

NWCPRC

Date: Thursday, December 2, 2021

Time: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

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Attendees: Indiana Vatikiotis (Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver), Liz Hunter (New Westminster Public Library), Tania Ivancic (BC Provincial Government – Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Social Development), Erin Daly (Fraser Health), Alin Arakelian (Mosaic), Elliot Rossiter (Douglas College), Tristan Johnson (City of New Westminster), Murray Baker (Family Services of Greater Vancouver), John Stark (City of New Westminster), Betina Wheeler (New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society), Natalie Johnston (Fraser Health)

Regrets: Lisa Paterson (BC Provincial Government – Ministry of Child and Family Development)

Agenda/Meeting Notes

ITEM	TIME	PRESENTER	DECISIONS/ACTIONS/COMMENTS
1. Introductions/regrets/land acknowledgement	5 mins	John Stark/All	John gave the territorial acknowledgement. All members introduced themselves.
2. Project updates/discussion/Involvement opportunities	45 mins	All	Community Action Network (CAN): John spoke about CAN, what it is, what it does, and how members are compensated. He discussed the role of the CAN network in the upcoming active listening circles related to the City's Homelessness Action Strategy. He noted that there will be a second intake of CAN in spring 2022, which will replenish the network and expand their scope of engagement. He also noted that CAN leaders could be involved in other City and community policy and planning initiatives.

			<p>Arts Empowerment Project: John gave an update on the Arts Empowerment Project and the Community Poverty Reduction Grant, including their history and the delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He described the changes to the project, which is now focusing on the need for affordable housing, and the importance of “home” and “belonging.” He noted that the City is trying to realize about 330 affordable housing units per year for 10 years, and community receptivity will be important in realizing these units, including related to the development approvals process. He also noted that a request for proposals for an artist mentor was circulated, and that City staff, based on an evaluative process, has selected an individual. Additionally, he noted that City staff are in discussions with three non-profit housing providers with regard to engaging their clients and guests in a photovoice project in which they can share their experiences and perspectives. Finally, he noted that the project will culminate in a city-wide exhibit, which will facilitate empathy, and address misconceptions.</p> <p>Action: Tristan to send out the RFP for the Arts Empowerment Project to Community Poverty Reduction Committee members to provide more information on this important initiative.</p> <p>Income Boosting Project: Murray discussed the financial empowerment and taxfiling work that Family Services of Greater Vancouver did as part of the Community Poverty Reduction Grant, including financial coaching and the partnership with ACORN. He highlighted income boosting workshops which will be happening in 2022. Tristan provided information about the free and low-cost taxfiling services listing that will be compiled by the New Westminster Public Library.</p> <p>Action: Tristan will review the free and low-cost taxfiling services listing, which, when finalized, will be promoted on CityPage and through social media, as well as distributed through food hampers and other means.</p> <p>ID Bank: John provided an update on the ID bank, what it is and why it is important. He noted that a request for proposals for a non-profit operator was circulated, and that City staff, based on an evaluative process, has selected an organization. He also noted that the service could be operational by December 13, 2021. Tristan cited ID banks in Burnaby and Vancouver, and discussed the need for such a service in New Westminster.</p> <p>Action: Tristan will send out information as to the successful non-profit proponent when the contract has been signed.</p>
3. Poverty Reduction Strategy Update	10 mins	John Stark	John gave an update on the Poverty Reduction Short-Term Action Plan, which is in place until September 2022. He noted that there has been a lot of progress in achieving the identified actions. He also noted that City staff plan to commence work on a new Community Poverty Reduction Strategy either in fall 2022 or spring 2023. As such, he stated that there may be a need for one more Short-Term Action Plan. Tristan noted that the Poverty Profile was updated in September 2021, and that the plan has been updated accordingly.
4. Other business/next meeting	5 mins	John Stark/All	John provided an update on the Crisis Response Amendment Bylaw, as well as 60 and 68 Sixth Street, which encompasses 52 modular supportive housing units, and 350 to 366 Fenton Street, which encompasses 58 non-market housing units. He noted that the Public Hearing for all three Bylaws is December 6, 2021. <p>Action: Tristan sent out the link related to the three Public Hearings to Community Poverty Reduction Committee members.</p>

			<p>Betina gave an update on the Laundry Love Program, which is a free laundry service that will start out with one offering per month, will be operated by volunteers, and is funded by Reaching Home Program. She is also conducting surveys related to the service. Betina also gave an update on Community Voices, a lived experience community group related to food security.</p>
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			<p>Next meeting: Tristan, John and Lisa will set up a meeting at a future time.</p>
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