

Mount Pleasant Community Planning Program (MPCCP)
Social Coordinating Group Meeting #5 - Meeting
June 10, Tuesday, 2008
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Native Education College
285 East 5th Avenue

Meeting Summary Notes

Attendance:

Dave Forrest, Christina Chociolko, Frank Frigon, Bill Briscall, Sharon Urton, Zoe Welch, Janet Berry, Christine O'Fallon, Karen Young, Kirk Jong, Grayson Bain, Zsuzsi Huebsch, Colin Brander, Tammy Brander, Bernice Haaland, Carol Dickson, Sharon McFadyen, Michelle Babiuk, Brain McGivern, Valeria Stampino, Doug Penner, Peter Leung, Rozette Hopson, Robert McDougall, Cassius Thompson and Thor Larson.

Regrets: George McEwen and Lindsay Hinderson

City Staff: Dana Walker

1. Opening Remarks:

24 SCG members were welcomed to the meeting.

2. SCG Community Announcements and Updates:

- T. Larson - The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House is establishing a new Youth Network in the area and welcomes new members and partners to join. The Broadway Youth Centre is also a member. Contact Thor directly to learn more about the goals of the network, including youth involvement and engagement strategies.
- B. McDougall - The Yukon Lookout Emergency Society works with homeless people to help access shelter services and for others to access supportive housing services that help members to once again live independent lives. They conduct regular neighbourhood clean ups and are currently looking for new areas to expand into; and are also looking for employment-partnership opportunities where members can access locally-based job training and income on short term bases. Also community members are welcome to visit the Yukon site for meetings and to meet up with resident members on a social level. Contact Bob directly at the Yukon centre.
- D. Walker - Mt Pleasant Hot Topic - update deferred
- Z. Welch - Introduced a DVD by J. McKnight on community capacity building, "everyone has a gift". SCG members will be invited to a future dialogue session to view it (55 min) and to have a group discussion afterwards. We will also try to find a venue in the community where we can start regular 'dialogue sessions' as part of fulfilling one of the local actions

already identified by the community. Also there is the UBC learning exchange program (Margo Fryer) which is another opportunity for us to offer a student the chance to work with us on social issues; however we need to pull enough things together to make it worth their efforts. Contact Zoe with ideas.

J. Berry / K.Jong - June 7 Celebrate Mt. Pleasant Days at Guelph Park, Janet gave a quick update on the different topics that people talked about at the event. Two new community members signed up. Copies of the comments are available upon request.

D. Walker - June 15 is car free day in Mount Pleasant - Main street at 16th

D. Walker - Clean Ups generally. There is an opportunity to network various groups and individuals already doing clean ups. There are at least 6 groups and many individuals doing this activity. Dana will review with the city and report back at next meeting as to what could be done to start a community wide network which is another SCG action identified by the broader community.

3. SCG Working Group's Brainstorming Session and Report Outs:

The SCG members broke into four working groups to further explore each of their current actions in more detail. Reports back to the larger SCG membership included the following highlights:

Open Drug, Alcohol and Sex Trade (Michelle B.): This working group will coordinate with the Homelessness working group to host a join workshop with various service providers, community groups and citizens that are already dealing with these issues. The invitee list was created at the May 13th SCG meeting. Michelle and Dana will draft up an invite letter and agenda. June 24 is the best date for most working group members to meet; and all SCG are invited.

Homelessness (Michelle B.): see above, plus the following notes taken during the workshop break out session: priority actions includes,

1. Build up a network - Neighbourhood Clean ups with the Lookout Society
2. Blue Scarf Advocacy
3. Low barrier housing report
4. Build community networks
5. Health fair in partnership with Grandview Woodland coalition

Safety and Security (Janet B.): The group has successfully received funding from the Small Neighbourhood Grant (\$140) to begin the action to translate safety information into other languages, such as "when to call 911" ; "how to report suspicious behaviour", etc. The funds are good until October 2008. The Working group wants to work closer with the local community police centres (South Van, Collingwood and Chinatown) and to seek out local esl translation volunteers to participate.

Support for the Vulnerable (Christine O./Zoe W): The group wants to focus on 'single parents' as the first vulnerable group to begin to explore ways that will help them to

better access basic services and to be connected within their neighbourhood. The Working Group will focus on creating a mission statement to give more direction on what they want to achieve, and will have small meeting before July 8 on where they are going.

5. Next Steps:

- Next SCG regular meeting - **July 8**, Tuesday evening, Native Education College
- The workshop date for the Homelessness and Drugs , Alcohol and Sex trade workshop is **June 24** from 6 to 9 PM, all CGS members are invited
- First of the Dialogue Series to feature the John McKnight DVD - **July 8 or 15?**
- September is an opportunity to do a “start up” event following summer breaks. Ideas are welcomed.

6. Closing Remarks: Members were thanked for their participation at the meeting.

Meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

All agenda, notes, working plans and a complete list of actions and projects are listed at www.vancouver.ca/mountpleasant under Social Issues