

Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee Board Meeting

Monday, November 27, 2023, 6:00 pm
QVCC Youth Centre

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Cheryl Wolfe-Milner, David Turner, Fapu Duan, Firas Daoudy, Hana Akai, Leslie Kenny, Matt Takach

Regrets: Frankie Chao

QVCC Staff: Kelly Greenwell

Chair: Leslie Kenny

Minutes: Kelly Greenwell

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of the Agenda
Moved/Seconded: Firas and Hana
Passed. No Objections.
3. Approval of the Minutes of October 23, 2023
Moved/Seconded: Cheryl and Hana
Passed. No objections

4. Agency Report, October 24 to November 24, 2023

Winter Dinner

Scheduled for Dec 21, 5:45 pm onwards. Planning for 250 meals; 45-minute seatings with time allotted for dessert and conversation. It's always a great atmosphere and we benefit from the Board and staff volunteering and attending. Anyone interested can contact Charmaine.

Child, Youth and Family Outreach and Counselling

Lara Fraser is the new YFC at Cedar Hill Middle School; Ella Hopp is starting at Cloverdale Elementary. The Quadra Elementary position will be backfilled from January to June while long-time YFC Susannah Mckee goes on leave. (See YFC program info [here](#))

Out of School Care

Drew Howard and Isobel Basi are new Childcare Leaders in licensed after-school care. (View program info [here](#))

Youth Centre and Programs

The Crew will host the Last Chance Holiday Craft Fair, Sunday, December 10, 10am to 2pm at QVCC. Please come by with your friends! The Crew volunteered at our Halloween event. Food Skills for Youth held a Family Night, which was a great opportunity for youth to cook for their parents. (See Youth Program info [here](#))

Child and Family Programs

Brittnay Mohyeddin is our new Early Years Coordinator.

Community Support Program

A wide range of food distribution is taking place at the Centre. Our Quadra Village fundraising team is preparing to raise funds through for the Gift of Good Food, a fundraiser hosted by Fernwood NRG that supports free biweekly produce bags for families in need. (Check out our Gift of Good Food page [here](#))

Gardens

Garden programs work continues over the fall with workshops, work parties and grant reports/application. (Read more about gardens here)

Neighbourhood Small Grants

The Project Celebration was held last week. Project reports from the last cycle were presented and each project was celebrated. A new grant was recently approved for a medicinal plants project. (View NSG info [here](#))

Facilities and More

Facilities continues to host a wide range of external community groups providing programming, from the Intercultural Association to Yoga. If you know someone who is interested in space rentals the information is here: [community centre](#) or [gym](#)

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Equity Committee has proposed that the agency develop an Anti-racism Action Plan. They hope a Board Member and one or more QVCC Coordinators will be part of developing it. As there is a foundation of anti-racism work already in place, this will be provided to Equity Committee and to anyone working on the plan (or who is just interested). The QVCC Employee Benefits Policy has been recommended as a model to be emulated by other local Neighbourhood Houses. (Learn more about Equity Committee [here](#))

Quivering Village Carnival and Creep-house

Our event on October 27 featured Carnival Games, a graveyard, a zombie shooting gallery and a haunted maze. It was attended by 250 people and an enjoyable experience for all ages.

Fund Development

QVCC has caught the interest of a prominent family foundation, and several meetings have taken place aimed at enhancing QVCC Child, Youth and Family Programs. QVCC was recommended to the foundation by a retired school principal who has highly valued the work of QVCC over the years. We hope that funds will be announced in January.

Expansion of the Network of Neighbourhood Houses

QVCC was represented by our E.D. at the first ever provincial gathering of Neighbourhood Houses. As well, Neighbourhood Houses were recognized at Question Period after our E.D. and several leaders met with MLAs over breakfast to build relationships and advocate for core neighbourhood house funding from the Province. The Neighbourhood Houses are considering creating a more formal provincial network and developing a joint application for interim core funding.

5. Additional Discussion Points Brought Up in the Meeting

- Housing Outreach Funding

- Gaza
- Staff Well Being

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

- i. CALUC Meeting November 7, 2023, re Evergreen Terrace Redevelopment
 - Good turnout. Cheryl, David, Leslie, NAC members and Kelly attended from QVCC/DBAC
 - David disappointed by the project. Mixed feelings were expressed about the development – amenities proposed so far seem insufficient.
 - Disproportionate focus on traffic in the discussion and Q & A. Resident concerns weren't given enough airtime.
 - Need for more housing acknowledged
 - Community Centre is beyond capacity. The redevelopment will impact this further given the probable six-fold increase in the number of residents.
 - How can peoples' needs be addressed beyond housing?
 - Concern expressed about silos: BC Housing, Capital Regional Hospital District and School District 61. Community isn't at the table for key decisions.
 - Collective curiosity shown about 950 Kings Rd and its future, as it is co-related to Evergreen Terrace. Will there be any green space left. Will there be an expansion of community services and spaces.
 - Draft CALUC letter under development
- ii. Cloud storage of Board docs
 - Kelly will discuss how to create online access to the agency's Board documents with the Administrative Coordinator
- iii. Committee appointments (with current members)
 - Finance: Matt, Leslie. January meeting planned
 - Personnel: David, Cheryl, Hana [alternate]
 - Policy: Cheryl, Frankie
 - Strategic Planning: Matt, Leslie, Fapu. Leslie suggested that this committee could have an ongoing role as a Governance committee to oversee Board recruitment and nominations, review and updates to bylaws, and Board evaluation. To be determined.
 - VCAN Liaison (Firas)
 - QVCC Equity Committee Liaison (Firas)

Leslie suggested that the committee meetings be chaired and that notes be taken.

7. New Business

City Council Liaison Update – Susan Kim: Susan will meet the CRD regarding 950 Kings in the next week. She has been promised a meaningful update.

8. Adjourn