

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 22, 2024

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** [Zoom](#)

Chair: Sherry Yonkman

Minutes: Bree Odd

Present: Hannah Diether, Rahne Brunsch, Derek Godin, Travis Flanagan (Guest Speaker), Sherry Yonkman, Shannon Thom, Marnie Brenner, Carla Bullinger, Margaret-Anne Enders, Bree Odd

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'exelcencm people.

Review & Approve Agenda for July 22, 2024

Motion Shannon Thom **Seconded by** Derek Godin **Carried**

Review & Approve Minutes for June 24, 2024

Motion Shannon Thom **Seconded by** Derek Godin **Carried**

Member Introductions: Shared names and the organization representing.

Guest Speaker(s): **Travis Flanagan** - FireSmart Educator, Cariboo Regional District

- Late start for FireSmarting, 7 months into year.
- Program completely funded by Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and Community Resiliency Investment (CRI).
- 10 seasons with BC Wildfire Service and with Williams Lake Fire Department since 2016
- Using FireSmart practices can increase home safety by 90%.
- There are 2,252 fewer fires this year, but fires are bigger and harder to manage, with less snow and less precipitation there is fire-favouring weather conditions.
- Fires are the single largest natural disaster. 90% of homes damaged by wildfires are ember ignited.
- Considering the speed of fire travel during previous fires like Loon Lake, fire traveled 40 km in 12 minutes, it is important to FireSmart around homes.
 - o Remove fuel: coniferous tree needles, wood debris, cedars, juniper, prune trees, volatile shrubs.
 - o Plant more deciduous (leafy) trees, like chokecherry.

- Wildfires are essential and inevitable; destruction of homes is not.
- Prepare with FireSmart Zones.
 - o Immediate Zone 0-1.5 Meters – if leaving for extended periods or fire coming remove all things flammable: patio furniture, welcome mats, wood, etc.
 - o Intermediate Zone 1.5-10 Meters – keep only 3 days worth of wood for woodstoves instead of enough for a month, remove construction materials, etc.
 - o Extended Zone 10-30 Meters – remove “ladder” trees, wood debris, etc.
- [FireSmart BC](#) great website with videos, how-to’s.

Questions:

- **Sherry** – *Thank you, are your slides available to share?*
 - o **Travis** - This presentation was put together with an assortment of info from various sources, all information presented today is on the FireSmart BC website.
- **Sherry** – *Is it better to leave trees up or cut them down if we cannot remove them now?*
 - o **Travis** - Better to cut and pile, then burn in winter. Remove ladder fuels. Large wood such as decking has a harder time burning, remove all types of starter/kindling type fuel around home and in the firesmart zones.
- **Derek** – *Who do you call to remove old growth tree’s on city property City or FireSmart?*
 - o **Travis** - It is up to the City.
- **Shannon** – *Is the UBCM through municipalities for funding individuals in FireSmarting property?*
 - o **Travis** - It is through Municipalities, Regional Districts, and First Nations. This year is a slow start. Assessments will be completed this year and cash back for FireSmarting later.
- **Shannon** – *Is there funding to replace cedar siding?*
 - o **Travis** - Coverage is for smaller landscape type work, like wood pile removal and landscape level clearing.
- **Margaret-Anne** – *Can you speak to removal of large trees for shade during high temperatures?*
 - o **Travis** - It is important to have shade. Prune large trees to higher levels 8-10’, remove small hedges close to house. Use broad leaf plants and shrubs. See [FireSmart BC](#) for more info.

- **Margaret-Anne** – *What can be done about car ports?*
 - **Travis** - Cover with a screen of some sort as best you can. There is 3mm metal mesh covers that work well, heavy plastic can work.

Jean Oke, Scout Island Nature House (emailed)

- Summer programs and nature fun on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Programs posted on Facebook and posters shared.

Carla Bullinger, Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy

- This would be a great ppt to share with CCPL clients during literacy skills class.
- Summer office hours for July and August: Monday-Friday 10-1.
- Supporting immigration settlements and seniors as well as providing computer use – 3 days/week Tue-Thu at the Seniors Activity Centre.
- Challenging being in 100 Mile House during emergency. How do we support in cases like this? Sherry – Followed WorkBC lead, Dale Taylor from the Goat Radio and City of Williams Lake had good updates.

Marnie Brenner, Interior Health

- We can work together and may be a focus for SPC - What can we do for long term planning, what we do now, what can we do about air quality, monitoring, creating space, working from home, toxic smoke due to burning of rubber/plastic, N95 masks available, DIY filter systems, making lists of things needed?
 - Provide workshops on planning, heat illness being an actual injury, how we create safe community, when do we go/not go to work, finding balance, heat plan prep.
 - [Interior Health Resources](#)
 - **Comment Derek** – 99% are dealing with PTSD and may not think straight in the moment or realize how anxious they are.
- Great to see people checking in on and supporting each other.
- Williams Lake First Nations is providing support but not sure if its just for Indigenous.

Derek Godin, Boys and Girls Club

- Planning annual Street Party for Aug 28 at 3pm.
- Fall Haunted House planning starting Sept 3rd. If interested in helping come join us
- Mid swing of the Blue Jays program.

Margaret Anne Enders – Awakenings

- Planning for fall Awakenings Groups, foundational book studies, workshops on anti-racism.
 - o Looking for staff and/or clients to reach out to.
- Fall contract with the Orange Shirt Society “Quilts for Survivors,” no experience or sewing machine necessary. Work collectively on each quilt to share for reconciliation.
 - o Thursdays 4-8 at Orange Place Society 118 North 1st Ave, register ahead if possible.

Hannah Diether, Central Interior Rural Divisions of Family Practice

- Encourage everyone to sign up on Health Connect registry or 811 if they don't have a family doctor. E-mail hdiether@cirdivision.ca for posters or brochures. There are a few doctors coming.
- IH Wildfire Connected.

Shannon Thom, WorkBC Williams Lake

- Canadian Red Cross is providing free N95 masks to organizations, no shipping costs redcross.ca/maskdistribution
- Hours changed – Mon 8:30 – 5:30 pm. Tue-Thu 8:30 – 4:30 Fri 8:30 – 3:30.
- ECE program information session at TRU on Tuesday July 23rd has been postponed due to current situation and safety
- Wednesday July 24 the BC Road Builder Association will be at TRU with 36' equipment simulator.

Rahne Brunsch, Canadian Mental Health Assoc. Cariboo Chilcotin

- Keeping an eye on homeless population during current situation, everyone is safe.
- CMHA is a cooling centre from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
- Expanding Family Solution Program and hiring family youth support worker.
- Planning International Overdose Awareness Day for August 31 at 3pm and September 10 World Suicide Prevention Day.
 - o **Question Carla** - do you provide Suicide Prevention Workshops?
 - **Rahne** - Currently we do not have staff, there is the Interior Crisis Line 1-888-353-2273. Carla, do you have access to interpreters? Yes, in 100 languages.

Bree Odd, Social Planning Council

- No community meeting in August, see you September 23.
- Communities Ending Poverty is on a summer break, next meeting will be in Sept.
- SPC highlights members in our newsletter, watch for an email and briefly answer the questions. A draft of the highlight will be provided for approval to add to newsletter.
- Attended the first Advocacy in Action learning webinar to support the Food Hub.

Sherry Yonkman, Downtown Williams Lake

- Art Walk opens on August 9th with parking lot party, tents, music. Separate prize package for completing art walk stamp contest opening day.
- Received board approval to pilot Clean Team after meeting with Clean Team in Kamloops. Will connect with Krista (BGC) to build relationships with those doing the work.
- Contact info@downtownwilliamslake.com or call 250-398-5717 to share newsletter updates.
 - o **Comment Derek** – come out to the Clinton Art Show on August 3-5, he will be attending as an exhibitor.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:48 pm

Motion: Shannon Thom