



Present: Margaret Hewlett, Laura Hall, De Whalen, Charlene Dy, Deneanne Quamme, John Roeder, Janice Lambert, David Reay

Staff: Lynda Brummitt, Robin Winskell

Agenda approved

Previous minutes M/S/C De, Charlene

- We need to keep discussion going about film nights
- Gaps in Services – none identified
- In light of new budget, we will review this again at the next meeting

Project Coordinator

- Lynda, Robin & David met and discussed upcoming projects.
- We are moving forward with the housing forum
- The City of Richmond grant of \$6,000 has come through

Affordable Housing

- De reported on the Stand that took place during the Peace Project on Affordable Housing day Feb16
- The police came by to ensure that they weren't causing a disturbance
- GV Shelter Society has written a letter of support for the women's shelter in Richmond
- De attended the Stand at First United Church. They launched a new project Feb 28 called "Share the Gold"; they are asking for some of the energy and funds that went into VANOC go into housing. They have about 300 people/night sleeping at their shelter

Transportation – no report

- We need to find a way to energize this task force as this is a major issue for people in poverty, with disabilities, etc
- Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition (who work on education and awareness) may be interested in being involved
- ACTION: Charlene to contact Neil and invite the VACC to an upcoming meeting

Faith Communities Housing – no report

- If a Homeless Connect is going to take place this fall, the planning needs to start in late spring
- The four groups who do community meals will be meeting this month to discuss ways they can support each other
- The Richmond Civic Engagement Network is starting up again and the next event (April 14th) is about the faith community and exploring ways of ensuring they are working together particularly around food See Flyer

Richmond Cares

- Manar is still active with this group although she doesn't live in Richmond
- She is volunteering with a group of Muslim women at the Richmond Food Bank
- Family Place and the Food Bank need more promotional materials for Richmond Cares

Communications

- This group has not met pending a decision re: budget for the newsletter

Seedy Saturday

- Is this Saturday at Terra Nova Park.

Peace Project

- The area didn't have the numbers they thought they would (VANOC and the City estimated it would be 25,000 people/day)
- They had a "bed-in" and sang Give Peace a Chance
- The Richmond News did a small article and may do a follow-up
- Thanks from De to everyone who supported the event

Position Paper for the OCP

- This is the beginning of the process where we hope to:
 - Identify key areas
 - Who are the "go-to" people for different issues
- The City statement identifies challenges that include:
 - "maintaining our high standard of living"
 - Changing demographic referred to: there will be more seniors than children
 - A trend to fewer people per household
 - A lack of affordable housing
- Opportunities are identified based on these challenges

- Many of our task forces have or still do focus on these issues

Discussion

- Suggestion that Lynda prepare a list of identified issues and work the PRC has done in these areas
- The work already done on the new Poverty Report card may be a useful piece of work
- We may want to pick a few areas of Richmond and look at how the OCP would work in each area.
- We can help identify areas that are not well serviced ie Hamilton
- List of demographic stats
- List of issues we have addressed
- Suggestion: that we circulate the power point to help people focus their thoughts based on their area of interest/work
- ACTION: Laura to send Robin the power point; Robin to forward it to the committee
- Second round of open houses will be in May
- Poverty Report Card Committee will meet to prepare the demographics
- “go to” people:
 - Food - Arzeena
 - Housing - David
 - Transit - Neil
 - Access to services - ?
 - Living Wage - ?
- Seniors
 - Difficulty in reaching isolated seniors. Targeting them is the goal but HOW to do it?
 - There are few mental health services for older adults. We don’t have the capacity in Richmond
 - Need to foster networks; community; familiar faces; neighborhoods
 - Most people network over a structured organization like school and church
- Service providers ie Family Place, Seniors Community kitchen – are finding that support group members aren’t connecting outside the group

Community Notices

- David recognized the lack of a placard at the Peace Project recognizing the “Jill of all trades” – De Whalen - who put so much work into the project. Congrats De!
- International Women’s Day is Monday March 8th. Women’s Centre will be having a potluck 11-2 and a guest speaker from Oxfam
- Family Place is planning a golf tourney as a fund raiser in June. The group gave Janice several suggestions for sponsorship. Janice will circulate the details through Robin as soon as they are available.

Next meeting April 1st Richmond Caring Place room 320