

DRAFT
Mount Pleasant Community Planning Program (MPCCP)
Social Coordinating Group (SCG) Meeting #15
May 19, Tuesday, 2009
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
at
Native Education College
285 East 5th Ave

Meeting Summary Notes

Attendance:

Christine O, Zoe W, Peter S, Judi P, Shauna M, Ed, Sheila P, Carola G, Stephani A and Christina C

Regrets: Reila H and Jan B

City Staff: Dana W, recorder

1. Opening Remarks:

10 SCG members and friends were welcomed.

2. Mount Pleasant Community Plan Update

- Shopping Areas Workshop #3 (includes the Commercial-Light Industrial Area M27): Sunday, June 14, 12 noon to 5 pm, at NEC. Visit www.vancouver.ca/mountpleasant to learn more and to register.
- Next Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting: Thursday, May 28, 7 to 9 pm at NEC.
- Special Meeting to review the Fraser / Broadway Shopping Area ideas with that of the Social Housing project: Thursday, May 21, 7 to 9 pm, at Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House - 800 E. Broadway.

3. SCG and Working Group updates:

Each member gave a quick update on who they are, what they have been working on, and sharing information on neighbourhood issues: some highlights.

- The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House is actively engaging and working with seniors from various cultural backgrounds through recreation and community development activities, very successful in numbers and includes ESL classes. Volunteer opportunities and activities include helping out with other languages. To learn more about the House and what it does for the community, visit http://www.anhgv.org/neighbourhood_houses/mount_pleasant.php .

The Mount Pleasant Youth Action Team has won a City of Vancouver Award for its work on the shopping areas' photographic and engagement works. Celebrate Mount Pleasant Day is approaching, details listed below. There is an opportunity for the SCG to host an information table at the event as last year.

Judi will follow up with the group with ideas around membership outreach, promotion and engagement.

Jun 06, 2009

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Celebrate Mount Pleasant

Community Event in Mount Pleasant

Saturday Jun 06, 2009

Location: Mount Pleasant Elementary at 8th Guelph

Contact: Paul Biln 604.713.1880

Join us for face painting, carnival games, bouncy castles, magicians, Kunaka Youth Marimba Band, VOC gospel choir, climbing wall and more!!!

- A big “thank you” to the Police Department for clearing out illegal activities along the Main, Broadway and Fraser street areas since October, 2008. Members call the non-emergency police number to report activities [drinking alcohol] for follow up: Call 604-717-3321. Comments made that Guelph Park also has similar issues; that the use of the above number may help in the short term. Some SCG actions speak to this issue.
- Mount Pleasant CARES is doing a street clean up this Thursday, May 21 at 5:30 pm. Contact Tammy for more information on this and other future clean ups at 604-733-9265.
- The BIA is also doing a clean up this weekend, Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23. contact mpcleansweep@hotmail.com
- One local church is seeing an increase in homeless numbers. Probably due in part to the warmer weather and people staying longer outside.
- The old community centre pool is scheduled to be closed, as well as the building itself. There is a need to keep the daycare going (till 2010) and it may need to relocate to the Simon Fraser school until the new centre is up and running. There are groups that are still trying to develop other options to save and reuse the facility, including pool. Questions raised on how might it could be saved. Certain cultural events to occur at the site this year where we can contact other people to discuss possible options or actions... maybe a sublease arrangement for example to keep the facilities open a little longer? A water park is proposed by the Park Board in lieu of the pool. For more information contact parks: www.vancouverparks.ca
- The Broadway Youth Resource Centre has weekly street sweeps around the centre and immediate areas. More murals going up to improve the look of the building and to get youth to express themselves in creative ways, many murals exist inside the centre. Last year the youth contributed 1,047 volunteer hours back to the community (April to April). Celebrating the centre’s 10th year this year; and will be attending the Trout Lake National Aboriginal Day:

Jun 20, 2009

- Jun 21, 2009

10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

National Aboriginal Day 2009

Arts & Cultural Events in Downtown

Saturday Jun 20, 2009 to Sunday Jun 21, 2009

Location: Vancouver Art Gallery

Contact: 604-646-4944

National Aboriginal Day is an opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal people and their contribution to make Canada the great nation that it has become. The First Nations people will gather...

- The single moms clothing swap event has opened up a partnership opportunity with Nanook centre. Future SCG projects will seek to target more single moms from this facility as well as from other areas. More opportunities will be explored with single mothers at monthly supper events to get their ideas on what to do next. Local coffee shops in the area make for comfortable venues to dialogue with minority groups.
- The 2010 Olympic Information meeting was held on May 7, 2009. Members state that the session raised a lot of questions that still need to be answered or clarified. That many of the initiatives being proposed around transportation and security issues still need to define timelines and geographical boundaries as to where and when certain neighbourhoods will be affected. A fall session will be held where we can hopefully get more information and details. Until then please visit <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/-/32678/q0c15c/index.html> , or contact Christine at 604-871-6697 for updates.

Agenda Items:

- **Filipino Barrio Fiesta.** To take place at the St. Patrick Church's parking lot at Main and 12th Ave. Open to everyone. The SCG can have a free display table to showcase who and what it is. Entertainment, food for purchase and other family activities will take place. The program is looking for volunteers to help with graphics for neighbourhood flyers and posters; and to promote the event locally; and to help operate the event generally: set up / take down. Contact Nap at 604-727-5609 for information. More updates at the June 16 SCG meeting.
- **Neighbourhood Resource Directory and Homeless booklet - update**
The working group is finishing the mapping exercise this month. Next steps include confirming the mapping information either on-line or directly with the different agencies; then host a meeting with local service providers, churches and other groups to review the information and to seek feedback on the draft brochure/booklet. An additional meeting is intended to take place with social policy staff to ensure that the information is in-keeping with the city's goals and objectives. A final follow up session with the homeless is expected before the handout is produced and printed. The homeless have indicated that they would be interested to help update and distribute the brochure.

Two members offered to help work out on the homeless brochure's map section and to help do follow up calls to the different agencies and validate the mapping information. The Library is another group that has been approached and that can help host and share the future database, access and other possibilities.

- **Mighty Riders Neighbourhood bike event and celebrations - new event**

The idea is to have a similar type of a Gastown bike race here in Mount Pleasant around 8th Ave and Manitoba. Planning would be for 2010. Local groups and SCG could actively participate at the event. More ideas are welcome to ensure a successful event. Monies are needed. Ed will give future updates. The cycle back project could be affiliated with the event. This business area along Broadway has lots of bike and outdoor shops making it an ideal location to promote bikes and healthy living. The race would also involve park events at Jonathon Rogers Park.

- **SCG's performance measures, transitional planning and fall 2009 workshops.** The group discussed the purpose of performance measures and indicators and the need to begin to assess how the program has been working for both the community and the City.

It was decided that the SCG should meet at a separate evening session to focus entirely on creating a process to create a work plan to address the above. That at the next SCG meeting that some time is devoted to setting a date and an agenda for the separate session. The review and assessment may take several months. It was noted that we should begin to reflect on what has been working well for the SCG. And to ask the question 'what would we be doing differently if the SCG was not available?'

The SCG is a resource for the community at large. It helps to build networks and partnerships that lead to actions on the ground. As paying taxpayers we should be able to obtain some kind of support from the city to continue on after the planning program wraps up. What this could mean still needs to be discussed at a future session. Coordination of the program keeps the SCG viable, that without it the process can fall apart. It is important to have the City's backing, especially when promoting local actions that are entirely resourced by the community, and simply supported by the use of the City's logo, as one example. Support does not necessarily need to be in the form of staff time, but coordination and facilitation is essential. A video might be one way to document what we are doing. Handouts were passed out from the "Sustainable Approaches" manual as one example on how the SCG might want to document its achievements. Also a set of measure and indicators are needed. At the next meeting the group will review different approaches to measures and indicators.

The Splash and Ripple report was referenced as one possible strategy to start the evaluation piece for the program. A copy is available on line. Dana reiterated that the fall session includes four meetings, September to December, 2009, and that this period would offer an excellent opportunity to the SCG to test out its ability to organize and run monthly meetings.

- **Mount Pleasant Cycle Back project - update**
Dana reiterated that the project has been approved 'in principle' and that they are working on the administration side of getting the program together: contracts, licences, etc. It is hoped that by August the operation could be up and running. The group discussed a possible name change or expansion to include "BAM": "bike assembly and maintenance". This could possibly permit

more sponsorship in the future to help sustain the program beyond year one. The group however, felt that name 'cycle back' has been key to building local identity and therefore prefer to retain it. They are open to some fusion of the two names, but would want to review it first before agreeing to it. There is an opportunity for the SCG to help design and distribute a neighbourhood flyer promoting the values and principles of the program that helps former homeless people find gainful and meaningful employment careers in the bike industry. Dana will follow up with Lookout and set a date and time to conduct the work before August. See notes of SCG meeting April 21, 2009 for more details on the operations and timelines.

- **“Confused about when to call 911?” - update**
A future celebration session will take place to thank all of the volunteers that helped do the translations. The recovery Club will be forwarding more language translations shortly. The working group received \$140 from the small neighbourhood grant program to conduct this action.

4. Next SCG Meeting June 16th:

Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House - 800 E. Broadway

- July 14th: venue needed
- August: Summer break
- September 15th - date and venue tbd

5. Closing Remarks:

Members and friends were thanked for their participation at the meeting.
Meeting ended at 8:05 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