

Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
Meeting Minutes
April 5th, 2017
12-1pm
Courtenay Public Library

Facilitators: Betty Tate (ARNBC), Sarah Sullivan (AVI)

Attendees: Roger Kishi (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Bunny Shannon (CVSPS; Lush Valley), Joyce Wilson (St George's Church), Hugh McKinnon (Town of Comox), Kathy Duperron (Cumberland Affordable Housing and Homelessness Select Committee), Nancy Carban (Salvation Army), Colleen Nelson (VIRL), Cynthia Zirkwitz and Pauline Lawrence (Comox Valley SDA Church), Jonathan Kerr (Division of Family Practice), Bev Miller (BC Housing).

Regrets: Bob Scales (BC Lions Club), Andrea Cupelli (Coordinator)

1. Braidwood Presentation - Roger Kishi

- a. 3 story 35 unit affordable housing project for low to moderate income adults (singles and couples)
- b. M'akola Housing Society is owner and manager and Wachiay Friendship Centre is local sponsor to coordinate services for tenants
- c. 26 studio apartments and 9 one bedroom apartments
- d. Rents range from \$375 - \$757 per month
- e. 1 one bedroom suite is for live in caretaker
- f. AIDS -VI, CareAVan, Lush Valley and Island Health - MHSU have all agreed to partner with Wachiay to provide some services to tenants. This is not additional service but what these agencies are already doing
- g. Construction starts September 2017 with occupancy September 2018
- h. The PP presentation is attached

2. Update on Pidcock House Renovations

- a. Renovations are ongoing
- b. Update meeting April 12 so will be more detailed update at next meeting

3. CVRD Budget Approval of 5YP

- a. Budget was approved by CVRD Board last week. \$60,000 to Braidwood and \$60,000 for Dawn to Dawn to buy 2 condominiums
- b. Proposal and presentation for \$30,000 contribution from Town of Comox is next for Dawn to Dawn condominiums

4. Municipal Planner Presentations - May General Coalition Meeting

- a. Will extend invite to May's meeting
 - i. planner from Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland and CVRD
- b. Questions we want to ask them as a Coalition?

- i. Ask for an update on where they all are with their affordable housing plans.
- ii. What requirements are there for developers to build affordable housing – e.g build a certain number of affordable units with each development or pay into affordable housing fund? What are pros and cons of these options?
- iii. How do they disperse affordable housing funds – process?
- iv. How can we work with them to explore micro-housing possibilities
- v. How can Coalition work together with municipal planners to support their work?
- c. Meeting will be for whole hour and there will be no business meeting that month

5. Provincial Election Candidate Meetings

- a. Members of LT and HPT have met with Green Candidate Ernie Sellentin; NDP Candidates Ronna-Rae Leonard and Scott Fraser and Conservative Candidate Leah McCulloch. Gord Johns MP was also met with. All meetings have been good discussions and the candidates have appreciated the opportunity to learn more about homelessness and housing issues in the community. A meeting with BC Liberal candidate Jim Benninger is scheduled for next week.
- b. Upcoming all-candidate meetings will be announced on FB and via Coalition email list. Members are encouraged to participate in All Candidates meetings and ask questions about housing.
- c. Next all-candidates meeting is hosted by Chamber of Commerce at the Sid Williams Theatre April 24th 7-9 PM
- d. The briefing note with suggested questions for candidates will be re-circulated with these minutes and all members are encouraged to submit a question about housing and homelessness for the All Candidates meetings.

6. Website Resource Page

- i. Reminder to send relevant links to Andrea by April 30th

7. NIC – Student Housing Letter

- a. Drafting a letter to talk about Student Housing plans
- b. NIC, Hospital, Mt Washington – all of these put a crunch on current housing stock
- c. Coalition to be more pro-active about reaching out to find out about housing when big construction projects come to town
- d. NIC President is going on sabbatical and is doing research and talking with community groups about how NIC can collaborate with others in the community
- e. Building a residence is a part of NIC's current 5 Year Strategic Plan but it is medium to long term.

- f. post-secondary institutions weren't allowed to borrow money for student housing in the past, but that has recently changed, so may provide some flexibility on getting NIC started on a housing plan for students.
- g. Members agreed this was a good time to connect with NIC to have a conversation about housing - LT will go ahead and write letter

8. Leadership Team Nominees for 2017-18

- a. Must be a rep from a member agency
- b. Leadership skills, networking etc, able to commit the time
- c. Andrea to send information email/invitation to submit nominations so think about stepping forward
- d. As we have 6 person LT ideally it would be good to get 3 new members this June and 3 existing members would go off in order to maintain continuity
- e. Decision for new LT at June Coalition meeting

9. PiT 2018 Planning Committee

- a. Need to start planning in early fall
- b. HPT did it last year, but better to have a committee of Coalition members involved this year
- c. Time commitment
- d. Hope to do PiT count in Feb/March of 2018 when Extreme Weather Protocol is still in effect

10. All-Teams Meeting

- a. Save the Date: Friday, May 5th 9:15am (location TBD)

11. Other Updates

- a. Media Forums for non-for-profits.
 - i. 3 sessions – one on using Google Drive/tools, one on writing media releases and one on increasing online public profile
 - ii. <https://tidechange.ca/2017/03/23/welcoming-communities-coalition-project-community-forum-press-release/>
- b. Comox Valley Community Health Network – deferred to next meeting
- c. HPS and UW funding proposal update
 - i. UW invited us to a funding announcement party on April 20th
 - ii. Will know more details
 - iii. HPS should be announced shortly, no word yet
- d. BC Non-Profit Housing Association's Vancouver Island Regional Education, Network and TradeShow - April 6 in Parksville
<https://secure.bcnpha.ca/SITES/VIRENT/Home/VIRENT/Home.aspx?hkey=7174e4ba-6db7-4e0e-b657-5591bd55362>
- e. Guest Speakers for meetings
 - i. Still looking for potential guest speaker ideas – please send any ideas to Andrea

12. Team Updates

- a. Joint HPT/PAT was a success. A few more meetings together
- b. HDT is going to tour Muchalat Construction at their next meeting. They build modular houses, so would be interesting to see if they can build small modular homes.
- c. PAT – Provincial Election, Media Meeting on Apr 13th! Recruiting members from press, scheduling a communications meeting with CVRD afterwards, new handouts printed