



Community Network Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday March 12, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Fraser Room, Maple Ridge Library

ATTENDEES:

1. WELCOME

Acting Chair Jeannie Harnett called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and introductions were made.

2. TOONIE TUESDAY COMMUNITY CHEST FUNDRAISER: \$52.70

3. AGENDA APPROVAL – March 12, 2019 – The agenda was approved.

4. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - January 8, 2019 – The minutes were adopted.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

Brenna Ayliffe acknowledged the recent loss of Teesha Sharma. Teesha was the Youth Services Program Director for the CEED Centre and worked on many projects in the community, always with the goal of supporting and advocating for youth. Teesha's amazing strength, spirit and approach to supporting youth have left a lasting impact on our community.

Fraser Health: Food Costing in BC Report

Carole Chang and Brenna Ayliffe from Fraser Health provided local data on the cost of nutritious food. They explained the health related impacts if nutritious food is not accessible and what factors contribute to food accessibility. Local food assets such as the inter generational garden, the food bank and nutrition and cooking classes were reviewed. Brenna and Carole related that important health objectives are being met however poverty as the root cause of ill effects on health needs to be recognized and addressed. The need for knowledge about cooking whole foods was identified as an area that needs action.

GE Feast

GE Feast Coordinator Candace Gordon announced that changes to the United Way funding streams will result in the elimination of funding for the GE Feast (food security) Coordinator position after March 2019. The Farmers Market Nutritional Coupon program and the Community Kitchens programs will continue for the foreseeable future. Any suggestions on sources of funding to continue this important work are appreciated. Candace stressed the need for political will to address poverty. The recent positive changes made the provincial government were acknowledged however a great need does still exist around poverty in the community. Candace highlighted the need for sustained funding for a food security table and reminded attendees that access to nutritious, affordable food is the foundation of a healthy life. Attendees acknowledged Candace's contribution to the community and thanked her for her work, which has touched so many vulnerable individuals and families over many years.

Friends in Need Food Bank Update

Mary Robson, Executive Director of the Friends in Need Food Bank, explained that March is the annual Hunger Count month and the data collected is available online at

<https://foodbankscanada.ca> Mary provided local statistics comparing 2014 with 2018 numbers. The percentage of food bank users that are children has risen from 14% to 20% during those four years. The percentage of seniors using the food bank has stayed consistent during that time. Mary shared that the Friends in Need (FiN) food bank works with partners such as the School District and the Salvation Army to deliver food where it's needed in the community and explained the sources of food for the food bank. Mary shared information new initiatives that allow organizations to identify food insecurity issues and work to reduce food waste. Thrifty's, Shoppers, Meridian Meats, Overwaitea and Save On Foods have signed on to participate in a new perishables program which will see grocery stores donating food that would otherwise go to waste. Through this program FiN anticipates receiving 30 – 50 totes per day from Save on Foods alone. Mary explained the requirements to participate in the program – the need for a walk in cooler, an inventory of totes, forklifts and adequate storage space. This program provides an opportunity for the FiN organization to take over a new (additional) space and really expand the amount of food offered.

Mary explained the schools program – schools are able to order what they want and are provided with fruits, vegetables and dairy products. In response to a question about a community kitchen Mary explained FiN is not able to offer at a kitchen in their space but they could supply food if others were able to run the programs. Mary shared that the food bank recently held their first “pop up food bank” in the Katzie community and will be experimenting with the pop up concept every Friday. The stigma felt by seniors picking up food was identified as an issue. Fraser Health offered to provide guidelines to support the food bank meet the current food guide recommendations. Mary acknowledged her corporate sponsors for the support they provide. This support along with the new initiatives unfolding are allowing the FiN food bank to become a food hub for the Fraser North area.

MR Food Hub Project

Christian Cowley, Executive Director of the CEED Centre, explained the “food hub” idea – a place that would allow farmers (both local and from the interior of BC) to bring their food to Maple Ridge on the way into Vancouver. Christian explained how participating in farmers markets impacts farmers and how a food hub would support them in maximizing the sale of the food produced. Local food producers have been engaged as to how this could work for them. Through the City of Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee, a consultant has completed a study and produced a report on food hub feasibility in Maple Ridge. Christian shared a picture of our local farms and what he sees as an opportunity for a social enterprise, explaining a food hub needs to be run on a commercial model. If a permanent farmers market site was secured it would reduce food wastage, provide links to the charitable sector, allow local production of value added items and increase the availability of fresh local food to the community. Christian provided an update on the CEED Centre and explained that food hubs allow food producers and consumers to connect directly.

Candace Gordon reported the Agricultural Advisory Committee is moving ahead with a food hub pilot project involving a small number of farms.

6. * NETWORKING BREAK *****

7. COMMUNITY NETWORK UPDATES

7.1 CN Working Table Updates

Stop Overdose Ridge Meadows: the coffee van is available for multiple uses (attending community events, transportation). The Ridge Meadows Hospital Compassion Campaign

photo contest is under way. The recent “Resiliency Conference” generated some good discussions and ideas to reduce stigma and increase resiliency in the community.

Community Literacy Committee / HIVE – Elaine reported a new part time Coordinator has been hired. This individual has experience supporting adult literacy and will be taking over the 1 to 1 peer monitoring program. Elaine provided an update on HIVE activities, including a program for those wanting to gain food / nutrition skills.

7.2 CN Coordinator Update

Sunny reported briefly on her activities during February:

- Monthly meeting with CN Chair for agenda review / meeting planning
- Support for February Facilitators meeting
- Wrote the CN Coordinators report for 2018 and submitted to Family Ed as required
- CN website maintenance
- Weekly CN newsletters and FB page maintenance
- Member engagement: met with Jennifer and Karen from End of Life Doula Assn
- Preparations for Mar CN meeting
- Discussions with PATHWAYS staff, planning and promotion for PATHWAYS demo
- Participated in and took minutes for the initial meeting of the Youth Planning Table

8. CORRESPONDENCE - Nil

9. PATHWAYS Demo / Feedback Session

PATHWAYS staff demonstrated the current “community landing page” for the PATHWAYS website. The goal of bringing PATHWAYS to the community is to provide a full range of service listings to the public. Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Katzie is the first pilot community for the public site. Attendees provided feedback to PATHWAYS staff on the design and functionality of the website.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 3:05 p.m.