

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

**Date:** November 28, 2022

**Time:** 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Location:** [Zoom](#)

**Chair:** Larry Stranberg

**Minutes:** Shannon Thom

### **Review & Approve Agenda** for November 28, 2022

Motion to accept Krista Harvey, Seconded by Silvia Seibert-Dubray, Carried

### **Review & Approve Minutes** for October 24, 2022

Motion to accept Michael Moses, Seconded by Shannon Thom, Carried

### **Lightning Round Organizational Updates: Remember you only have 2 minutes :)**

**Alexis Blueschke, Interior Health Authority:** works with strengthening systems and communities. Is able to help with funding opportunities, and letters of support.

**Laurie Walters, Executive Director of the Social Planning Council:** gave a brief introduction to herself and expressed excitement at working with the team at SPC and working collaboratively with other community groups.

### **Melissa Newberry – Marketing, Student Recruitment, and Events at TRU Williams**

**Lake:** open to ideas on how to promote TRU WL. Get in touch with her if you have ideas.

**Michael Moses, WL City Councillor, City of WL:** transition into the new role has been very smooth so far. Also the chair of the Community Services Committee. Welcomes connecting with community members and groups to talk more.

**Beth Veenkamp, City of WL:** in “adjustment mode” while getting the new mayor and council in place. Introduced a new Provincial Nominee Program participant (Kathy who owns Williams Lake Janitors and has moved to WL from Vietnam) at the Chamber of Commerce meeting last week. Has been working with the family for approximately 3 years to get them to Williams Lake. Another PNP participant owns the Tae Kwon Do studio. Working hard on the Healthcare Landing Program for new healthcare practitioners coming to WL.

**Pat Biblow, TRU Williams Lake:** Lots of new things coming up: Bryan Daly will be retiring soon and TRU is looking to fill his role (Baldev Pooni will be filling in for the interim). A new course: Introduction to Astronomy Stars and Galaxies

**Rosanna McGregor, Cariboo Friendship Society:** A lot of exciting things happening in affordable housing. Shared information about Rent Smart Education and Support Society: an organization that helps renters understand their rights/responsibilities and increase successful tenancies. Metro Vancouver has a 10-year Housing Plan which made Rosanna consider what

is the growth strategy for the redevelopment and expansion of Williams Lake? Ensuring new housing developments are accessible (in the broadest sense of the word). Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) working to get the money released from the Government of Canada for the Province of BC for housing. Lots of work currently happening on the ground.

**Tatjana Bates, Food Policy Council:** Glad to see the fruits of many years of labour coming to fruition. The goal is to join forces with Food Hub and share resources and benefit the entire community.

**Krista Harvey, BGC Williams Lake:** ramping up for Christmas with hampers and stockings for youth. Food Bank for youth available at BGC. “Flex Your Head”, a positive mental health program, will be offered at the high schools in partnership with Foundry along with the “Healthy Relationships & Sexual Health” programs.

**Silvia Seibert-Dubray, City of WL:** new boss (Evan Dean) is great to work with and is interested in the collaborations happening. Currently working to build a list for warming shelters and will send it out to us when it's finished.

**Craig Glover, WL District Credit Union:** Still is quite a few people moving up from Lower Mainland. Still busy despite rising interest rates.

**Chris Van Der Mark – SD #27:** Highlighted the work Grant Gustafson is doing around Truth & Reconciliation. Good buy-in from professionals about how to improve practice and work collaboratively. Continuing work on designing the daycare spaces at the former Columneetza dorm location.

**Sherry Yonkman – Downtown Williams Lake:** Winter Lights is coming up on 3 December 2022. Twenty different participants in the coupon book this year. A window decorating contest & Scavenger hunt of the windows is coming up. Winter lights parade at 5 pm on Saturday (December 3) and Spirit Square will have activities afterwards (will be accepting donations for Women’s Contact Society Food Pantry and the Giving Tree project).

**Brianna van de Wijngaard – Food Hub:** film screening (<https://firstweeat.ca>) happening likely in early February

**Kelly MacDonald, IHA:** Primary role is to support communities and work to keep people well where they live. Working on Extreme Heat Planning.

**Barb Jones, Communities That Cares:** meets 2nd Tuesday of the month from 1 pm – 3 pm (breaking for December); Free Reclaiming Youth At Risk book for any participant who attended the Circle of Courage event in October (Thank you School District #27 for the financial support)

**Shannon Thom, WorkBC:** hiring fair update from 16 November 2022 (14 employers attended)

& 75 job seekers/visitors). We also attended the TNG Career Fair on 18 November 2022 at TRU which was also well attended.

**Motion to adjourn:** 1:05 pm Brianna van de Wijngaard