



Steering Committee Minutes
December 3rd 2009

Present: David Reay, Arzeena Hamir, Marissa (Pacific Community Resources Society), Cecilia Hudec, June Humphreys, DeWhalen, Deneanne Quamme, John Roeder, Janice Lambert

Staff: Lynda Brummitt, Robin Winskell

Agenda - Addition – Creation of a Housing Society

Previous Minutes approved

Richmond Shares

- Correction – there we 7 matches last month (not week)
- Other updates - Items can be left on line for 3 months now
- Transportation issues are being worked out now.
- Charlene will follow-up with June's client

Gaps in Services

- Chimo is starting to look into the homeless issue in Richmond particularly the lack of an outreach worker
- PCR Society 604-301-3600 direct 604-219-9300 Office in Richmond Youth Services offices
- The Extreme Weather Shelter is open for the first night and urgently needs volunteers.
- They also need volunteers for assisting with tree sales, an activity which will give them a lump sum donation from the retailer and provide them with much needed core funding.

Christmas Directory

- It has been circulated through our network, public health nurses and the Ministry of Social Services

ACTION: Robin to forward directory to Marisa

- Lynda will add Sikh, Buddhist and Muslim community meals to next year's directory

Food Security

- At the last Food Security Action Committee meeting, it was decided that the group would like to support the St. Albans Meal
- If anyone knows of projects that have a food component, they should speak with Arzeena ie education on how to preserve foods

- The Richmond Farm School is ready to launch in March through Kwantlen College with a 15 person registration limit. They are looking for land – each student will need approximately one acre. They will be learning at Terra Nova Sharing farm.

Finance meeting – no report

Affordable Housing

- A Housing Society seems to be over due in our community
- Many different groups are now working on housing issues (9+ groups) – time to bring them all together
- As a Society, the City would be compelled to keep us in the loop
- We are planning a forum in the spring to unite different housing groups
- Surrey has formed a Community Board that might be a model we could look at
- A feasibility study may be an action item after the spring forum
- Sandy McLeod may be able to speak about Surrey’s model

Transportation – no report

Faith Housing Community

- Cecilia is aware of a person who has taken a homeless person under his wing and will be helping that person find a home and a job. Another person has come forward wanting to do the same
- Some churches are proposing to sell their surplus land for market housing. The City is not allowing this but will allow them to use half for seniors housing

Richmond Cares

- Donna and Manar are working together at Mitchell school to identify needs and fill the gaps
- Manar is also working through her mosque to provide meat to the food bank
- They hope that Richmond Shares will eventually post a “needs” list for Christmas hampers instance for single people
- St. Vincent de Paul will prepare hampers for single people

Communications

- The newsletter is almost ready to go out with a theme of housing
- Next year we plan to have a map of Richmond showing services that poor and/or homeless people may want to use ie showers, shelters, community meals
- Brochures have been updated and can now be printed
- ACTION: Robin to contact the Diversity Coordinator Alan Hill at City of Richmond to see if they will print and distribute our newsletter

Poverty Report Card

- This group is working on terms of reference for the steering committee so that the report contains the information we need
- We want the committee to be representative of the community and are encouraging broad participation from both community members and agencies who will find the new report to be a tool and resource
- They have begun to gather some statistics
- We should add the Census or First Call information that was sent to us in the next Newsbytes
- They will also be looking for soft data and personal stories for the report
- Lynda suggested that this committee become a task force with admin support, that would report back to the committee
- Marisa can help with profiles
- May be able to encourage participation from the business sector if we Speak at Rotary, Chamber of Commerce

Four Feet Up – film presentation

- Thursday, January 14th 7:00 pm
Ralph Fisher Auditorium
Richmond Hospital
7000 Westminster Highway
Film screening (46 minutes) followed by panel discussion
- Go to www.richmondprc.org for more details

Next meeting January 7th Richmond Food Bank