

**Britannia Board Meeting**

**December 10, 2014**

**Board Room – Information Centre**

**PRESENT:** Gwen Giesbrecht, President; Ray Gallagher, Meseret Taye, Oliver Conway, Ingrid Kolsteren, Peter Odynsky, Oles Andriendo, Craig Ollenberger, John Flipse, Alex McKechnie, Scott Clark, David Parent, Edward Stringer, Beth Davies, Geoff Taylor.

**STAFF:** Cynthia Low, Natalie Bailey, Brenda Coombs (recording);

**REGRETS:** Morna McLeod, Susanne Dahlin, Mary Arakelyan, Sabine Tanasiuk

**GUESTS:** Fern Jeffries and Carole Brown

**Board Meeting of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 there was some re-aligning of the agenda in order to accommodate presentations and guests.**

**1. PRESENTATION:**

**Fern Jeffries and Carole Brown attended to discuss Place Based Strategies – presented a power point to the Board with history and focus.**

***Common conditions in successful place based collective impact strategies (notes from the session)***

We need to refocus on people and place: "people live in places, contribute to places and are affected by places. Poverty and disadvantage are mediated by place, and places are affected by the poverty or otherwise of their inhabitants." (Griggs et al, 2008)

Our Place is collaboration among residents, community organizations, and local business and community leaders in Vancouver's Inner City (urban).

Our mission is to develop our neighborhood to be a place where children and their families have access to needed resources that promote full inclusion; where school readiness is the norm; and where neighborhood's value and support women, children, youth and families.

Our Place envisions a future in which residents can provide for their basic needs for good food and safe shelter within the community; and parents have sufficient

Several community organizations joined with other partners to develop a response-producing a document called "Succeed in Strathcona." This called for efforts (place based) that incorporated all transitions points.

There was agreement on the need to build local capacity and local organizations to lead the change, and secure willingness on the part of all partners to integrate services and investments.

Recognizing where change happens is in our local neighborhoods and communities, local groups, parents and those wanting to see different outcomes came together in a PLACE

Based on a comprehensive collective Impact approach. It was agreed to call this Our Place representing the partnership of residents, community-based organizations, and service providers working collaboratively to support the growth, education and healthy, safe development of children in Vancouver's inner city. Resources were limited in the beginning so the partners started with a focus on the early years.

Working in OUR PLACE partners agreed to work as a collective using a strategic approach with common vision and setting key result areas e.g. Enhanced Child Development and yearly targets and outcomes. Not a single program, but a collection of actions that improve access, address barriers, and enhance existing programs and opportunities. A scatter gun approach, the concentration was on Early Years – getting children school ready with supports they needed. This was not about a single organization or program but about children and families and relevant effective action by a number of partners including residents to improve outcomes.

An important part was the tracking and measurement of the work-e.g. improved child health but also addressed increasing childcare and early learning spaces. We joined with the School in creating a robust Strong Start program and created over 65 new early learning spaces for vulnerable children. Trained over 50 parents in early childhood and 32% obtained jobs and all volunteered in early childhood programs. Meetings with MCFD childcare subsidy branch saw major change in practice and policy re-alignment to create and enhance access to 100's of low income inner city parents who had been unable to negotiate the 23 page application process-with direct access for OUR PLACE to problem solving & decision makers at the senior ministry level.

Here we are 6 years later....from 70% vulnerability to 52%

In 2012 inspired by the results being recorded in the Early Years work OURPLACE partners were already beginning the work of putting together the details that now addressed all the transitions through to post-secondary in addition to the early childhood to kindergarten transitions that had been the focus of the first 5 years.

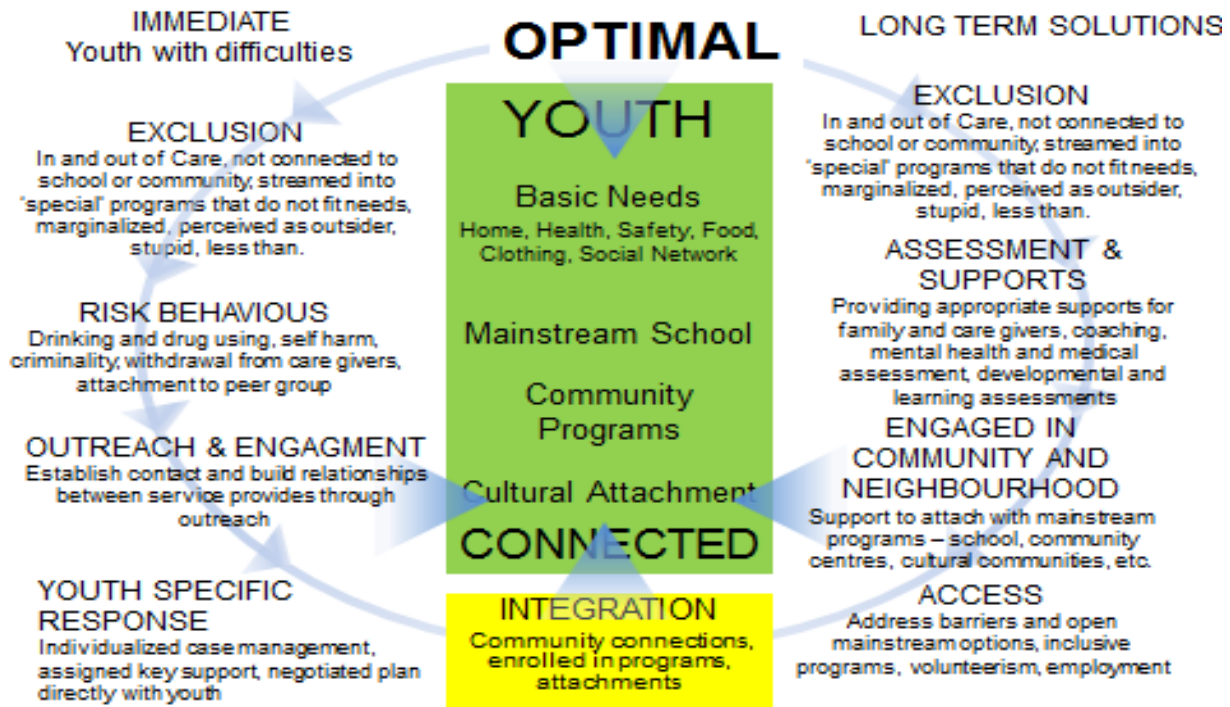
It was dubbed the OURPLACE 'THE GRADUATION STRATEGY'

Like the early childhood work done previously-it involved collective impact and a scatter gun approach-no one organization or single program but an effort strategically addressing components required to make successful transitions but now with a focus also on middle and high school years.

Britannia and Youth Matters

Could this for instance become part of a place-based collective impact initiative?

**PLACE BASED RESPONSES**



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**PRINCIPLES**

- Inclusion
- Child/Youth Centered
- Accountability to Child/Youth
- Responsive - Continuity of Relationship
- Responsive - Timely and Consistent
- Integrated Systems as experienced by the Child/Youth
- Builds the Capacity of the Children and Family
- Supports the Rights of the Child/Youth

**NOT COMPROMISED BY CURRENT POLICIES OR PRACTICE – BUT RE-ALIGNED TO REFLECT REALITIES OF PEOPLE AND PLACE**

Some examples of current planning challenges:

- 8:30 am -4:30 pm Service Provision Model-resources not available when needed by youth in crisis.
- Confidentiality concerns, coordination-youth lost in silos ...or just lost
- Safe House policy-many vulnerable youth do not have access
- Conditioned Responses to first exclude, or stream children/youth presenting with difficulties into a separate group(s) away from mainstream (school, community programs)
- Current public recreation /community program delivery barriers to inclusion-cost, capacity to accommodate and embrace differences
- A set of systems that works from deficits of individuals-not their strengths
- Use of single program response to address complex problems that require comprehensive solutions-often with multiple strategies/programs.

**Carole and Fern were thanked for their presentation.**

## **2. Britannia Carving Pavilion**

District Principal Don Fiddler – Carving Pavilion.

Don stated he wanted to express his appreciation for the community as we have undertaken this project. It has been truly a community effort. We have had initial support Native Housing, School Board amongst others.

Briefing note was circulated on the pavilion –. We feel art is an excellent way to get kids involved. As students learn a skill they are able to apply that makes something that is saleable. Mask - \$100 that is money they would not have and they learn how it makes a difference. It has been a long journey; I want to express my appreciation for all that Cynthia has been doing with this project. We are limited in School Board funding as they have a \$21,000,000 deficit. Geoff Taylor has been very important to the project.

Kindred Construction – Cynthia circulated a briefing note on the pavilion. – phase I wrap up is planned for December 19th – Britannia will be out of pocket \$246,176 and the funds for this will come out of Britannia un-invested operating funds of \$500,000 forfeiting about \$350 month of interest.

Discussion on the Board approval of funds. We have confirmed funding yet to be received of \$182,530 we will receive those funds in 2015. Deficit funding is being pursued. We are hoping for a VanCity Grant from their 2015 Community Grants. We are hoping the VSB can cover the fire suppression system. There are funds on reserve pending occupancy. We can also make application to gaming in February. January or February is the expected occupancy.

We will pursue funding for phase 2. Phase I \$63,646 deficit. Phase II projected costs \$91,450 and no construction will start until the funding is secured. We can implement programming without phase ii and the plan is to implement programming in February.

It was suggested we strike a committee to review and bring back a report.

- Programming – what are the timelines, what are the programs? Community involvement for the space.
- Cynthia shared with City of Vancouver Health and Wellness Committee that we hope to have the program operate 24/7.
- During the day time school projects, various schools, considered access to all district schools.
- We have a tremendous interest in aboriginal culture and art. Britannia will be responsible for programming for the community.
- We hope to start carving a canoe in February. We hope to get the funding for some resident carvers. There is interest by carvers, who have stated they see the building as being a great opportunity.
- Various art projects, etc.
- Training opportunity and play.
- We were interested in projects that help guard our kids and projects.
- , it will take time to build the focus in schools and I believe this will be really well used.

# MINUTES – BOARD



Don was thanked for coming out this evening.

## RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

### 3. BOARD AGENDA

#### PROPOSE

Apologies we are going to streamline the Agenda

- 3 a) Britannia Foundation stay
- b) Liaisons for Council, School Board and Park Board will be added to January
- 4 a) Morna's report – a brief report was submitted
- b) Budget
- c) Carving done – this report will now go to the Finance Committee
- e) Christmas announcements
- 7. Youth Committee –  
Youth Matter – will become youth committee  
Remove Program committee from Agenda

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE REVISED AGENDA FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

Craig Ollenberger/Oles Andriendo

CARRIED

### 4. MINUTES NOVEMBER 12, 2014

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12 WITH A NOTE THAT CRAIG OLLENBERGER SENT REGRETS.

Ingrid Kolsteren/Ray Gallagher  
REGRETS.  
CARRIED

CARRIED - CRAIG

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### A) BRITANNIA FOUNDATION

That at the beginning of the Board meeting there will be a very short Foundation Members meeting to elect some new Foundation members.

Briefing note be circulated on the Foundation prior to the meeting.

- B) **VCC LEARNING CENTRE** – there was a briefing note circulated from Morna McLeod – December 10, 2014. The ESL learning Centre in the Britannia Library closed on December 3 with a social event for students that was well attended. Gordon Crozier, the ESL tutor, retired as of December 5 after working at Britannia since 1978. The note included options for English language learners who have lost this service.

Ingrid stated some ESL will be available at a cost. The loss of flexibility in hours may mean that some people will not find a program that meets their needs.

Scott excused 7:44 pm Board Break Reconvene 8:00 pm

## 6. Old Business – Budget – the documents were circulated with the mailing.

Natalie went through the documents

- Version 3 page 1 is reconciliation for the finance committee benefit as to how we got to version 3 from version 2. Including recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Budget Summary – 2015 surplus \$18,788

City has included collective agreement increases.

Community Education zero based – Mike Evens Community Education - Open Door to Learning the program has been eliminated.

Family Literacy self-funding

We sent in changes with staffing - Pool Programmer out of Pool, Rink Programmer out of Rink, Seniors Programmer out of Centre budget.

Capital Maintenance dollars. City looking at rink operation and maintenance costs.

Page 5 discretionary budget – we expect slightly less money this year in the child care fees. Administration expenses are locked. Page 7 and 8 is a summary. Revenues and costs on pages 7 and 8.

Finance should look at the programs every month and keep the programs on budget or decide that we are letting the program go over.

Balancing the budget lines – discussion on the youth programming budget and do we wish to consider requested a balanced bottom line.

Looking at each program and review in more detail.

Finance Committee will look at the reports every month starting in January and have an expectation that they have input into it.

What would we lose in these budget areas if each area were requested to come at a balanced budget?

We have budgeted for a net surplus; there are some areas that cost, some that produce revenue. There is a significant increase in arts budget this year. This budget is also dependent on gaming revenue.

It is the Board's role to look at these issues. I would like a recommendation to the Finance Committee and a detailed explanation provided to the February Board.

If you have questions let Natalie know, or if you want a particular layout let Natalie know. Certain programs don't make revenue but they are what the Britannia Board has decided they want to do in this community.

## 7. Partner Reports

a) **Vancouver Park Board** – Peter Odynsky good month for recreation.

- Recreation is up
- Talks re annual closures of facilities
- Charleen Darling retired
- Youthstravaganza went well
- Preteen dance this Friday
- Seniors Centre big lunch yesterday
- Micro Footie done well
- Cartwheels and Candy Canes this Sunday

- Gymnastics sold out in 1 minute
  - Micro Footie about 900 kids
- b) **Vancouver Public Library Beth Davies** – report from Darcy in package
- Friday Library management Committee
  - EDI MDI we direct funding as to what we learn from EDI and MDI
  - VCC Learning Centre is closed – trying to make sure we know as much as possible about alternatives.
  - Space will be looked at in the New Year –
  - Discussion on the new Strathcona Library open 2016 opening, no planned reduction to the operating budget at Britannia, we don't know the impact on Britannia.
- c) **Vancouver School Board – Geoff Taylor**
- Support all that has occurred with the pavilion; appreciate all that Cynthia has done. There are things cropping up, we are looking at creative contributions from the school. WE think we have creative solutions, assemble some planters around the bottom, source out what we can for money, lumber and kids to help with that. Don and Cynthia have done a lot of work. I think there are people out there who would help us with the pavilion funding. There is a new School Board. Space for a community partner. Some capital expenditure, they looked at some space, they may come along. Micro Footie Jason Kyle there is no Britannia Soccer Academy I am not proposing a Britannia Soccer Academy. Jason and I have discussed pass program in Burnaby, right now attaching another program with program needs to the school will not work for us. Any school in this district can work with an organization to accommodate scheduling for students. There is not a soccer academy. There is support for what Jason is trying to do.
- d) **Community Education – Mike Evens** - Jennifer Ju new Britannia Programmer. New Community School Coordinator is Jennifer Scott – Mike is retiring. Mike circulated a report.

MOTION: TO EXTEND THE MEETING BY ½ HR.

Oliver Cooper/David Parent

Beth/Geoff/Mike excused.

CARRIED

## 8. Committees

- a) **Executive Committee** – the last meeting mainly dealt with Human Resources issue and was in camera.
- b) **Finance Committee** – minutes of November 26 circulated with package. The committee spent the evening dealing with budget as presented tonight.
- c) **Board Development** – Meseret only two in attendance. We looked at the terms of reference for different committees. We talked about the upcoming board retreat in February. We are looking at a day and a half for the retreat. Capital Plan will be on the agenda. We discussed meeting protocol and Meseret is working on the meeting protocols.

- d) **Arts and Culture** – Ingrid stated the committee had a good meeting last week, and a potluck. Talked about plans for the coming year, they will be meeting in January. They are trying to connect more with the groups. We want to be more a part of the community. We should consider a longer calendar.
- e) **Youth committee** has met twice recently – city wide youth committee – we previously did not have a representative. In January we hope to have a representative. Fundraising done with crispy crème donuts, through the teen centre. Recent email youth committee being trained as 2020 ambassadors for the City (Oles will forward minutes) Youth week – there were three colors chosen to be used. We are working to get sponsorships for the event. Special events treats handed out on Robson as a random act of kindness. Snowboarding on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Youth Social postponed until January. Unique U conference Jan. 24 starting some planning. ECO club and a discussion on composting, is it possible to implement, ECO club wants people involved in the process and outcomes.

## 9. Administrative

- a) **Executive Director's** report circulated with Board package. There have been some meetings with REACH who is looking for space during their renovations. Grandview Woodland Area Service Team will have input into the discussion on the homeless shelter.
- b) **Manager** – Natalie sorry I did not do a report page 17 is a summary of happenings with the budget and finance. There have been a few small HR matters to deal with.
- c) **Child Care** – The Manager has been here about 50% of time due to illness. Working on a number of projects for the child care hub. Natalie and Cynthia dealing with Management issues. We have 4 child care societies that we provide budget planning. Child care meeting earlier this week. Scott Clark on the committee – unable to attend this month. We would like Board members to participate in this committee.

MOTION: TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS.

Ray Gallagher/Oles Andriendo

CARRIED

OTHER –

CHRISTMAS DEC 19<sup>TH</sup> IS THE PARTY – Going to be wonderful. Alumni staff and school staff, at the Italian cultural centre, prizes, \$2.00 drinks.

Oliver wanted to point out they are performing at a discount and the Friends of Britannia are also involved in the event.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN 9:32 THE MEETING.

Edward Stringer/Oliver Conway

CARRIED