

Exchange Inner City Membership Meeting Notes

Jan 29, 2018

In Attendance: Anna Godefroy (Binnars' Project), Brian (Resident), Bobby MacDonald (UGM), Caroline Brunt (VCC), Chris Neale-Clark (Resident), Christina Wong (Employ to Empower), David LePage (Buy Social Canada/CIRES), Davin Boutang (Resident), Deanna Wing (Central City Foundation), Eileen Clabburn (Resident), Elizabeth Ballantyne (DTES Neighbourhood House), Hendrik Beune (Village Vancouver, Megaphone), Jarrett Rude (Open Door Group), Johanna Li (EMBERS), Judy McGuire (Our Place), Matt Smedley (Mission Possible), Marc Lawrence, (Resident), Pete Fry (Strathcona Resident/RayCam), Sean Condon (VanCity), Shari LaLiberte (MVA), Stephanie Chan (Employ to Empower), Viveca Ellis (BC Poverty Reduction Coalition-CAN Program), Wes Regan (City of Vancouver), Steven Johnston (Exchange Inner City Director), Alisha Maxfield (Exchange Inner City Project Coordinator)

Regrets: Amelia Huang (SFU Urban Studies Student), Ara Beittoei (LEDlab), Darlene Gering (Bridge2Work), Daryl Wiebe (Streetohome), Derek Weiss (UGM), Dylan Goggs (CleanStart), Edmund Ma (Ma Foundation/VCRC), Elizabeth Vu (Japanese Language School/PSF), Farhad Farhangfar (SUCCESS), Grace Tait (YWCA Crabtree Corner), Jean-Paul Beran (JustWork), Jennifer Froese (Directions-Greater Vancouver Family Services), Jose Fernandez-Garcia (City of Vancouver), Kellie Carroll (NICCSS), Kevin Huang (Hua Foundation), Kiri Bird (LEDlab), Kit Rothschild (PACE Society), Landon Hoyt (HxBIA), Lyn (WISH Service Coordinator, Transitions), Lydia Meister (Metro Vancouver Consortium-Transitions), Ludvik Skalicky (Resident), Mandy Hardwick (RainCity LGBTQ2S+), Marcia Nozick (EMBERS), Margaret (PSF), Maryka Omatsu (Japanese Canadian Community Building Group), Matt Campbell (Let's Speak Up), Rocky James (MVAEC), Scott Clark (ALIVE), Sharon Belli (Carnegie Centre), Shaugn Schwartz (CIRES), Shelley Bolton (East Van Roasters/PHS), Suddhodan Baidya (SUCCESS), Tom Wanklin (City of Vancouver), Wilson Liang (Local Resident), Zoe Ozirney (JustWork)

1. Welcome & Traditional Acknowledgement:

- Include start time of meeting, and name of member doing the welcome/acknowledgement

2. Approval of Agenda & Previous Meeting Notes:

- Both approved
- Alisha to correct an error in previous meeting notes regarding MVA. Should state that MVA is doing inter-stakeholder work on the GAI pilot, not that MVA agrees to do a GAI pilot.

3. Discuss and sign Exchange's new Terms of Reference and Governance Document

Steve informed members that we wanted to get a good understanding from the Terms of Reference (TOR) process to identify who are our active members and ensure that we maintain a broad group of individuals and people to represent the inner city community, as well as to have a defined membership. The existing members from inception of Exchange to 2017, will remain as is so long as they sign on and agree with the new TOR. Any new members who would like to join can request to do so and apply through our Membership Committee. The Membership Committee will provide a structured process to bring on new people and will ask for their representation. This allows us to ensure we have high level decision makers at the table while still having voices in the room with lived experience.

Steve asked members if they had any concerns with the TOR document, Hendrik found a typo on page 3. Steve will make a correction to this error.

Hendrik asked how we would monitor and ensure that we are working within the Terms of Reference set out. Hendrik further asked if there will there be an evaluation process for working groups and/or projects. Hendrik shared his reasoning for his question by asking- what if several developers come into a working group and say that this is how things should be and co-opt the process, or come to an Exchange Membership meeting and try to stray the decision making their way.

Steve shared that working group members, are not necessarily Exchange Committee members, and that the Membership Committee would need to accept new members and ensure that there is broad and equal representation at the table, so that one

organization or stakeholder group could not sway the vote or decision making process.

David added to Hendrik's point by stating that there needs to be clarity made to say that no policy decision can be made outside (or at working group meetings) of the Exchange Membership meetings and committee.

Henrik added that we need to have a checkpoint, to ensure TOR evaluation.

Marc asked what type of matters would the membership vote on.

Steve said that we often have not had to vote on something in this group, as we could usually come to a consensus based decision. Steve did share an example from 2017, in that there was a research report that went out in the community that many members did agree with, but there was no agreement among members about how we should proceed forward, so we ended up voting on how to proceed with the problem.

Judy asked if the Executive Committee could take a look at who should speak on behalf of the organization at big events, or big consultation sessions. Steve agreed to same.

Action Item: Steve will add "Exchange Representation" at events/consultation as a topic to the Exec Committee meeting.

4. Discussion and confirmation of new Executive Committee

Alisha informed everyone that the names brought forward for the 2018 Executive Committee are; Pete Fry, Wilson Liang, Anna Godefroy, Elizabeth Ballantyne, Johanna Li, and Jarrett Rude.

Steve shared that the structure of the Executive Committee would be six to eight different positions available, a Chair and Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and advisors. Steve added that we would like people with lived experience to have equal footing within the chair position.

Hendrik asked to put his name forward for the Executive Committee. Noted.

Steve encouraged that he would like a consensus based decision model to agree with the names put forward for the Executive Committee, and asked if everyone was ok with those who were nominated for the 2018 Executive Committee.

There was unanimous approval with all members in the room for the names put forward to make up the 2018 Executive Committee.

Action Item: Steve will reach out to the new Executive Committee members to set up a meeting and sort out who will do what role and provide more information regarding duties.

Action Item: Steve Alisha will take feedback received regarding the TOR, update it, and circulate the document and have members sign off on it.

5. Discussion of Membership Committee

Steve asked if there was anyone who would be interested in being a part of the Membership Committee, to help bring in new Exchange Members.

6. Benefits of a Youth Working Group

Steve shared that Exchange is interested in establishing a Youth Working Group to specifically look at youth related issues and the economy. Alisha added that Exchange would like to partner with the youth involved in the Check Your Head Program out of the Broadway Youth Resource Centre.

Hendrik suggested that we reach out to the youth from the Chinatown Concern Group to be involved in the working group.

Pete suggested starting a Youth Job Fair, to find specific youth within the inner city

from this process and create our youth working group out of those interested at the job fair, as well as allow the job fair to be a space to build up the capacity of local youth .

Steve mentioned that we will also be doing focused engagement session at Granville Youth Centre on Granville and Davie Street area and engaging youth there to see if they are interested in getting involved.

Marc suggested that we approach Covenant House to find more youth who may be interested in getting involved.

Judy suggested that we talk to the youth teams and youth networks/programs at RayCam Community Centre, Strathcona Community Centre, Hastings Community Centre, and the Graduation Strategy and MoreSports programs out of Our Place. She added that it would be good to engage youth from various neighbourhood community groups, so that we do not have youth from other neighbourhoods parachuting in and saying how things should be done, yet they don't live in the community.

Steve asked if everyone is in agreement to pursue this Youth Working Group further. Members around the room agreed with a 'yes' and or nodding of heads around the room.

Steve added that we will continue to engage with other youth networks in the inner city and include them in this working group, and then support the group to build capacity and lead themselves and take the work forward on their own.

Steve asked everyone if there other working groups people think we should form, outside of a youth group and our existing working groups.

Judy suggested forming a policy working group. Steve added that we are already

engaged with the Urban Core Legislative Change Committee and do not want to duplicate meetings on that focus. Therefore we will continue to work with Urban Core regarding policy related matters and can report back to the membership about what's happening with that committee.

Elizabeth commented that our Exchange Membership meetings would be a great place to bring up policy issues since we have a TOR set up to figure out how we move forward on various issues. Everyone in the room agreed to same.

Chris suggested that Exchange form a seniors working group. Marc added that Exchange would be a great space for seniors to bring forward their issues. Everyone agreed to same.

Action Item: Alisha and Steve will reach out to other youth networks and neighbourhoods beyond Check Your Head to form the Youth Working Group, as well as engage with the community about creating a Seniors Working Group.

7. Personnel & Working Group Updates:

Co-Chairs' Update:

Hendrik shared that he went to a letter writing workshop, has been involved with the Bidders Project work a lot lately, and is continuing to work on a Poverty Reduction Research Project with UBC and is currently doing data analysis for the project. Hendrik added that he will provide members with a written Co-chair report later.

Director Update:

Steve shared that we have been in conversation with Urban Core about merging some of the community economic development work that both groups do, to fall under Exchange Inner City only, to minimize overlap and duplication of meetings. Steve added that Urban Core and Exchange also talked about pooling resources together into one working group. Exchange has suggested that we could share our resources and administrative support with Urban Core, since they will no longer have the administrative support from LEDlab after June. There are still more conversations to have around this topic, for now Urban Core is going away and speaking to their membership about what they want to focus on beyond community economic

development (CED) work and see if there are other initiatives they would like to support so we can merge all of the CED work under Exchange Inner City.

Steve also shared with members that he accepted a position with the City of Vancouver to continue the work on the City's Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) Policy.

Hendrik asked if Steve will be reporting back to the CBA Working Group about the latest update on the City's CBA Policy? Yes, Steve will continue to update the CBA working group about the City's policy. Steve will also be sure to share what organization he is representing (Exchange or City of Vancouver) when he is attending the CBA meetings and other meetings for that matter.

CED Planner Update (Wes Regan):

Wes informed members that Anna has been nominated for the Trophee Des Francais de L'etranger - Prix du Public award via Le Petit Journal in France. The award is given to French resident working abroad, demonstrating leadership, excellence and innovation. Wes added that Anna does need people to vote for her in order to win, and asked if everyone could do so. Anna will share the link with Exchange members.

Hendrik asked if there was any new information regarding the St. Paul's CBA process? Wes shared that the City has mainly been speaking with St. Paul's staff about the types of opportunities that will come out of a CBA, and have been providing more clarity about what a CBA is and means for them. The City has cleared up with the St Paul's staff that a CBA means that they do not need to buy things like their MRI equipment from the downtown eastside, but that they can provide employment through various subcontracting opportunities with local businesses and social enterprises.

David shared with everyone that he sent a letter to Sadhu Johnston (City of Vancouver Manager) and MaryClare Zak (City of Vancouver Social Policy & Planning) about putting together a CBA Community Task Force Committee to respond to large scale developments, specifically St. Paul's Hospital.

Sean asked Wes what type of community benefit opportunities have been discussed with St Paul's? Sean added that in the past we talked about having social enterprises going into their retail space, and that St. Paul's consider looking for different areas to buy from local business and social enterprises like gifts/coffee in their gift stores etc. St Wes shared that St. Paul's and City of Vancouver staff have agreed that they need to come up with some kind of memorandum of understanding (MOU) between them regarding the CBA Agreement. Wes also mentioned that St Paul's staff are interested in engaging with the community at the CBA Day of Learning in March and have noted that there is a need for this event. Wes mentioned that St. Paul's staff are uncomfortable of getting outside the traditional planning process, and they see the day of learning as a launch pad of the CBA process. The City will ask that many of the St. Paul's staff show up and have encouraged that this is an important step in the CBA engagement process.

Steve shared with Wes that it's been very challenging to begin a dialogue with St Paul's staff, as they are not answering many of our engagement efforts or even responding other than to say they will attend the CBA Day of Learning. David added that Marcia Nozick had even reached out to some people she had connections with on their Board of Directors and their St Paul's Foundation board, and did not get any kind of response.

Marc asked if St Paul's Hospital will definitely be developed in the neighbourhood. Wes said that at this time there is nothing stopping it from being developed so plans will be moving forward for construction.

Alisha asked Wes to share what a CBA is, for folks in the room who don't know what it means or are beginning to learn about CBAs.

Elizabeth mentioned that there is a need to pull the two strategies (i.e., the City and St. Paul's and St. Paul's and the community) together for the best outcomes from a CBA, and that there needs to be a conversation around this in order to form good relationships at the get go.

Marc it seems to me that even though St Paul's is not necessarily a developer organization, they are acting like a developer when they're not being very engaging with the community. Marc added that he knows that St. Paul's is at odds with a lot of health issues and principles that the downtown eastside embraces.

Shari asked Wes if there were any updates on the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy. Wes shared that they will bring a framework forward in June to City Council for final approval. Wes added that they might model the framework after the City's Reconciliation Framework. Wes shared that the City has heard a lot from community that it's not just a poverty reduction strategy but that it's also an affordability strategy, a housing strategy, a transit strategy, etc. The City will be doing a little bit more community engagement on the framework, and are also interested at looking into providing resources and funding out into the community to organize some engagements around the strategy and framework. Wes is not sure whether they will turn the Poverty Reduction Strategy into a public document or what they will do with it exactly, but that it's been helpful to build this strategy to see what we are currently doing at the City and how we can make changes in our processes to reduce poverty. The City will be sharing the strategy with the Federal Government's Employment and Social Development Canada department, and the Province, and will likely share the final product with the Tamarack Institute too.

Elizabeth asked if the Poverty Reduction Strategy is factoring in the assets and strategic directions of existing community groups like Exchange Inner City? Wes said the City will be reaching out to different community stakeholder groups that are currently addressing gaps to host community engagement sessions and will ask how much resources and support they will need to do this.

Wes shared that the City is also learning about other advocacy issues that the city can partner on alongside the community, particularly with issues and processes that need to be changes but that are out of the City's hands, such as issues with transit and TransLink.

Judy suggested to Wes that the City of Vancouver consider the Toronto Community Centre Model as part of their Poverty Reduction Strategy. Judy shared that in Toronto they use the Community Centres to operate and connect with local residents, and that the Community Centres have enough resources to allow local resident free access to join and get involved in the centre's programs, and they are operated so that people can walk in and out of the centre and not have to fill in forms to get involved or become members.

Project Coordinator Update (Alisha):

Alisha shared that she has been busy with coordinating and facilitating the usual working groups meetings and preparing the regular communication documents for Exchange, as well as arranged to get three contractor quotes to build the new Exchange website. Alisha informed everyone that Exchange has selected two note takers to support the minute taking at meetings and other admin related duties, and introduced everyone to Eileen Claburn as on note taker and that Wilson Liang is the other note taker. Alisha has had an orientation meeting with both note takers, has coordinated a work plan and schedule and sorted out a payment process.

Alisha shared that she presented at City Council in early January to support Councillor Affleck's motion to develop a Small Business Policy Advisory Council, to review the City's current policies, programs, and regulatory processes for small business operations, and determine how these can be changed to be more supportive and efficient at improving the success of small businesses in Vancouver. Alisha added that Pete presented in support of the motion as well, and thanked Pete for letting Steve and Alisha know about the motion. Alisha shared that the motion received unanimous approval from Council, and we are waiting to hear what the next steps are.

Alisha also shared Exchange's 2018 community engagement plan with members. Alisha will be attempting to set up monthly drop-in hours at Britannia Community Centre as a means to reach out to people in the Grandview-Woodlands area. Alisha shared that she will no longer hold drop-in hours at the DTES Neighbourhood House, although she will still continue to do so at Carnegie as there are so many people who come and go from the centre that she can connect with. Alisha shared that she has reached out to several neighbourhood houses in other inner city communities, including Gordon Neighbourhood House, and Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, as well as attempting to connect with the YMCA downtown, and Granville Inner City Youth Centre.

Alisha also shared that she will be supporting the engagement process for the Legislative Change Committee's policy paper on Income Assistance and the Work BC

employment services. Several members asked if Alisha could share this policy position paper with them. Alisha agreed to same.

Action Item: Alisha to circulate the Legislative Change Committee's Policy Position paper on Income Assistance and Work BC employment services reform with members.

Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) Working Group Update:

Steve share that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday Feb. 14th, and will be a key meeting for preparing the CBA Day of Learning, so we hope members of that meeting are able to attend and we encourage anyone else interested in CBA related work to attend that meeting as well.

Steve shared that he and Alisha have been speaking with Dr. Murali out of UBC's International Research program, which coordinates graduate students from all over the world to be involved in a community resiliency based project and to research the broader impacts of a new change or development within a community. Thus, Steve has proposed that these students research the impact of St Paul's Hospital on the community, and they have agreed to take this on as a project.

Wes suggested that it would be helpful to get something on paper about how we will work with St. Paul's staff officially to the CBA process after the CBA Day of Learning, because at this time the City has no formal commitment from them.

Pete suggested reaching out to Shaf Hussain, Public Affairs for St. Paul's and Providence Health. Pete said that he is connected with Shaf and can support the CBA working group with reaching out to him.

Retail Gentrification & Social Inclusion Working Group Update:

Pete shared an update regarding The Eastside Local Card Program, explaining what the Local Card is and how community members and business can participate in the program and use the card.

Pete has created the card design, the info pamphlet, the point of purchase tent cards to say what incentives are offered at that business by using the card, as well as the storefront sticker to show that the business is a member. Steve shared that once there is funding that comes through, we will be able to print all these cards off and get the website going and begin to roll the program out fully in the spring.

Davin shared that he really supports the program and sees it as a great opportunity to

for the informal economy to promote their work as an incentive with businesses to make trade off and get goods and services by offering to do their informal work for that business.

Marc asked if the card means that instead of paying \$4 for coffee you can pay \$2 as a card holder.

Viveca asked if there would be a process set up to determine who gets the card, would they have to identify if they live in the area and what their income is? Pete, Davin, Anna, David responded no, and that anyone can pick up the card at local community centres if they are a resident of the area. The card will build community among local residents, so it creates a sense of inclusion for everyone around accessing businesses within their community and can encourage cohesion among community members.

Viveca shared that it may be important for the committee to share more information about how it works, as she has many people asking about the Local Card.

Social Procurement Roundtable:

Alisha shared that at the last meeting many members expressed that they felt the roundtable was a great space to make connections and learn about shared practices and models in social procurement, and spoke of the successes of the roundtable over the last year.

Marc expressed that Ayisha would be interested in attending the Social Procurement Roundtable, and asked that Alisha reach out to her.

Action Item: Alisha will invite Ayisha to the Social Procurement Roundtable meeting.

8. Project Updates:

CAN - Community Action Network:

Viveca shared a recent evaluation of the CAN Program and how people felt after the first cohort. 16 people initially enrolled in the program and 11 people completed it. The 11 people that completed the program are very engaged in community. The entire program was based on dialogue and experience first. There was a lot of experiential learning, for example when we speak of inequality we would use a rope and the process of speaking to this was very interactive. The 11 graduates ended up forming a group called the DTES Citizen Group to stay connected and be leaders in their community.

The two things that participants wanted more of from the program were talking about ways to link their voice to other networks and events, and also how residents can figure out where they want to work, what they want to work on, and how will they do this work at various levels of the government etc. They are also interested in a media practice session, and will be doing mock interviews in the next co-hort.

Throughout the program a number of participants had many interactions with police, so they have asked that a safety convenor be created within the program, especially when residents speak out at events.

The Healthy Living Alliance will be putting on an event and all 11 participants will be attending. Participants are also collecting impact stories regarding transit concerns right now too.

Viveca shared that CAN will be shifting the program to a peer led model, and have hired Bill (a DTES community member) to take on some of the workshop coordination and facilitation.

CAN will be holding another co-hort in the spring. At this time, CAN is focused on engaging the 11 participants in different community events.

Viveca asked how does Exchange want to connect with the participants, does Exchange want a representative to come to the CAN table? Meet every two weeks at the DTES Neighbourhood House to stay engaged with the participants? CAN is also interested in hiring a food coordinator for the group, and bringing in someone from the community to prepare food for the participants during their meetings.

Action Item: Viveca will share the CAN Report with Alisha and Alisha will share outward with Exchange Inner City members.

Action Item: Pete will follow up with Viveca regarding a potential community member (Charlotte) who could support bringing in food for the CAN meetings.

9. New Business Arising:

Hendrik mentioned that Hives for Humanity is coming out with vendig cards for vendors on the street. Hendrik will share more information about the program with members.

10. Traditional Closing and Adjournment:

Hendrik lead members in a traditional closing. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57pm.