

# Meeting Record

## Senior's Needs Assessment Focus Group Meeting


Wednesday, February 01, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Facilitator and note taker:	Sue Lawther
Attendees:	Barb Instance, Kathy Macalister, Sue Lawther, Celia Brooks, Melissa Deller, Linda McKean, Mark Watson, Michelle Cary-Barnard
Regrets:	Phil Mitchell, Jan Mitchell, Freda Cook, Judy Gaudin-Riese
Guests:	none

Issue	Discussion	Action:
Opening Remarks	Sue welcomed everyone, and briefly introduced John Lee who, although not able to attend the meeting, is interested in helping the group. Kathy gave a brief bio for John.	
Review of Last Meeting's Action Steps	<p>Review Action Steps from last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the draft message. Clarify and bring 'tweaks' to the next meeting</li> <li>2. Review the list of potential stakeholder groups and identify one or more of the groups where you know someone you could contact to chat with</li> <li>3. Meet with Lorna to recap the meeting results and schedule timing of proposed town hall meeting</li> <li>4. Draft potential discussion points and bring to next meeting.</li> </ol>	<p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Sue/Melissa - Done</p> <p>Done</p>
SNAP update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Snowshoeing program is growing. Melissa will continue to engage with this group by doing the 'meet and greet' at the beginning and the coffee session at the end of the program. Jackie will take over the actual snowshoe guide role until Melissa is back on her feet.</li> <li>✓ The weekly drop in program is still scheduled to begin at Spring Creek, but startup has been delayed until early March</li> <li>✓ RMOW staff is assessing seniors centre locations, but it is early days yet and much work has yet to be done. But we are at last on their radar.</li> <li>✓ WCSS's move to Spring Creek is now 90% complete. Volunteer work has made the move possible, and the results are amazing. To have an administrative hub for many of the resource programs offered throughout the community is a dream come true! Zero Ceiling, Howe Sound Women's Group, and The Food Bank are just a few of the agencies setting up home in the building.</li> <li>✓ WCSS has a student for the next few months who will be helping WCSS in many of their programs.</li> <li>✓ WCSS's Lorna Van Straaten, Claire Mozes, and Melissa Deller and MAC representative, Sue Lawther, met with Margaret Mahan and Marty Frost of STAR (Senior Transportation Access and Resources). STAR is a division of BEST (Better Environmentally Sound Transportation), non-profit charity promoting sustainable transportation in BC since 1991. STAR is a province-wide coordinating initiative that works to assist urban, rural and remote agencies in helping seniors to age in place <a href="http://www.starcanada.ca/">http://www.starcanada.ca/</a> STAR makes transportation available,</li> </ul>	

	<p>accessible, predictable, convenient and affordable for seniors by working with agencies that provide these services. They provide technical and financial support for agencies wishing to provide transportation services to seniors, and it was generally agreed amongst the participants that Whistler would like to undergo a needs assessment to determine if this supported ride program would be successful in Whistler. The needs assessment will be undertaken with STAR funding, and will likely take place in May/June 2012.</p> <p>✓ The Long Hello reported on at our last meeting is now available at WPL</p>	
<p>Access Guide Funding</p>	<p>Lorna Van Straaten followed up with The Question regarding costs of the Access Guide production. Total costs are in the neighbourhood of \$5000. Revenues come from donations and advertising. It has been suggested that a reprint occur every 2 years instead of every year. The Question does donate funds, and we can ramp up the advertising to bring in more revenues, but at the end of the day, we will likely need to do some fund raising for this publication should we wish to continue it. The item has been placed on the Parking Lot for future consideration on or before December 2012.</p>	
<p>Whistler Seniors' Project</p>	<p>The team tweaked the consolidation of verbiage submitted (based on Judy's thoughts) to reflect the following:</p> <p><i>MAC and WCSS are working to bring together a cross section of Whistler Residents aged 50+ to explore how best we can have a voice in making Whistler a community in which we can age. We are beginning the process by speaking to members of groups like yours, and asking if your group would be interested in sending a representative to an informal discussion to contribute your group's point of view. Would you feel comfortable discussing this with your members? Our intention is to get the ball rolling with a plan of action that will, in time, give Whistler Seniors a voice and support seniors with health care, social and activity services and programming, transportation needs, etc.</i></p> <p><i>We would like to send you a few details to take to your group ... could we send those to you by e-mail (fax? Snail mail?) and follow up with you once you have had a chance to review the information and chat with your group?</i></p> <p><i>Do you know of other groups who are primarily senior populated who might be interested in joining an informal discussion?</i></p> <p>We will then send an introductory letter outlining in a little more detail what the initiative is all about, and follow up with a phone call inviting them to a town hall meeting (tentatively scheduled for March 14 @ 7 p.m.).</p> <p>The team then divided up the potential stakeholders for contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Quilting Club - Melissa</li> <li>* Book Club - Barb</li> <li>* Bridge Club - Mark</li> <li>* Arts Council - Barb</li> <li>* AFoW - Sue</li> <li>* WORCA - Linda</li> <li>* Club 50 - Judy</li> <li>* RMOW Council - Sue</li> <li>* Sr Ski Team - Judy</li> <li>* Whistler Singers - Judy</li> <li>* Food Bank Vollies - Melissa</li> <li>* WASP - Judy</li> <li>* Old Timers Hockey - Kathy</li> <li>* Village Hosts - Melissa</li> <li>* Mountain Hosts - Celia</li> <li>* WB Foundation - Sue</li> <li>* Millennium Rotary Club - Judy</li> <li>* Whistler Rotary Club - Sue</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Lions - Michelle</li> <li>* Council of Canadians - Michelle</li> <li>* Press - Sue</li> <li>* Vancouver Coastal Health – Melissa</li> <li>* MAC Exercise Class - Mark</li> </ul> <p>The team then threw some ideas on the table for discussion at the next meeting on issues that could be discussion topics at the town hall meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Estimated number of people in each group that are planning on staying in Whistler</li> <li>➤ Formation of an advisory committee</li> <li>➤ Is it a good idea to bring together Whistler seniors to form a critical mass and give seniors a stronger voice in the community? What are the strengths and weaknesses? Opportunities? Threats?</li> </ul> <p>At this point time ran out and further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.</p>	
Community Enrichment Grant Update	<p>Deadline for grant application submission is February 15<sup>th</sup>. Preliminary discussions indicate that a funding request for furniture and supplies for a seniors drop in centre would be well received. RMOW are hosting a workshop for the grant application process on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Jan and Phil have volunteered to work on the grant application with Sue and Linda.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft Whistler Senior's Voice project intro letter/provide feedback</li> <li>2. Contact stakeholders as noted above</li> <li>3. Bring further discussion topics for Town Hall Meeting to next meeting</li> </ol>	<p>Sue/All All All</p>
Set Next Meeting Date	<p>The next meeting date was set for <b>Wednesday, February 29, 2012</b> in the Small Community Room at the Whistler Medical Clinic at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Kim to make booking.</p>
<h2 style="color: #4F81BD;">Parking Lot</h2>		
1.	Nurse Practitioners in Whistler – a new model for gerontology?	
2.	How do Seniors age in place in a virtual community?	
3.	Is there a role for the group as a catalyst for support groups?	
4.	Library partnership potential?	
5.	Squamish Seniors Centre website model <a href="http://squamishseniorscentre.com/">http://squamishseniorscentre.com/</a>	

6.	Vehicle sharing of Adaptive Sports van
7.	Volunteer Fair 2012: Develop a list of activities to support seniors' activities in the community
8.	Access Whistler Guide for Seniors production timing and funding

**Next Meeting Takes Place....**

<b>Date</b>	29 February 2012	<b>Start</b>	6:30 p.m.	<b>End</b>	8:00 p.m.	<b>Location</b>	Small community room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, Whistler Medical Clinic
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