



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Seniors Focus Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Seniors Focus Committee held on Thursday, July 15, 2021 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Diana Dilworth, Chair
Wayne Borthwick
Yolanda Broderick
John Crowther
Wilhelmina Martin
Grace McKeown

Absent

Councillor Amy Lubik, Vice-Chair
Malcolm Harkness (Regrets)

In Attendance

Christel Guenette, Recording Secretary, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.
Liam McLellan – Social Planner

Also In Attendance

Ken Kuhn, Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society

1. Call to Order

Call to Order

1.1 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

2.1 SFC21/010

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Seniors Focus Committee meeting held Thursday, May 27, 2021 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society

4.1 Ken Kuhn

Ken Kuhn, Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Tri-Cities Seniors' Action Society's history and activities, and noted the following:

- the Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society is formally known as the Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network (TCSPN);
- the population of citizens over the age of 50;
- the TCSPN was established in 2012 resulting from a Community Development project on issues affecting Tri-Cities seniors;
- the Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society community involvement efforts and member agencies include:
 - Transportation Forum;
 - Housing Forum;
 - BC Political Forum;
 - Multicultural Seniors' Day at Henderson Place;
 - Seniors and Caregivers' Wellness Expo;
 - Elder Abuse and Wellness Forum;
 - World Fest;
 - Age-Friendly Tri-Cities Forum;
 - Household Emergency Preparedness Forum;
 - Pathways to Better Health Forum;
 - food bank donations;
 - Week of the Older Persons Webinars;
 - live Christmas concerts and memories sharing;
 - sharing Valentine's memories;
 - New Horizons for Seniors Grant; and
 - Savvy Cyber Seniors Project; and
- the City could consider promoting and funding high dose flu vaccines for the senior population.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- consider providing workshops on the Home Emergency Response Operations System (HEROS), which educates neighbourhoods on responsibilities in delivering its own emergency response;
- consider providing workshops related to financial planning, which is a gap for seniors;
- blanket policies should be discouraged, which currently prohibit public use of restroom facilities;
- consider access for all ages and abilities when creating restroom use policies;
- consider including age-friendly measures in all parks, including restroom accessibility and benches;

- the high levels of anxiety experienced by seniors when interacting with technology should be considered; and
- the Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society Coordinator could provide annual updates to the Committee.

The Social Planner noted the following in response to Committee discussion:

- the City endeavours to be a more compassionate community by encouraging businesses to provide restroom facilities and rest areas throughout the downtown core; and
- a seniors “microsite” is being considered on the City’s website, which would provide a list of resources for seniors.

Action: The Chair to forward age-friendly implementation updates and provide information regarding HEROS workshops to the Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society Coordinator.

Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan

Liam McLellan, Social Planner

The Social Planner gave a presentation on the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan, and noted the following:

- the completion of the Plan will include a presentation to Port Moody, Coquitlam, and Port Coquitlam Councils and the Union of BC Municipalities;
- representatives of the Tri-Cities Food Council provided their expertise in this field;
- the Plan includes a long-term decision-making and action framework for all five local governments, in partnership with community organizations and Health Authorities, to better support and encourage actions to increase household and community food security in the region;
- supporting documents created from the Plan, include the Tri-Cities Region Community Profiles and Food Security Assessment Report, Tri-Cities Food Charter, and Tri-Cities Region Food Asset Map;
- the plan is based on key concepts for household and community food security; and
- the structure of the Plan includes a vision that described the future state; five goals that outlined the desired outcomes to achieve the vision; 14 objectives that provided general directions for achieving the goals; and 60 actions offer detailed directions for how to take action to achieve the objectives.

The Social Planner noted the following in response to questions from the Committee:

- funding will be received from the Union of BC Municipalities Poverty Reduction Fund, initiatives provided through Fraser Health, and Canada's Reaching Home funding;
- local community gardens and food banks were willing participants in implementing the Action Plan;
- information on citizens accessing subsidized housing, daycare, etc., is not easily accessed by City staff;
- information specific to seniors is not collected; however, studies from across Canada indicates that many seniors live on fixed incomes while the cost-of-living increases;
- seniors pay over 50% of their income towards rent; often, food costs are prioritized over medications;
- the lack of density within Moody Centre limits local marketplaces from doing business there; and
- the lack of access to food for seniors needs to be addressed to ensure fair access to fresh and healthy food in all neighbourhoods.

The Chair advised that an update would be provided on the Council's review of the Action Plan at the September or October Committee meeting.

5. Information

Staff Updates

- 5.1 The Social Planner noted that the Request for Proposal process to hire a consultant for the Senior Feasibility Study is under way and that the successful applicant will be introduced at the September or October Committee meeting.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:47pm.



Councillor Diana Dilworth,
Chair



Christel Guenette,
Recording Secretary