011 Approved Committee Budget

Work plan was deferred until next meeting.

R11-014 Motion was moved and seconded

That the bridge funding in the amount of $2,000 for the Neighbourhood SEED Grant Program be approved to help promote connections within neighbourhoods.

CARRIED

R11-015 Motion was moved and seconded

That the District of Maple Ridge Social Planning Advisory Committee 2011 Budget be approved as presented.

CARRIED

7.4 Spirit of Community Awards - New Category Recommendation

Shawn Matthewson proposed and reviewed a new category for the Spirit of Community Awards called the “Exceptional Award” with the Committee.

ACTION ITEM: Staff to write a report explaining the circumstances around the proposed new category “Exceptional Award” and bring a recommendation forward at the next meeting.
8. Committee Reports

8.1 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows-Katzie Community Network Update - deferred
8.2 Port Haney Neighbourhood Change Project Update - deferred
8.3 Community Connections - Neighbourhood Learning Centre Update - deferred
8.4 Neighbourhood Champions Celebration Update - deferred

9. CORRESPONDENCE  - Deferred

9.1 2011 Working for a Living Wage - 2011 Update from First Call, A Living Wage For Families, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

9.2 “Can employers afford to pay a ‘living wage’?” - Human Resources Management
http://chrreditors.wordpress.com/2011/03/22/can-employers-afford-to-pay-a-%E2%80%98living-wage%E2%80%99/

9.3 BC Premier News Release - Minimum Wage Increase (attached)

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 4, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.
Agenda Deadline: Monday, April 18, 2011

Location: Blaney Room, Maple Ridge Municipal Hall

11. Adjournment - 9:05 p.m.

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Chairperson

/pjs