

Mount Pleasant Community Planning Program (MPCCP)
Social Coordinating Group (SCG) Meeting #13
March 10, Tuesday, 2009
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
at
Lookout Emergency Aid Society
2088 Yukon Street

Meeting Summary Notes

Attendance:

Michelle B, Christine O, Zoe W, Heather R, Ajax Q, Christine S, Sharon U, Kirk J, Jan B, Zsuzsi H, Robert Mc, Christine T, Margaret D, Bill B, Rozelle H, Thor L, Reila H, Angela K, Jarrah H, and Christina C.

Regrets: Shauna M, Sharon Mc, Jenn Mc, Selina J.

City Staff: Dana W., recorder

1. Opening Remarks:

19 SCG members and friends welcomed.

2. Mount Pleasant Community Planning Programme update:

The next Main, 2nd to 7th Workshop #2 (Light Industrial Area) will be on Sunday, March 29, 2009. Transcripts from the first workshop are now online.

Participation rates at the workshops have doubled. Please help spread the word by posting the event poster in your home/work areas. Please RSVP for the event to Rachel at 604-871-6608.

This SCG meeting marks a one year anniversary. 18 projects have been either started (2), or are in process (11), or have completed (5). We have already met the minimum Council requirement for the number of projects to be completed. A list of current projects is contained on the flip side of the agenda. For a full set of all 50 plus actions contact Dana.

3. The Host's update: Lookout Emergency Aid Society / Transitional / Shelter programs, services and updates:

Robert talked about several projects: the partnership with the BIA for clean ups and graffiti removal; a future project that may include needle retrieval. The BIA has purchased a power washer for the group to help enhance their efforts and future skill training needs. All members from the transitional housing are volunteers in these projects and share their time to gain first hand skill training. These training projects also provide members with a specific focus, the opportunity to maintain working routines, socialize and develop resumes for future jobs. The Cycle Back project (City's Social Sustainability Fund) offers new opportunities for additional course training and eventual employment through bike repair, including safety and technical certificates. Dana will be submitting an application to the City in the next two weeks.

4. SCG and Working Group updates and actions - round table. Each member gave a quick update on their work and social concerns:

- **Fusion Canada - update:**

The first event will be held in Robson Park on April 3 (3 to 6 pm), 4 and 5 (2 to 5 pm). Open to the public and are looking to recruit more volunteers for the event. April 1 there will be a volunteers' training session. A sign up sheet was distributed for member to sign up for volunteer work at the event. Fusion Canada is looking to establish a regional office in Vancouver and maybe in Mount Pleasant. Please contact Heather at 778-319-4391 for more information.

- **Vancouver Recovery Club - update:**

Reila updated the group on several initiatives: A recycling cardboard program has started to gather up 'sleeping' cardboard. The local Vancouver Public Library has started a book club, donations welcome. Work on the SCG's safety and security brochure (911) is being scheduled shortly (within 2 weeks) to complete the translations into other languages. The brochure has English and French completed. The Community Drug court is now operating in Mt Pleasant and helping in areas of retail services and peer to peer counselling. Looking to expand the outreach and safe program but need more volunteers. More women are feeling safer in the centre and more games and dances are being scheduled. There was a time when women didn't feel safe at the centre. Easter events are coming up, please see previous attachments.

- **Car Free Day update:** Kirk updated the group about a meeting he attended for the planning of the event. To be held on Father's Day in June. Visit websites for more information. **Main Street**

mainstreet@carfreevancouver.org

<http://www.carfreevancouver.org/locations/main-street/>

- **Community engagement:** Angela gave an overview of the work that she does for both the Land Use and the Social components of the Community Planning Program. Any members wanting to attend a special focus session with other language and cultural groups can join her at these events. Next session is March 19, from 10 am to 12:15 pm, for both a Spanish and Vietnamese session. Angela will be helping the SCG, on its Homeless Brochure project, to host a focus session at the Community of Hope with homeless people of April 15; to review what the brochure could look like, what it contains and how it could be distributed based on feedback from the homeless people themselves. Contact Dana for future dates for various diverse groups.

- **Jarrah** from the office of Jenn McGinn, MLA, is open to learning more about the program and the actions that the SCG are looking at implementing. Issues around affordable childcare and parenting are other examples of interest to the MLA's office. The office is very interested to learn more and to see where they might be able to contribute. Possible source of funding and networking.

<http://www.leg.bc.ca/MLA/38thParl/mcginn.htm>

- **Proposal for a new Dog Committee - new item**

Rozelle raised the idea that there are opportunities for dog owners (and non-dog owners) to look into and maybe create a future dog park in Mount Pleasant: it could be off-leash and have separate areas for small and large dogs. More

education is needed for dog owners to pick up after their dogs and to control them while on public sidewalks and in parks. The group felt that it would be worth asking its other members if there interest in forming a sub-group to review the SCG dog related actions and link them into any community concerns. The group may want to contact the Parks Board commissioner (A. Jasper), and to check out online for other dog support groups in Vancouver, and to eventually solicit a broader interest base at a local level. There is a group that meets up at 15th Ave and Columbia that should be approached to see if they would want to be a part of thjisbe part of the local network.

- **mt. pleasant single moms clothing swap - report out**

The event was launched on March 8 (International Women's Day) at the Neighbourhood House. Although the turn out was lower than expected new networks were formed with Nanook YMCA Daycare centre and other groups, including the local youth. Leftover clothes and toys were sent to the Nanook centre (20 plus families) for distribution. The working group had lots of volunteer help and local support and interest (donations) from businesses and residents. Measures and indicators will now be needed to help us understand the full social benefits for these types of events. Great job in coordinating and launching the event.

- **Cycle Back - Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Reserve Fund - update**

Dana reported that the program offers \$150,000 to Mount Pleasant. The idea is to help recent homeless people gain job training and employment skills. The Neighbourhood House will help with community engagement through arts and culture celebration activities, including Harvest Fest. Local businesses, community groups and individuals will play an active role in setting up the program. Refurbished bikes will be returned to homeless and low income families in Mount Pleasant, including the potential to auction some off to help sustain the program in future years. The program could have an education component that offers certificates on safety and technical training. More updates at the next SCG meeting regarding a business plan and the overall community engagement component. Council report link:

<http://vancouver.ca/tyclerk/cclerk/20081014/documents/a10.pdf>

- **2010 Olympic and Paralympic - update**

Christine and Margaret informed the SCG members that the Olympic Information and Engagement phase is starting up shortly and that they will be conducting neighbourhood engagement sessions around key issues to help residents better understand what to expect when the games are underway in 2010: key issues include possible impacts and opportunities related to security, economics, transportation, sports and recreation, and so forth. The SCG members felt that a future separate meeting would work better than trying to add it to a regular monthly meeting. General comments include, "where are the no-go zones", "what facilities are going to close down before and during the event", "how people could get to and from their homes and businesses?" Members agreed to send forward any additional feedback comments to Christine and Margaret that may help them formulate their engagement strategies, and perhaps to prepare some possible questions and answers ahead of time from a community's perspective. The SCG network will also be available to help get the word out prior to any future Mount

Pleasant community information session. <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/-/32678/q0c15c/index.html> . Please contact Christine with your thoughts, questions and comments at 604-871-6697, Christine.Tapp@vancouver.ca .

- **Confused when to call 911.** See update from for the Vancouver recovery Club noted above.
- **SCG actions and projects: measures and indicators.** Dana explained that we must turn attention to assessing the outcomes of the projects completed and to report these findings to Council later this year. Also work is starting on assessing the long term implementations of the overall program on existing and future social policy work. As actions and project complete we should consider up loading them onto the WIKI site so that each member can add to, edit, and share the information.
- **City Social Policy**
Staff will be working on a framework to share with the community on identifying what policies could be affected, developed or enhanced by the outcomes and outputs of this program. Dana will update the group over the next couple of SCG meetings.
- **Fall Term**
From September to December, 2009, the SCG was offered the suggestion that these four meetings be handled by the group with support from the coordinator as part of the wind up to the program which ends early 2010. Each working group may want to host one of the four monthly meetings. More details will be talked about over the next couple of meetings as to venues, agendas and meeting goals.

5. Next SCG meeting: April 21st, Tuesday, 6 PM start time, venue needed

Next meeting dates:

May 12, venues needed

June 9, venues needed

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

Meeting ended at 7:50 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