

NORTH SHORE SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKING GROUP

MISSION STATEMENT

The North Shore Substance Abuse Working Group will support community organizations to reduce the impact and incidence of substance abuse on the North Shore through advocacy, collaboration and leadership.

Meeting for Wednesday 29th January 2014
5:00 to 7:00 p.m. (A light supper will be provided)
Committee Room, District Hall
355 W. Queens Rd, North Vancouver

MINUTES

Attended:

Trustee Lisa Bayne
Cst Nick Bell
Cpl. Richard De Jong
Dr. Mark Lysyshyn
Trustee Dave Stevenson

Cllr Linda Buchanan
Cllr Michael Lewis
Cllr Doug MacKay-Dunn
Cllr Alison Morse

Arleta Beckett, DWV Staff Liaison
Annie Mauboules, DNV Staff Liaison
Paul Penner, CNV Staff Liaison
Lisa Stalham, DNV Committee Clerk

Absent

Angela George
Cllr Joanne Ronsley

Apologies:

Tanis Evans

Guests:

Brenda Plant, Turning Point Recovery Society

1. Adoption of agenda

There being no objection, the agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

2. Adoption of minutes

MOVED by Richard De Jong
SECONDED by Cllr MacKay-Dunn
TO adopt the minutes of 22nd November 2012.

CARRIED

3. Update: Support Recovery Home, Brenda Plant

- Brenda provided an update on the Support Recovery Home, expressing her thanks to the SAWG for providing the seed money that got the project off the ground officially in November 2012. Highlights included:
 - Brenda indicated that the support of the community was overwhelming; thanks were paid to Cllr MacKay-Dunn and the staff for their work.
 - The official ground-breaking took place on 18th December 2013.
 - After tender the project when to Ledcor, part of whose commitment is to advance the social good and they are going to build it for less money and faster than anticipated.
- The next steps for Turning Point include the licencing application for Vancouver Coastal Health, continuation of the capital campaign, the grand opening in September (details TBA).
- Some discussion regarding the need for a facility for men. Brenda indicated that they are actively looking for a site for a men's facility.

ACTION: Circulate the grand opening date and details of the 2014 Turning Point fundraising gala.

4. Financial Update, Paul Penner

- Paul circulated the Financial Update and discussed the details of expenses and deposits since the last update in 2012.

MOVED by Cllr Morse

SECONDED by Cllr Buchanan

TO receive the Financial Update.

CARRIED

5. Discussion: Future of the SAWG

- Annie introduced the discussion explaining that the inaugural task of this Committee was to develop the Four Pillar Strategy from which all the work flowed since. Regarding implementation of this strategy, Annie comments that the work is never 'done' per se but that much has been accomplished. With regards to the work of this working group and in the community, as a group of elected officials and senior staff, there is limited ability to do on-the-ground work. It must be recognized that staff from all the organizations represented around the table meet regularly to address substance abuse issues for youth and adults.
- Some highlights of the ensuing discussion included:
 - It was asked whether, while the goals for this group are still relevant, the format was still appropriate or, for instance, a grants committee could be a more suitable conduit to distribute the existing funds.
 - There is value in the community coming together to address substance abuse and this working group is a good way to focus that work. It works; no need to change that.
 - It was asked whether there was a role within the North Shore Congress for this committee (i.e. to have it become a sub-committee of the Congress). Some concerns were raised regarding this and that it would not be an appropriate fit with the Congress.

- There are a couple of North Shore committees discussing the work of mental health and addiction and each are supported by the staff of all the organizations represented in this group. However, the uniqueness of this group is the political connection and representation.
- There is value in the fact that this group has the ability to make decisions relatively quickly. If the working group disbanded then each community decision would have to go through each of the five municipalities. It was asked whether the mandate of this group be extended beyond the extreme end of addiction, perhaps to include mental health.
- The overlap with the mandate of other North Shore committees was discussed with regard to whether there would be possibility for realignment or if the work plans just need to be clarified to avoid duplicated effort.
- The most recent accomplishment of this group, getting the Support Recovery House built, must not be underappreciated. The political strength of this group is extremely valuable in action and in what it represents.
- The message of disbanding can be perceived very negatively by the community (i.e. that addictions is no longer an issue) and sends a powerful message that must be considered when deciding to carry on or disband.
- The existing format - meeting only when needed and receiving updates by email otherwise – could be considered preferable.
- Perhaps now that the Support Recovery House has been realised, new objectives need to be set.

MOVED by Cllr MacKay-Dunn

SECONDED by Cllr Lewis

THAT staff review where there are synergies with other committees, and

THAT staff work with Dr Lysyshyn and Cpl. De Jong to identify high-priority projects that fit the mandate of this working group to which this group could focus their efforts, and

THAT this Committee reconvene in the coming months to determine action moving forward.

CARRIED

6. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.