

NWCPRC Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 28 January 2021

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting by Zoom:

Attendees: John Stark (City of New Westminster Planning Division), Shannon Patrick (Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction), Lisa Paterson (Ministry of Children and Family Development), Dylan Groggs (CleanStart), Anur Mehdic (City of New Westminster Planning Division), Tristan Johnson (City of New Westminster Planning Division), Elliot Rossiter (Douglas College), Christopher Koth (New Westminster Public Library), Geraldine Ricarse (Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver), Stephanie Morgan (Ministry of Children and Family Development), Regis Medinao (Fraser Health/Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction), Betina Wheeler (New Westminster Homelessness Society Coalition), Murray Baker (Family Services of Greater Vancouver)

Regrets:

Agenda/Meeting Notes

ITEM	TIME	PRESENTER	DECISIONS/ACTIONS/COMMENTS
1. Introductions/regrets	5 mins	John Stark/All	Everyone introduced themselves and their organizational affiliations.
2. CleanStart	30 mins	Dylan	Dylan presented on CleanStart (social enterprise for cleaning, pest control, hoarding etc. employing persons with barriers to employment) using a Powerpoint Presentation. Attendees asked Dylan further questions about the program and made some recommendations where CleanStart could connect with groups in need of assistance with these property tasks. John recommended that Dylan make a delegation to the City Council about the CleanStart program. Dylan's presentation will be sent out with these meeting minutes. Possible connections to the existing "I's on the Street" program were explored. Dylan can be contacted at dylan@cleanstartbc.ca or 604-992-5316, cleanstartbc.ca
3. Community Action Network Training	15 mins	John Stark	Anur provided a description and an update on the CAN program progress, as well as a history of the program in New Westminster. Anur also provided information on the next step for the CAN group involvement in city processes, committees, engagement process and City staff training, with John providing additional information. The issues of unconscious bias and remuneration were discussed. The Council Report that is being produced on the Community Action Network will be sent out to Poverty Reduction Committee members.
4. Arts Empowerment and Income Boosting Project	15 mins	Lisa Paterson/ John Stark	John and Lisa discussed the grant received from the Provincial Government of British Columbia for these projects. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was delayed. John mentioned that he would be in contact with the

Provincial Government in regard to being able to extend the use of grant funds into this year for the Arts Empowerment aspect. John also discussed the Income Boosting part of the project and the use of the funds. The plan is to start the Arts Empowerment in May 2021 and complete the project by the end of the year. Elliot has received a \$5,000 grant from Douglas College for researching and documenting the results of the Arts Empowerment aspect. There was discussion of aligning the Arts Empowerment aspect with Homelessness Action Week in November.

6. Short-term action plan	0 mins	Lisa Paterson	The short-term action plan will be circulated to members for feedback as there was not time available at the meeting to discuss the plan in detail.
7. Other business/next meeting	10 mins	All members	Betina discussed Helpseeker (https://helpseeker.org/), a free information map resource on community services and its benefits, including multilingual items and search functions. Tristan and Betina discussed the challenges with updating the Community Services Asset Map and promoting it. Tristan recommended to focus on using Help Seeker instead of using and updating the Community Services Asset Map. Betina requested the group review the HelpSeeker tool and provide feedback. Tristan provided information on the census jobs as a job opportunity for people with barriers to employment. A link to the Census Jobs website will be sent out by email, as well as an information brochure (https://census.gc.ca/jobs-emploi-eng.htm). A link to the Basic Income Report by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction will also be included in the meeting minutes (https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021SDPR0005-000152).
