

Exchange Inner City Membership Meeting Notes

Date: July 30, 2018

In Attendance: Anastasia Gaisenok (Check Your Head), Anna Godefroy (Binners' Project), Bobby MacDonald (UGM), Brian Rutledge (Local Resident), Chris Neale-Clark (Local Resident/DTES Business Directory), Dakota Shelby (Check Your Head), David LePage (Buy Social Canada/CIRES), Davin Boutang (Resident), Kahoruko (Guest from Japan), Ludvik Skalicky (Resident), Marc Lawrence (Local Resident), Pete Fry (Strathcona Resident/RayCam), Shari LaLiberte (MVA), Shirley Vivian (Local resident), Wilson Liang (Local Resident), Steven Johnston (Exchange Inner City Director), Alisha Maxfield (Exchange Inner City Project Coordinator)

Guests: Kendall Addison (City of Vancouver - Healthy City Scholar), Sarah Carten (City of Vancouver)

Regrets: Amelia Huang (SFU Urban Studies Student), Austin Lui (EMBERS Eastside Works), Brenda Crump (NewStart Bridging Program -VEES), Brennan Fitzgerald (HxBIA), Chris Boyd (CleanStart BC), Christina Wong (Employ to Empower), Deanna Wing (Central City Foundation), Edmund Ma (Ma Foundation/VCRC), Eileen Clabburn (Exchange Inner City Admin Staff), Elizabeth Ballantyne (DTES Neighbourhood House), Glenn (Local Resident), Farhad Farhangfar (SUCCESS), Grace Tait (YWCA Crabtree Corner), Hendrik Beune (Village Vancouver, Megaphone), Janani Ravikularm (Check Your Head), Jarett Rude (Open Door Group), Jean- Paul Beran (JustWork), Jennifer Froese (Directions-Greater Vancouver Family Services), Jose Fernandez-Garcia (City of Vancouver), Johanna Li (EMBERS), Judy McGuire (Our Place), Kellie Carroll (NICCSS), Kit Rothschild (PACE Society), Lydia Meister (Metro Vancouver Consortium-Transitions), Maija Fiorante (Buy Social Canada), Mandy Hardwick (RainCity LGBTQ2S+), Marcia Nozick (EMBERS), Matt Smedley (Mission Possible), Minshu Mo (NICCSS), Rocky James (MVAEC), Scott Clark (ALIVE), Sean Condon (Vancity Community Foundation), Sharon Belli (Carnegie Centre), Shaugn Schwartz (CIRES), Shelley Bolton (East Van Roasters/PHS), Suddhodan Baidya (SUCCESS), Tom Wanklin (City of Vancouver), Trish Kelly (Potluck Cafe Society), Viveca Ellis (BC Poverty Reduction Coalition-CAN Program), Wes Regan (City of Vancouver),

1. Welcome & Traditional Acknowledgement:

- Meeting started at 4:05pm
- Anna welcomed everyone and conducted the traditional territorial acknowledgement and a quick round of introductions.

2. Approval of Agenda & Previous Meeting Notes:

- Both the previous meeting notes and agenda were approved by everyone in the room nodding in agreement

3. Presentation from COV Land Use Amenities Healthy City Scholar

- Feasibility study is focused on Club 44, in the old Evelyne Saller space on Alexander St., space is 9,000 sq ft. totale, and is equipped with storage, and a kitchen, that previously served 800 meals/day.
- The City asked for feedback and ideas from members in the room as to what could happen with this space.

Question: Is there going to be a community kitchen that community members can have access to cook their own meals? -City staff said that this could be possible, but that a non-profit service would need to take on the lease and agree to operate the kitchen as such.

Question: A member asked what happens to the kitchen and who it is currently serving now. Also asked if there will be a request for proposal (RFP) contract go out for the space, and who is going to manage the RFP, would it be the City's social procurement department? - The City will not be putting out an RFP for the space and it will not be managed under the social procurement department.

Question: Is the space owned by the City and part of the Property Endowment Fund (PEF)? What is the zoning for the space? - The City shared that this building is not owned by the City and is not part of the PEF, it is currently owned by the Veteran's Memorial Housing Society, which operates the social housing above. The space is located in City zone sub-area 4 of the Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer District - and is available for social services and light industrial needs.

Suggestion: The space could be used for a youth detox centre and culinary education facility for the youth all in one location.

Question: The current kitchen food service contractor has no relationship to DTES, so the question is who will be the future contractor?

Suggestion: Street market lost space at on Powell St and have since been looking for indoor space. It would be good to have them move into this building. Also looking at possibility to support Chinatown small businesses grocers in the form of a co-op in this building.

Question: will the lease term be sold at market rate?

Answer: will be determine by the non-profit or organization that takes over the lease. The City said that there is an opportunity for the lease to be available for below-market rate, but again it depends who takes the lease on and the City will have no control over the rate once that occurs.

4. Personnel & Working Group Updates:

Co-Chairs' Update :

See Meeting Package for Anna's update. Wilson has returned from holiday, and did not have an updates for members at this time.

Director Update (Steve):

See Meeting Package for Steve's update.

CED Planner Update (Wes Regan):

Please see Wes update in the Meeting Package. Wes was away on holidays therefore he was not at the meeting to provide further information.

Project Coordinator Update (Alisha):

See Meeting Package for Alisha's update.

Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) Working Group Update:

See Meeting Package for updates.

Retail Gentrification & Social Inclusion Working Group Update:

See Meeting Package for updates.

Social Procurement Roundtable:

See Meeting Package for updates.

5. Project Updates:

CAN - Community Action Network:

No updates.

Metro Vancouver Transition Consortium:

No updates.

6. Updates on Urban Core:

- EIC has taken on the admin task of Urban Core, officially started July 1st.
- One subcommittee has agreed to merge with Exchange Inner City, that being the Legislative Change committee.
- Urban Core will have AGM in November, their plans are to attract more members to join Unban Core and to share their achievements to date.

Exchange Inner City members were invited to join Urban Core if they're interested.

- Social Hiring Action Committee has been on hold for, but will have meeting in September, if anyone is interested in this work.
- The Legal Vending and Advocacy Committee is waiting to hear who the successful proponent is for the City's Legal Vending Study and is waiting for direction from the City and proponent to support this work.
- The Networking and Outreach Committee is focuses on reaching out to new members and organizations to join Urban Core, as well as planning the AGM, and updating Urban Core's communication channels (i.e., website and newsletter). This committee may also put on a job fair later this year or beginning of next year.
- Alisha will keep Exchange Inner City members updated on Urban Core's work, and encouraged members to join Urban Core if they're interested.

7. Updates on Mitacs Application:

- Exchange Inner City is completing a Mitacs application to bring a Masters student on in January to work on the Local Card, specifically to do research to determine what the DTES and V6A postal code area's Local Market Basket Measure would be. Exchange has applied for matching funds through Eastside Community Fund to support the student and the Mitacs application and will get an update about the funding in September, or early October.
- Stay tuned for updates.

8. EIC Summer Social in August/ Reschedule September's General Meeting

- All members in the room agreed to have a summer social and would like to have it on the same date as the canceled August General Membership meeting (Monday, Aug. 27th 4pm-6pm).
- Alisha informed members that her and Steve are presenting at the EconoUs Conference in Moncton, New Brunswick in September and it falls during the Sept. 24th General Membership Meeting, therefore we need to reschedule. All members in attendance agreed to reschedule the September meeting to **Monday, Sept. 17th 4pm-6pm.**
- **Action Item: Alisha will update the calendar invite for members.**

9. Collecting Feedback from Exchange IC Members for Annual Report

- Alisha is working on the 2018 annual report for Vancouver City Council. The report will be shared with City Council on September 18th. Therefore, Alisha will be reaching out to all Exchange IC members for feedback via survey and for a discussion during the September 17th general meeting. Alisha is also happy to arrange one-one meetings with organizations or individual members as well. Alisha will ask members for their comments on how Exchange IC benefited them or their organization, what worked

and did not work, and obtain suggestions for improvements and future work.

- Members are also welcomed to reach out to Alisha by phone/email to share information as it comes up for them, or to set a one-one meeting.

10. Presentation from Chris re: DTES Vancouver Business Directory

- Business directory to promote local DTES businesses and is searchable by name, category, or address.
- Directory includes local service providers as well as community related information; such as job postings, events and other activities.
- Chris encouraged Exchange IC members to use the directory as a resource for their work and individual needs, so that he can show businesses that the directory is being used and is valuable. Chris also asked that members support him in promoting the website.
- Chrill will be improving the event calendar to cover more local events, and encouraged Exchange IC members to share events with him or ask for their own admin access to update events themselves directly on the website.
- The directory features a blog to share news and some of Chris' own activist opinion re: the DTES community.
- Steve expressed appreciation to Chris for all his support with Exchange Inner City and the Local Card, particularly because Chris' directory has promoted the Local Card and he is offering new businesses discounts to join the directory if they also sign up with the Local Card.
- **Action Item: Alisha will speak to Urban Core Executive about sharing Urban Core related events on Chris' directory, and will follow up with Chris re: same.**

11. Presentation from Check your head.

- Educating youth for global change and local action, specifically on economic, social and environmental justice. They have a holistic view of justice, and a more systemic approach to their advocacy efforts. Educate, Activate, and Empower are their principles.
- Starting a 3 year project focusing on youth building a new economy to make meaningful changes, and have partnered with Exchange Inner City and other economic development related organizations on this project. The project will examine economic justice activities with an intersectional approach, and identify ways for youth to be involved, develop new ideas/policies/projects/programs, and to share their experience and perspective. The project was developed to fill the gap of not having the youth voice at various policy making tables.
- Dakota and Janani are the two Youth Peer Leaders, and Dakota will be the liaison between Exchange Inner City and the Check Your Head Youth Cohort. Check Your Head will be assessing Exchange's work and seeing

what would be the best fit for youth to get involved with. Dakota shared example of youth supporting the Local Card work and assisting promotion and reaching out to sign up new businesses.

- Steve shared that Exchange Inner City is happy to have the youth join all working groups and the membership committee and any projects the interest them. Also interested in forming an Exchange Inner City youth working group that is youth led, and could have the youth from Check Your Head support with developing and coordinating this working group.
- Dakota also mentioned that Check Your Head is interested in working with other community organizations and asked members in the room if they have opportunities for youth to support their organizational work, to let Dakota and Anastasia know.
- Will be planning a speed-dating type session in the fall for youth to learn about various organizations in the community and then they can choose to work with the organization(s) they're interested in.

Question: What is Check Your Head's age range for youth? From age 13 to 24, although they mostly attract youth who are late teens, early 20's (such as 17-24)

Suggestion: A member recommended setting the youth up with all the Neighbourhood Houses in Vancouver.

Question: What training do the youth have, how will they support various organizations, and does Check Your Head pay the youth to be involved? Dakota and Janani will liaise between the organizations and the youth and will support both. Check Your Head provides facilitation training and various workshops (anti-oppression training, introduction about how to work in community and hold space for everyone) to educate the youth and prepare them accordingly. Check Your Head will also provide honorarium for the youth's work, but encourage organizations to support payment if they're able to.

Question: How many youth are involved in the project so far? Check Your Head has a few now and hope to have 30 youth by end of August. They will be recruiting youth in the first two weeks of August and will share the call out invite with Exchange Members.

Action Item: Dakota to send youth call out/recruitment invite to Alisha and Alisha will circulate with Exchange Inner City membership list.

Comment: There would be opportunities for youth through the City and their partner organizations working in the food asset committee and on food security issues.

Comment: Steve mentioned it would be valuable to have youth voice at the community benefit agreement policy discussions. Steve will reach out with more

information, as they're planning a youth session. Steve also suggested that Check Your Head keep an eye on new plans, policies and strategies that will go to City Council in September, specifically the Poverty Reduction Plan, to find opportunities for youth to engage in.

Please see attached presentation (in email) from Check Your Head for more information.

12. New Business Arising and Announcements:

No new business was raised.

There was a discussion about Exchange Inner City possibly working on a community led DTES tour that showcases the positive and true side of DTES, discussion will take place during the September meeting. This was in response to a member raising concerns about current tours giving false information, and that these tours should be led by community members.

Some used furniture will be available when UGM move out of the current location.

Livable Income Vancouver (LIV) now have a website and social media channels, please check it out and follow them. LIV will be hosting a town hall soon about Guaranteed Annual Income, everyone welcome to join. Shari can share more details with Exchange members as they arise.

One of UGM's buildings will be demolished in the fall, therefore they will be giving away/selling their furniture from this building in September to the local community. Anyone interested in various furniture items from UGM, to contact Bobby. Bobby will share details with Exchange IC members as they become available.

13. Traditional Closing and Adjournment:

Steve led the members in a traditional closing. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.