

Mount Pleasant Community Planning Program (MPCCP)
Social Coordinating Group Meeting #4 - Meeting
May 13, 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, Eric Kirkpatrick, Sharon Urton, Zoe Welch, Janet Berry, Lindsay Hinrichsen, Christine O'Fallon, David Mahjour, Grace MacKenzie, Chris Taulu, Karen Young, Kirk Jong, Mickey McCaffrey, Grayson Bain, Carola Goetze, Zsuzsi Huebsch, Alison Chan, Ida Kong, Colin Brander, George McEwen, Ti Lam, Lee Down, Marylin Perlas, Courtney Srigley and Christine O'Fallon.

Regrets: Megan Lilley and Tammy Brander

City Staff: Dana Walker

1. Introductions:

26 SCG members were welcomed to the workshop.

2. Updates

Community Announcements and Planning Program Updates

- C. Brander - May 21, Wednesday, Mount Pleasant Hot Topics Event at the Mount Pleasant Elementary School, call Tammy at 604-733-9265
- Z. Huebsch - May 22, Thursday, End Homelessness at St. Andrew's-Wesley Church at Burrard and Nelson
- May 15, Thursday, Bevel Up: Drugs, Nurses and Outreach Nursing - explores a key question facing healthcare providers across this country -
- how can a nurse or outreach worker deliver effective and compassionate health care to people who use drugs?
- K. Jong - brief update on the April 28 Mayor's forum "Collaboration for Change"
- K. Young/K. Jong - brief update on the public open house held April 28 on the new supportive housing development in Mt. P. at 23 Main Street. The centre will be operated by outlook society
- D Walker - June 7 Celebrate Mt. Pleasant Days at Guelph Park
- May 25 is the second Shopping Area Workshop - posters handed out for distribution.

3 and 4. SCG Working Group Updates and SCG Problem-Solving Session

The SCG members were given a short update from each of the four working groups on the work that they had done since the last meeting on April 8, 2008. After each presentation the SCG members then offered suggestions and advice to the working groups to address noted gaps and barriers. The following 'bolded' headings were used to record the comments and suggestions:

Open Drug, Alcohol and Sex Trades (Bill B.):

Partnerships and Network Potentials - Raven Song Health Clinic, Drug Policy Department City, Collingwood CPC, South Van CPC, Boys and Girls Clubs (odyssey II), Vancouver Recovery Club, WISH Women's Information Safe House, Living in Communities (study report), Schools- PAC and Administration staff, Police and Lookout Emergency Aid Society.

Volunteer Recruitment - n/a - to follow after a meeting with Service Providers

Funding Sources - n/a

Materials and supplies - n/a

Communication - general public - n/a

Communication - marginalized groups - sex trade workers, youth gangs

Other Suggestions and Comments - Balancing different perspectives, establishing particular motivations and objectives, definitions, problems and solutions. Seek out activities for youth through the PAC groups. Determine what other industries benefit from drug and sex trades. Problem emerging at each school level. How can we assist schools/parents? To help them 1) recognize signals of children exploring drugs - sex. 2) How to deal with children who are exploring. 3) Implications of gang association and how to discourage it.

Homelessness (Sharon U.):

Partnerships and Network Potentials - St. Andrew's - Wesley Church, Kitsilano Com centre, CCPC, SVCPC, Coast Foundation, Various other service providers that serve the homeless population.

Volunteer Recruitment - n/a

Funding Sources - n/a

Materials and supplies - Telus Supply Kits available for homeless people

Communication - general public - n/a

Communication - marginalized groups - conducted several interview with homeless people at Tenth Alliance Church on Monday evenings. Results will be shared with others in the community and the SCG team. Should we include those that are at risk of becoming homeless?

Other Suggestions and Comments - maybe we need a large detox centre to deal with drug issues before homelessness?, focus first on those homeless people that really want our help,

Safety and Security (Janet B.):

Partnerships and Network Potentials - Community 'meet and greet' sessions through out the community - at least 4 locations: Fraser and Broadway, 14 to 16 Main street, St. Catherines 4th and 6th avenues, and Kingsgate Mall. Mt P BIA, Mt Pleasant CARES, CCPC, SVCPC, Block Watch groups.

Volunteer Recruitment - August 8 is movie night by the CCPC

Funding Sources - \$350 has been applied for to the Small Grant Program
Materials and supplies - name tags for SCGers to conduct a Meet and Greet
Communication - general public - name tags or buttons for id purposes during the meet and greet sessions.

Communication - marginalized groups - reach out to esl members

Other Suggestions and Comments - ask seniors to volunteer at schools to talk to kids about life and show them crafts and gardening, etc. Ask seniors if they could talk to homeless at the community centre regarding life problems, Have PAC (PTA's) involved in prevention. Doctor a letter to let parents know what activities are available for the kids to join...so they don't get into drugs. Things like community centre activities, boys and girls clubs. Put this letter in Chinese, etc esl friendly. Get the province and federal government to provide a mental health hospital for drug addicted people to help them cure their underlying problems. Put posters around the community so that the homeless will know where to go to have a shower. That is 'go to the Mt Pleasant community centre @ the address and the time available to do this, i.e., 9 to 11 in the morning.

Support for the Vulnerable (Christine O.):

Partnerships and Network Potentials - Need to better define who are the 'vulnerable' before establishing a network.

Volunteer Recruitment - universities (SFU and UBC) have been contacted

Funding Sources - \$500 has been applied for to the Small Neighbourhood Grant Program

Materials and supplies - tbd

Communication - general public - reach out to make more accessible

Communication - marginalized groups - depends on definition

Other Suggestions and Comments - As the groups move forward we need to identify overlaps and duplications to avoid double the work and efforts, avoid re-inventing the wheel each time. Asset mapping one possible solution.

General Comments related to all four issues:

Reduce SCG Overlaps: The SCG needs to focus on reducing group overlaps as we try to solve different issues. Basically we need to coordinate our efforts on separated but related issues, especially where there are clear overlaps, i.e., homeless people sometimes suffer with drug and mental health issues, they are also vulnerable, etc.

Neighbourhood Notifications: Concern was expressed that the city doesn't always do a good job at notifying people about things happening in their neighbourhoods, including development and construction schedules to avoid inconveniences. The SCG will also need to look at more effect ways of reaching out as actions are implemented.

5. Next Steps: Dana will work with the working groups to set up the networking meetings for the Drugs, Alcohol and Sex Trade and the Homelessness groups as noted above. The meeting should occur before the June 10, SCG's next meeting. SCG members were also asked to think of possible agenda items for the next meeting on June10, SCG meeting #5, and to submit their ideas to Dana for consideration.

6. Closing Remarks: Members were thanked for their participation at the workshop. Door prize was handed out (AAA horse and carriage passes).

Meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.