

Exchange Inner City Membership Meeting Notes

Date: March 25, 2019

In Attendance: Anna Godefroy (Binners' Project), Bobby MacDonald (UGM), Chris Neale-Clark (Local Resident/DTES Business Directory), Dakota Shelby (Check Your Head), Davin Boutang (Local Resident), Haley Bain (VCC Nursing Student), Judy McGuire (Our Place), Kenny Go (Check Your Head), Lydia Meister (Transitions Program), Maija Fiorante (Buy Social Canada), Marc Lawrence (Local Resident), Matt Smedley (Mission Possible), Melissa Lee (Check Your Head), Peter Crawford (Working Gear), Scott Clark (ALIVE), Shazia Hudda (VCC Nursing Student), Theo Lamb (Strathcona BIA), Wilson Liang (Local Resident), Steven Johnston (Exchange Inner City Director), Alisha Masongsong (Exchange Inner City Project Manager),

Regrets: Ambrose Williams (ALIVE), Anastasia Gaisenok (Check Your Head), Austin Lui (EMBERS Eastside Works), Brenda Crump (NewStart Bridging Program -VEES), Brennan Fitzgerald (HxBIA), Brian Rutledge (Local Resident), Christina Wong (Employ to Empower), Colleen Hamilton (City of Vancouver), Deanna Wing (Central City Foundation), David LePage (Buy Social Canada/CIRES), Dylan Goggs (CleanStart BC), Edmund Ma (Ma Foundation/VCRC), Elizabeth Ballantyne (DTES Neighbourhood House), Farhad Farhangfar (SUCCESS), Gavin Jones (EMBERS), Glenn (Local Resident), Grace Tait (YWCA Crabtree Corner), Jarett Rude (Open Door Group), Jean- Paul Beran (JustWork), Jennifer Guest (RayCam Board), Jose Fernandez-Garcia (City of Vancouver), Johanna Li (EMBERS), Jennifer Froese (Directions-Greater Vancouver Family Services), Kellie Carroll (NICCSS), Kit Rothschild (PACE Society), Lucia Woolgar (Let's Speak Up Program), Ludvik Skalicky (Resident), Lydia Meister (Metro Vancouver Consortium-Transitions), Mandy Hardwick (RainCity LGBTQ2S+ program), Marcia Nozick (EMBERS), Minshu Mo (NICCSS), Rocky James (MVAEC), Sean Condon (Vancity Community Foundation), Shari LaLiberte (VCC Nursing/MVA), Sharon Belli (Carnegie Centre), Shaugn Schwartz (CIRES), Shelley Bolton (East Van Roasters/PHS), Shirley Vivian (Local resident), Suddhodan Baidya (SUCCESS), Tom Wanklin (City of Vancouver), Viveca Ellis (BC Poverty Reduction Coalition-CAN Program), Wes Regan (City of Vancouver)

1. Welcome & Traditional Acknowledgement:

- Meeting started at 4:04pm
- Anna welcomed everyone, conducted the traditional territorial acknowledgement and a quick round of introductions.

2. Approval of Agenda & Previous Meeting Notes:

- Agenda approved by everyone in the room nodding in agreement. The previous meeting's notes unfortunately did not save properly thus were lost, members could not approve same.

3. Exchange Inner City Announcement & Questions re: Personnel & Working Group Updates:

Co-Chairs' Update :

- No update. No questions.

Director Update (Steve):

- See meeting package for updates. No questions.

CED Planner Update (Wes/Colleen):

- See meeting package for updates. Unfortunately Colleen was sick and Wes had another commitment. We will plan to have one or both of them attend the next EIC meeting in order to share updates on Phase 2 of the CED Strategy and to answer any questions you may have about the City's What We Heard Report re: Poverty Reduction.
 - **Action Item: All EIC members to read the City's What We Hear Report in advance of the April meeting.**
 - **Action Item: Alisha/Steve to coordinate with Colleen and Wes about doing a presentation on the above at the April EIC meeting.**

Project Manager Update (Alisha):

- See meeting package for updates. No questions.

Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) Working Group Update:

- See meeting package for updates. No questions.

Retail Gentrification & Social Inclusion Working Group Update:

- See meeting package for updates. No questions.

Social Procurement Roundtable:

- See meeting package for updates. No questions.

4. Exchange Inner City Project Updates Presentation:

St. Paul's CBA Working Group

- Call for more EIC members to join this working group if interested
- Discussion proposed to change the new meeting time to accommodate broader participation.
 - Suggestion: Host an introduction event on a weekend, and then have a standing meeting time in late afternoon, not on a Tuesday.

- Discussion with general members about expanding the working group membership to work with broader community like other neighbourhood associations (eg. Mount Pleasant neighborhood, Creekside Olympic Village Community Centre).
 - Comment: EIC's focus is on how DTES low income residents can benefit from inclusive employment opportunities via CBA's. Therefore, when engaging with other neighbourhoods it's important to keep that principle and value and not lose sight of it. But, it is also important to engage neighbouring areas and build broader constituency.
 - Members agreed with above comment. EIC will ensure that our values and principles are clear and acted upon when engaging with other neighbourhoods, and will circulate EIC's Terms of Reference (TOR) for working groups to any new members.
 - **Action Item: Steve to circulate the EIC's Terms of Reference with members, so they may review it again.**
- There was a discussion about the working group advocating to apply a CBA to the old St. Paul's downtown site when it gets redeveloped.
- Question: Does EIC have a CBA strategy for developments in other neighborhoods? No, the key focus is St. Paul's right now, but this doesn't mean we will engage in other developments within the inner city area as we can.

Call for members to join the Retail Working Group

- The working group is planning to conduct a joint research project with Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES) on vacant storefronts in the DTES (those situated along Main st. and E. Hastings st.)
- Call for more EIC members to join this working group if interested
- Discussion proposed to expand the membership of this working group and members were asked for their thoughts/endorsement to reach out to independent business owners, property owners, and other neighborhood stakeholders to join. The reason for this is to develop relationships with businesses which could lead to potential store owners to hire local residents. The working group can also provide store owners and city enforcement awareness and education on how to work with un-permitted vendors.
 - EIC members agreed it was important to expand the working group membership to business owners and other stakeholders.

Update on the Local Card (Chris)

- Local Card continue to grow its business offerings one by one.
- Received feedback from stores and "secret shoppers" about the use of the card. Card users couldn't always easily locate the businesses participating, didn't notice the small Local Card sticker, and they felt that some of the offers for the card were vague or not worth it. Therefore, Chris has updated the participating business storefront sign to be bigger and

brighter and has provided this to all the businesses, although some businesses do not like to display signs in their storefronts. Chris and Alisha have also updated the list of offers that businesses can choose from to provide customers, and those offers have become more concrete and usually require some kind of discount option.

- Chris has engaged with a mix of stores, including big and small stores, franchises, independently owned, and stores that cater to people of mixed incomes to join the Local Card program. Chris commented that the Local Card is for anyone local to the neighbourhood, both low-income residents can use the Local Card to get discounts and middle to high income residents can use the card to get discounts too as well as to show their support for the program and making changes to the local economy.
- Comment: Ask the businesses owners to serve the local residents with a reasonable price on their goods/services.
- Other than offering discounts, local stores can also barter light work in exchange of a good/service, or make it known that they are a safe and welcoming space for local residents.
- Chris also met with Sean Condon and Iris of 312 Main and 312 Main has agreed to be a distribution point for the Local Card and has given out cards to some of the staff in the co-working floor.
- Open Door Group on E. Hastings St. has also become another Local Card Distribution point.

Upcoming Events

- See slides attached in the email with upcoming events.
- **Action item: Maija to share invitation and the discount code for the Chandos Construction event.**

Call for members to join the Executive Committee

- We lost two executive members, Pete Fry and Hendrick. Both are residents of the neighbourhood. Therefore, we are reaching out to EIC members who would be interested in joining the Executive Committee. We would like to have at least one of the two seats be reserved for a local DTES resident. If you are interested in joining, please contact Steve or Alisha.

5. New Business Arising and Announcements from Members:

- “Our Place” Youth Matters event on April 12th, all are welcome.
 - **Action Item: Alisha to circulate Youth Matters event invite to EIC membership list.**
- Youth Voices in Reconciliation committees being formed through ALIVE.
 - **Action Item: Scott to send info to Alisha, and Alisha to circulate to EIC membership list.**
- Biner’s Project is hiring two full time positions.
 - **Action Item: Anna to share job postings with Alisha. Alisha to circulate with EIC membership list.**



- Update on Urban Core: re-envisioning it's focus to be more of an information and networking table for the DTES community. Urban Core is considering having focused meetings that look at the intersecting strategies within the City of Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy. A final plan will be announced in April, more info to come.

6. Traditional Closing and Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.