

# Meeting Record

## Senior's Needs Assessment Focus Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 04, 2012

6:30 p.m.

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

Issue	Discussion	Action:
Opening Remarks	Sue welcomed everyone, thanked everyone for the wonderful flowers and opened the meeting.	
Review of Last Meeting's Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Touch base with each stakeholder contact to verbally confirm date and time of informal discussion meeting</li> <li>2. Obtain e-mail address for each stakeholder</li> <li>3. Offer transportation</li> <li>4. Outreach and PR as noted above</li> <li>5. Keep reviewing seniors' centre opportunities</li> <li>6. Advise team of Community Enrichment Grant presentation date</li> <li>7. Issue Press Release</li> <li>8. Design flyer and distribute for posting</li> </ol>	<p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p>
Whistler Seniors' Voice Meeting Debrief	<p>Each table facilitator was asked for a summary of their table's feelings about the meeting. The general consensus was co-operation, willingness, increased awareness of the issues on the table. Only one comment was heard about MAC being "only about the housing" and most felt that MAC should be the vehicle used to move forward as it is already established and accepted in the community. Much of what we as a focus group have identified as issues within the community was substantiated during the break out table dialogues, and it was good to receive this feedback.</p> <p>It was generally agreed that seniors want more of a voice. Suggestions highlighted the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase MAC membership to build distribution channels</li> <li>2. Broaden our focus</li> <li>3. Establish a Council of Seniors with a Muni Rep</li> <li>4. Create awareness that we are ageing and will need services in the future that are not currently available in Whistler due to Whistler's relatively young status as a municipality</li> <li>5. We need to build critical mass</li> </ol> <p>Discussion then moved on to the "how" with the following summary points":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Online forum / bulletin board</li> <li>✓ MAC to speak to community groups on a one-to-one basis to create</li> </ul>	

	<p>awareness of our need to build critical mass to advocate for seniors issues in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Newspaper articles</li> <li>✓ TV monthly appearances</li> <li>✓ Identify a representative from each participating group to act as point person for information distribution and collection</li> <li>✓ Compile a data base</li> <li>✓ Seniors' Blog (e.g. The Monday Report)</li> <li>✓ Open a Facebook account</li> </ul> <p>From these highlights, discussion followed as to priorities and next steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build a database by placing an ad in the newspaper e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are You A Senior?</li> <li>Are You Interested in Receiving Information On XXXXX</li> <li>e-mail <a href="mailto:info@whistlermac.org">info@whistlermac.org</a> or <a href="mailto:snap@mywcss.org">snap@mywcss.org</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Send an e-mail to each participating group's contact to request an invitation to their next meeting</li> <li>3. Generate follow-up meetings 3-4 times a year to encourage exchange of information and building of advocacy priorities</li> <li>4. Invite all participants to the MAC AGM</li> <li>5. Send out minutes and executive summary to all participants and to Council</li> <li>6. Ask newspapers to run a monthly column written by MAC / WCSS / seniors with a "did you know ..." hook to entice people to read it</li> </ol>	
<p>Community Enrichment Grant Application Update</p>	<p>Sue reported that the presentation given to Council on April 3<sup>rd</sup> was well received, but questioned intently as the general feeling seemed to be that the fittings and fixtures could be obtained by community donation. Explanations were given that the requested items needed to be purpose specific ... e.g. a large pool table that someone is wanting to get rid of will not work as the space is small and will be shared with other groups – hence the pool table needs to be compact and foldable; sofas need to be high, firm, and have arms for ease of entry and departure for seniors; computers and electrical equipment is best purchased new to obtain warranties and reliability in use; everything needs to be purpose built to fit into a small space that will be used by other groups (partnering with other groups in the community); ReUse It items have often seen better days or are not purpose built for seniors' use.</p>	
<p>Measuring Up Committee Report</p>	<p>Sue attended the Measuring Up Select Committee meeting on behalf of MAC. Key issue on the table was the suggested actions from the accessibility mapping project. These suggested actions, once prioritized, will become actionables and will form the basis of a 3-5 year work plan. The actions will be prioritized at the May meeting.</p> <p>Sue will seek a MAC representative at the AGM, otherwise we will have to give up our chair and rely on Melissa to wear two hats and represent seniors' interests at the table.</p>	
<p>Annual General Meeting</p>	<p>A quick review of the AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ April 16<sup>th</sup></li> <li>▪ Be there at 6:15 p.m. if you can help set up tables, chairs, coffee, tea, food, etc.</li> <li>▪ Marg to pick up tea from David's Teas</li> <li>▪ Doc to pick up coffee from Starbucks</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sue to bring Costco goodies</li> <li>▪ Kathy, Freda, and Doreen Watson to help Marg on the registration table</li> <li>▪ Gord and Garry to man a Housing Information table</li> <li>▪ Bruce to chair the meeting; Sue to do President's Report; Marg to do Directors Nominations and Membership Report; Gord to take minutes</li> </ul>	
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Talk to Board about sponsoring an ad in the local papers</li> <li>2. Send e-mail to all participants inviting them to attend the MAC AGM on April 16<sup>th</sup></li> <li>3. Compile executive summary and send out with minutes</li> <li>4. Meet with Resort TV</li> <li>5. Meet with Pique and Question editors</li> <li>6. Book next Council Community presentation to update Council on Town Hall Meeting and ask for the formation of a Council of Seniors</li> <li>7. Talk to webmaster about setting up a Blog and opening a Facebook account</li> <li>8. Seek new Measuring Up Select Committee rep at the AGM</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sue</li> <li>2. Sue</li> <li>3. Sue</li> <li>4. Melissa</li> <li>5. Melissa</li> <li>6. Sue</li> <li>7. Sue</li> <li>8. Sue</li> </ol>
Set Next Meeting Date	The next meeting date was set for <b>Wednesday, May 02, 2012</b> in the Small Community Room at the Whistler Medical Clinic at 6:30 p.m.	Kim to make booking.
<b>Parking Lot</b>		
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.	Access Whistler Guide for Seniors production timing and funding for future publications	
8.		

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

<b>Date</b>	02 May 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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