

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 23, 2023 **Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** [Zoom](#)
Chair: Larry Stranberg **Minutes:** Liane Nunn

Present: Michelle Johnston, Sherry Yonkman, Chris Vandermark, Larry Stranberg, Marnie Brenner, Laurel White, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Wylie Bystedt, Lindsay Sidor, Shannon Thom, Laurie Walters, Liane Nunn, Michael Moses, Hannah Diether, Jean Oke

Land Acknowledgement

The Social Planning Council of Williams Lake and Area would like to acknowledge this meeting is taking place on the traditional unceded territory of the Secwepemc Nation and the T'exelcenc people.

Review & Approve Agenda for October 23, 2023

Motion Shannon Thom Seconded by Sherry Yonkman Carried

Review & Approve Minutes for September 25, 2023

Motion Chris Vandermark Seconded by Wylie Bystedt Carried

Member Introductions: Share your name and the organization you represent.

Guest Speaker(s): Brianna van de Wingaard - Community Food Hub

- Food Hub project is stewarded by Social Planning Council, funded by United Way BC.
- United Way consists of a network of stakeholders who work collaboratively to increase the food security in our communities.
- Our Food Hub Goal – reduce household food insecurity through collaboration and funding support. Meet increasing needs of those recently finding themselves in food insecurity. Building a more resilient local food system – working with local producers to strengthen local food policies.
- Focus on addressing the inequity of who is affected by food insecurities, increasing access to health and local food, and building community awareness.
- Food security gaps that we've learned so far:
 - o Higher food costs mean donations per client are getting smaller.

- K-12 schools have limited to no meal planning due to low staff/funding. No federal meal planning for school.
- Chris Vandermark (SD27) – no constant method for meal plan. Provincially, there has been some significant funding provided to the schools to help them make better choices in terms of what’s available.
- Limited infrastructure in place to process, store, and distribute perishable and healthy food donations.
- Initiatives/Project Work:
 - WL Farmers Market, local food donations – Pregnancy Outreach Program collects fresh food donations from the farmers’ market.
 - Cariboo Seed Project – delivering educational events to build diversity and maintain skill sets.
- Strategic Priorities:
 - Increase capacity for partners and meet the needs of women/single mothers, youth, and Indigenous community members.
 - Work in partnership with our local governments and organizations....
- Our Work So Far:
 - Over \$20,000 in direct financial support to existing food programs
 - \$12,000 in grocery card donations and BCFMA nutrition coupon donations
 - \$7020 locally produced food donations
 - Delivered cooking classes and cooking kits to at-risk youth and mothers.
 - Purchased 3 freezers and 1 fridge for food storage and donation.
- Where We’re Headed:
 - Physical location for Food Hub
 - Workshop series
 - Holiday healthy food hamper drive
 - Educational material development
 - Support for School Districts Feeding Futures funding programming.
 - Online resources
- How Can We Help?
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Funding – if there is food security-related financial needs, let us know.

- Physical space – if your organization has a need or dream for a space that would help local food security programming.
- Get Involved:
 - SD27 Feeding Futures Fund Stakeholder Forum – November 8th.
 - Get in touch with Brianna for more information.
 - Holiday season food drive
 - We are looking for a Community Fridge location.
- Contact: foodhub@wlspc.ca

Questions

- Community Fridge – Would it be outside? Worried about vandalism?
 - Were going to mitigate it as best we can, make it safe and clean and accessible.
- What Months?
 - That would be discussed during the logistics planning process.

Lightning Round - Share an Organizational Update, a Challenge, or a Success

Chris Vandermark, SD 27

- In partnership with the City of WL, CRD and WLFN on an update to the Marie Sharpe school. Will find out in the spring more about the possibilities.
- Thanks to the City and CRD and WLFN for their work on the project.
- Shout out to all schools for good engagement around the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Day – focused more on the learnings.
- SD is running what is being considered best learnings – seeing highest engagement from teachers on pro-d days.

Shannon Thom, Work BC Williams Lake

- Pathway to Employment Program offered by Horton Ventures Inc. & M. Daniels Consulting.
- A 12-week program starting in January that provides incentives for employment and provides participants with a living support of \$300/week.
- The program includes training for security, early childhood educator assistant, office skills, customer service, and labor

Sherry Yonkman, Downtown Williams Lake

- Amanda Fuller is organizing Winter Lights festival. If you want to put something in the winter parade, or you're a downtown location that wants to host family friendly activities, let us know.
- Clean Team – Trying to put together for next year. Purchasing equipment and start up supplies.
- Downtown Dollars, shop local promotion. Selling gift certificates at BIA office to be used in Downtown business (who choose to participate). 35 businesses signed up so far.

Wylie Bystedt, T̓silhqot'in National Government (TNG)

- Entrepreneur program – starting in new year, taking names from TNG.
 - o Looking for coordinator.
- Hoping to gain some more indigenous businesses to promote next year.
- Questions- who are the candidates:
 - o Keeping it open to T̓silhqot'in members. If we have room, we may open it up to others.

Lindsay Sidor

- Focusing on how to better help individuals with rising costs and new mortgage rates.
- Helping clients make plans and budgets.

Jean Oke, Scout Island

- Redoing the trails that were damaged a few years ago.
- Ongoing programs in partnership with SD27.
- Anglican Church is hosting a free store (bedding and clothing) and soup kitchen.

Michelle Johnston, CMHA

- Take Back the Night happening on Thursday. Starting behind BMO, doing a walk over to Botanio Park with live music, food vendors. 6:00pm – 9:00pm.
- Two workshops coming up:
 - o Assist Program, 2-day workshop on Suicide Intervention skills November 4th and 5th.

Marnie Brenner, Interior Health

- Food In Schools forum – Wednesday November 8th – collaborating opportunity to enhance nutritional programs for children.
- Student Radon Skill testing contest.
- Grades 4 – 7 contests.
 - o Radon is a radioactive gas that lingers inside our home, school, and workplace.
 - o It is the leading cause of lung cancer in Canada after smoking.
- Highlighting monthly newsletter – Breastfeeding and Community Wellbeing booklet, Homeless Counts, learning opportunities.
- Funding opportunity BC Active Transportation Grants, Climate Action Grants, New Horizons for Seniors Program, First Nations Wellbeing Fund.
- Sign up for newsletter – Marnie will share link with Liane and Liane will communicate out.

Liane Nunn, Thrive

- Hosted our first workshop around the Revive Thrive Poverty Awareness video.
- Second workshop scheduled for October 25th.

Laurie Walters, SPC

- Starting work on Organization Resilience and Stability plan for how the organization is going to move forward.
- Video series as a kick off for Education and Awareness strategy on Revive Thrive
- Continue to be stewards for Central Cariboo Food Hub and Community that Cares.

Michael Moses, City Council

- At the Conservation Society, our new president is Amber Greg.
- At CMHA, begun creating a psychology health and safety implementation plan for our staff. Creating a 5-year plan.
- At CMHA, focus to indigenize mission statement and some policies to mention First Nations government, organizations, people. Feedback from BC wide CMHA said can't do it because it is a Canada wide policy and mission statement.

Laurel White, Boys and Girls Club & Community Action Team

- Community Actions Team – working on getting team hoodies while doing outreach work so we are easily noticeable. Planning to be parked places throughout the community to be sure people have access to supplies such as toques, mitts, snacks.
- BCG – haunted house week starts Friday night 6:00 – 8:00pm
 - o Food and monetary donations for entry. Donations will stay at BCG.
- Working on getting a playground and a 15-passenger van.
- Question: Who is part of the Community Action team?
 - o Group of service providers and people with lived experience.
 - o CMHA, WLFN, Interior Health, BCG.

Hannah Diether, Division of Family Practice

- Losing a couple of providers at the end of the year.
- Working on a few new models:
 - o Primary Care Network clinic
 - o Urgent Primary Care centre

Carla Bullinger, Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy

- Baby Fest, November 17th. An event focused on information and support for families with new babies.

Larry Stranberg,

- Loans are slow because of higher interest rates.
- Succession planning for businesses.
- Reviewing a lot of business plans - amazing people are wanting to start their own business.
- Free courses at takingcareofbusiness.biz

NOTE: *Anyone can share feedback, possible connections, or thoughts to what they heard during their time or in the chat.*

Meeting Adjourned: 12:50

Motion to end: Lindsay Sidor